



VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel and citywide network



REFRESH OF THE BELFAST AGENDA VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) SECTORAL ADVISORY PANEL REPRESENTATIVES 2025 - 2029

SELECTION CRITERIA

On behalf of Belfast Community Planning Partnership, NICVA is responsible for overseeing the independent recruitment and selection of nominations for VCSE representatives to the Belfast Agenda VCSE Sectoral Panel for a further four-year term from April 2025 to March 2029. The refreshed Panel of up to 30 members (with a reserve list of up to 10) should be in place by **March 2025**.

A Selection Panel made up of three voluntary and community sector representatives of NICVA's Executive Board will consider and agree **up to 30 appointment recommendations and up to 10 reserves** via a nomination and selection process coordinated by NICVA staff as follows:

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| • 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 |

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

A recent independent review of the current panel made recommendations including increasing the size (up to 30 members) to better reflect the diverse nature of the sector, ensure appropriate geographic and area-based representation and more closely align membership with the five thematic areas and 15 priorities agreed by partners in the Belfast Agenda. The VCSE panel selection should seek to strengthen relationships with established networks and amplify minoritised and diverse voices with a balanced representation of the VCSE sectors.

In agreeing nominees for selection to the VCSE Panel, the following criteria will be taken into consideration by the NICVA Selection panel:

1. **Geographical Representation:** NICVA will endeavour to ensure membership of the panel reflects a reasonable geographic representation from across the four Belfast areas – North, South, East and West.
2. **Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships:** NICVA will endeavour to ensure membership of the panel reflects a reasonable geographic representation from the 15 NRAs across the Belfast City Council area.
3. **Section 75 and Minority Groups:** NICVA will endeavour to ensure membership of the panel reflects Section 75 Groups and Minoritised Voices. for example: people with disabilities, people from ethnic minority groups, LGBTQIA+ people, people from linguistic minorities, people from minority faith groups.
4. **Belfast Agenda Themes and Priorities:** NICVA will endeavour to ensure membership of the panel reflects sectoral perspectives in relation to the agreed 15 priorities of the Belfast Agenda.
5. **Scale and Size of Organisation:** NICVA will endeavour to ensure a balanced representation and spread of VCSE organisations based on size, scale and income.

6. **Gender balance:** NICVA will seek to ensure the membership of the panel has a balanced representation of genders.
7. **Skills and Experience:** Nominees must demonstrate their experience within the voluntary, community or social enterprise sectors, and how this will help them contribute and advocate for the diverse voices of the sector to the Belfast Agenda's thematic and priority areas.
8. **Reach and Connectivity:** Nominees must demonstrate their networks and the channels they will use to ensure regular communication to and from the relevant sector(s) across the city. For smaller locally based community organisations, they should indicate how they will ensure communication to and from other grass roots groups and organisations operating in the city.
9. **Knowledge and Expertise:** Nominees must demonstrate their knowledge and expertise (including lived experiences) relevant to the thematic areas and priorities of the Belfast Agenda – visit [Belfast Agenda](#) for further information.
10. **Time Commitment:** Nominees must be able to fully commit time to participating as a panel member, chair or vice-chair. As a minimum, time commitments will include preparing for and participating in panel meetings (a maximum of 12 a year, usually with a 2-hour duration). Panel members nominated as delegates to the Community Planning Partnership Board will be required to prepare for and attend two Partnership meetings per year and if nominated as delegates to Boards or Working Groups, they will be required to prepare for and attend quarterly meetings. **This is more than the four times per year stated in the Terms of Reference and is based on actual meetings and their duration over the past four-year term.**
11. **Senior level of authority within organisation:** Nominees will be a senior representative of their organisation.

Please Note: Existing panel members are eligible to re-apply for a further four-year term. To ensure continuity and to support the ongoing delivery of the work, BCPP may seek to retain up to two thirds of existing VCSE panel members.