



## **District Electoral Area Fora**

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**



## About NICVA

NICVA, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, is a membership and representative umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

With around a thousand members we lobby and campaign to advance the interests of the people and communities that our members support. We offer a wide range of practical services, products and support to our members.



# What is Community Planning?

Review of Public Administration – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015

*“...a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core.”*

# What work have NICVA done on Community Planning?

- Local Government Reform Bill introduced to Northern Ireland Assembly in 2013
- NICVA's 2014 seminar with Community Places informed our members on the impact and workings of Community Planning.
- March 2015 Consultation on the Community Planning Guidelines launched – NICVA held an event to assess the views of our members, before submitting our response to the Department.

*“The voluntary and community sector is uniquely placed to help capture the feelings of citizens and to assist in ensuring their voice is heard in the planning process.”*

# Community Planning partners

- Public Health Agency
- Health and Social Care Board
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Education and Library Boards
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Tourism Northern Ireland
- Libraries NI
- Sport NI
- CCMS (Councils for Catholic Maintained Schools)

# What is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan is a living document that:

- identifies local issues and opportunities
- sets out an achievable and long term vision for the future (15 years)
- prepares a plan of action (with indicators) to achieve this vision

Community Planning is not an end in itself!

# What's in a Community Plan?

Long term objectives for improving:

- Social wellbeing of a district;
- Economic wellbeing of a district; and
- Environmental wellbeing of a district;
- Identify long-term objectives in relation to the district for contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in NI; and
- Identify actions to be performed and functions to be exercised.

**Nomination Process supported by**



**sector  
matters**

quality business services



# District Electoral Area Fora (DEA) Nomination Process

- Nomination Pack and Nomination Form have been developed
- Nomination process begins on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

# Nominees must represent a Network of groups

- A network of groups is defined as:

*‘a group of constituted organisations that have come together to form a network representing a wider body of beneficiaries within their district electoral area’*

# Must demonstrate X 3 subsectors

- Advice Services
- Arts
- Carers
- Children and families
- Community Development
- Community Relations
- Community Safety
- Criminal Justice
- Disability
- Economic Development
- Education/training
- Environment
- Equality
- Faith Based
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing and Homelessness
- Men
- Older People
- Poverty
- Race/Ethnicity
- Rural Development
- Sport/Recreation
- Sustainable Development
- Transport
- Urban regeneration
- Women
- Young People

# Nomination Form

- Networks nominate an individual
- The network and individual complete the form together and both sign off
- Networks can nominate multiple individuals for different foras but there will be only one representative per fora from any one network

# Nomination Process

- Nomination forms will be reviewed by a representative of Sector Matters along with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council representatives
- Successful nominees will be informed at the end of the nomination process

# Ongoing Recruitment

- Commitment to building capacity of organisations to form new networks of groups to nominate DEA fora members.
- DEA coordinators will assist with capacity building as requested
- Nominations for unfilled spaces on Fora part way through term will be accepted

## Getting involved

The voluntary and community sector is uniquely placed

Statutory guidance issued by DoE:

*“Community and voluntary organisations have a crucial role to play in improving the quality of life for local communities through their expertise”*

Hard to reach groups:

*“The sector is often best placed to reach and involve those sections of the community that the mainstream public sector may find hard to reach, and to access funding that is not available to public bodies.”*

