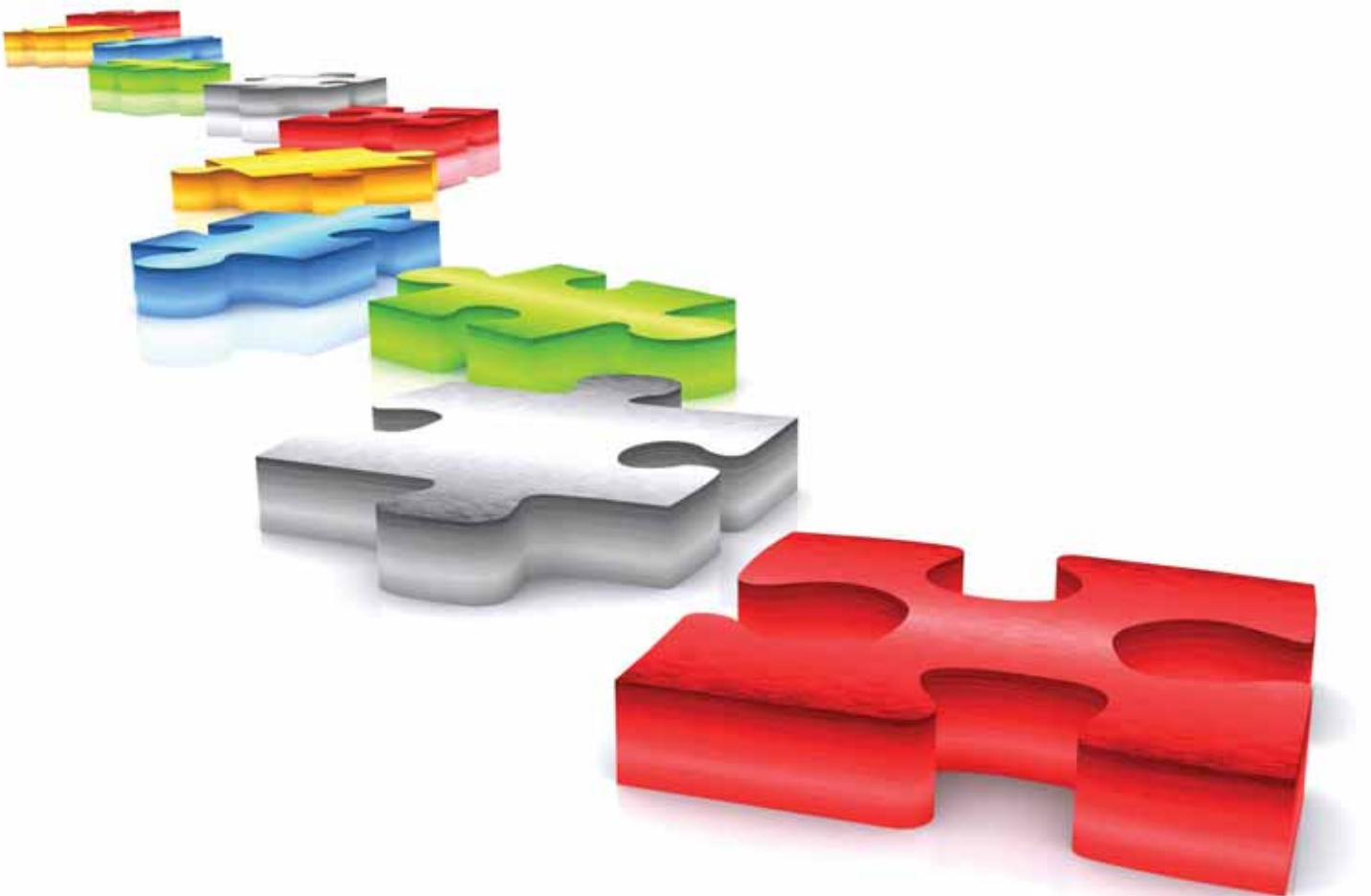




Community Evaluation Northern Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT
2005 - 2006



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Community Evaluation Northern Ireland (CENI) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation providing a range of specialist support services in monitoring and evaluation to the voluntary, community and statutory sectors.

- Conduct evaluations to assess performance and evidence added value
- Training and support to build evaluation skills and organisational effectiveness
- Information and advice to promote awareness and understanding of evaluation
- Research and development to produce and disseminate innovative methods

CENI BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005/06

- Maurice Meehan (Chairperson)**
Investing for Health, EHSSB
- Sheila Jane Malley (Vice Chairperson)**
BBC Children in Need
- Kieran Harding (Treasurer)**
Business in the Community
- Gordon McCullough**
NICVA
- Stephen Bloomer**
Community Foundation for NI
- Nick Mack**
Rural Development Council
- Brendan Murtagh**
QUB (resigned October 05)
- Claire Linney**
Rural Community Network

STAFF

- Brendan McDonnell** Director
- Nicola McIlDoon** Deputy Director
- Norman Gillespie** Senior Evaluator
- Joanne Kelly** Research/Evaluation Assistant
- Gladys Swanton** Training Manager
- Joanne Templeton** Training & Development Officer
- Kerry McCarroll** Information Officer (joined January 06)
- Pamela Walker** Finance & Administration Officer (joined November 05)
- Louise Smith** Administrative Assistant
- Gregory Cunningham** Seconded from DRD (September 04)



CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWARD

The past year has represented a period of considerable change and development for CENI. The specific detail of those changes is provided in the Director's Report. In brief, the organisation has not only undertaken significant strategic, organisational and human resource reconfiguration, it is also preparing to move premises for the second time in 12 months. The latest office move will represent a long-term relocation to new premises on the Ormeau Road.

The context of the changes that CENI are undertaking reflect key policy and public sector structure changes that are currently being implemented within Northern Ireland. These include the 'Positive Steps' Report from DSD/Task Force on the future of the community and voluntary sector and the Review of Public Administration. Both of these, combined with a tighter financial environment, will increasingly require that organisations across all sectors, move to demonstrating firm outcomes focussed evidence of effectiveness related to investment. CENI is committed to ensuring that it is fully equipped as a regional specialist infrastructure organisation to meet changing needs. The most compelling reason for supporting change within the organisation does not relate purely to anticipating a changing 'marketplace'. The most important focus for CENI is to ensure that it can fulfil, to its fullest potential, its

achieving social gain, particularly those people and communities who experience disadvantage, to demonstrate how such gain is achieved through the highest standards of monitoring and evaluation.

On behalf of the CENI Board I would like to sincerely thank all of the staff for their continued commitment, patience and hard work, particularly over the past year as the organisation moves to completing a major refocus to its work. I am confident that this work will lead to the development of fresh strategic and programmatic contracts that utilise the specialisms of training, research and contract work that CENI has developed over the past ten years in the field of monitoring and evaluation.

Maurice Meehan

Chairperson

charitable objectives. This involves equipping those concerned with



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Most annual reports start by stating how much organisations have changed or dealt with the challenges of the previous year, and for CENI this is no understatement. In the past year the organisation has: negotiated a new three year core funding package with VCU; developed a new three year strategy; undertaken a complete organisational review and; moved premises – twice!



Brendan McDonnell, Director

Thankfully we have successfully come through these changes. The key point is that CENI is preparing for the future, a future which is still uncertain, but one we are trying to anticipate in order to position the organisation to take best advantage of the new order that will emerge.

At the beginning of the 2005/06 financial year, CENI was engaged in intense negotiations with our core funder, VCU, which resulted in a new core funding package. This was coupled to a new three year strategy with annual outputs and outcomes agreed with VCU.

CENI's 2005 – 2008 strategy (see adjacent diagram) aims to reinforce our niche position as the leading provider of evaluation support services to the community and voluntary sector. To do this, we will concentrate on three key areas of operation:-

- **Research and development** work to build new specialist knowledge in

evaluation around issues such as social capital;

- Translate this knowledge into the development of high quality **training and evaluation services** to meet identified needs; and
- Develop the **organisational structures and human resources** of CENI to support an efficient, effective and sustainable organisation.

In this, the first year of the strategy, we have focussed on reviewing the existing organisational structures. To this end, CENI commissioned Blueprint Consultants to carry out an organisational review in order to identify and recommend the most appropriate structure to take the organisation forward and realise its strategic objectives. Blueprint produced a final report in March 2006 and CENI will progress with its recommendations over the coming financial year.

CONTEXT

External Environment

Positive Steps – Grants to Investment
 Review of Public Administration
 Increased Competition

Priorities

Established niche position – specialist service
 Revise Structure – Modernise
 New Alliances – collaborative advantage

STRATEGY

Outward focus on strategic needs

Promotion raising profile
 Forming strategic alliances
 Research – Influence policy develop services

Produce high quality specialist services

Quality assured, relevant to needs
 Build evaluation capacity
 Deliver best external evaluation practice

Inward focus on corporate needs

Review Organisational structures
 Good governance, best practice
 Develop HRD – Skilled motivated staff

SUSTAINABILITY



To house its growing staff complement CENI has also been looking to secure appropriate premises. Despite a series of setbacks and a temporary (though pleasant) move to North Belfast, CENI has finally identified suitable long-term accommodation and will move back to the Ormeau Road in summer 2006.

CENI services have also expanded with funding secured from the Big Lottery Fund for a three year Training and Development Project. This will be an important strategic project in terms of building CENI's training capacity and in developing a package of courses and materials to equip community and voluntary organisations to meet the challenges of a new funding environment.

The new core funding package has provided long-term funding for an Information Officer post. This enabled the continued production and wide circulation of regular editions of CENI's newsletter as well as website maintenance and updates. In response to demand, over 150 information enquiries were handled last year, of which, 63% were from the voluntary and community sector; 32% from the statutory sector and 5% from funders.

a Royal Irish Academy sponsored research project carried out in partnership with CFNI. The research presents a broader model for profiling communities, which includes community capacity, capability and social capital. This approach complements the 'Noble' deprivation indicators by providing a more dynamic and sophisticated model of communities. CENI believes the model has potential application to RPA and community planning; in particular this would benefit the proposed new Councils with the construction of an information management framework to baseline need, target resources and measure change.

The past year has laid the foundations for strategic and organisational change which CENI will continue to build on over the next year. Implementing the organisational changes which CENI has embarked upon won't be easy but they are necessary. Crucial to achieving this will be the ongoing support of CENI's Board and staff. Over the past year, the Board and particularly the Chair, have been unstinting in their support and guidance. Staff for their part have been patient, understanding and displayed commitment to the process. I would therefore like to thank all involved over the past year and look forward to their continued efforts in the coming year.



The research and development work continues to grow. In October 2005 CENI presented the interim findings of

EVALUATION SERVICE

In light of the changing funding and policy climate, there is a growing recognition by the voluntary and community sector of the need to evaluate outcomes in order to both improve their performance and service delivery and satisfy funders. CENI's unique position as the only support agency of its kind within the sector, coupled with our reputation as a provider of quality and value-for-money evaluation services, has led to an exceptional rise in demand for our external evaluation service over the past year. The number of contracted evaluation projects carried out by CENI's in-house team and Associate Consultants during the 05/06 period increased by 37.5% with 33 projects completed last year in comparison with 24 during 04/05. Projects varied in size and were commissioned by a wide variety of organisations including voluntary and community organisations themselves as well as funding agencies.

EVALUATIONS COMPLETED INCLUDED:

- **ASCERT's Volunteer Development Project** – aimed at assisting the capacity of communities to address substance misuse and related social issues through active citizenship and volunteer support
- **Belfast Interface Project** – designed to identify areas of concern to interface communities and means of addressing these issues
- **NIMBA's Big Lottery Grant Programme** – aimed at providing support to parents and families of premature and ill babies in the EHSSB and Foyle Trust areas
- **NIACRO's Child & Parent Support Programme** – aimed at providing intensive support to families whose children (aged 8-11) were at risk of engaging in anti social/ offending behaviour
- **Western Health Action Zone** - established to improve the health and wellbeing of older people and families living in poverty across the WHSSB area
- **New Life Counselling Service** – provides a unique counselling service to children, young people, families and adults in North Belfast and parts of West Belfast



CASE STUDY:

THE LIVING WILLOWS FOR SHADE PROJECT

CENI was commissioned by an advisory group comprising the Ulster Cancer Foundation (UCF), Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland and the Eastern and Northern Health and Social Services Boards to conduct an evaluation of the Living Willows for Shade Project – a three year project involving primary/nursery schools to highlight the issue of Care in the Sun.



Pupils from Whitehouse Nursery School with their Living Willows structure.

Client Feedback:

Project Advisory Group member and Regional Melanoma Co-ordinator with UCF, Sandra Gordon commented:

“We found the whole evaluation experience with CENI to be excellent. The consultant involved was carefully matched to the project, was very supportive and very

much a part of the project group, taking an active interest in the work being done. It was very helpful to be able to draw on CENI’s expertise in terms of laying out parameters for measuring success and in baselining levels of awareness regarding care in the sun. I was delighted with the level of support and would absolutely recommend CENI to other organisations looking for a value for money external evaluation service delivered to the highest standards.”

CASE STUDY:

ARTS CARE'S DREAMS PROJECT AT THE MATER HOSPITAL

CENI was commissioned by Arts Care to evaluate the Dreams Project which was set up by Arts Care at the Mater as a participatory visual arts project involving patients, staff and community groups associated with the Mater Hospital and aimed to assess the value of their participation in the project.



Pictured at the launch of the evaluation research findings of Arts Care's 'Dreams' Art and Health Project are (from L-R), Nicola McIlldoon, CENI; Beverley Healy, Dreams project co-ordinator; Joanne Kelly, CENI; Lorna Hastings, Director of Arts Care and Evelyn Gilliland, CENI consultant.

Client Feedback:

Lorna Hastings, Director of Arts Care said:

“Over the years we have observed the benefits, on many levels, of arts activities on health and we are delighted that the Dreams evaluation project has backed up these observations”.

was the principal funder of the Dreams Art and Health Project, said,

“There has always been plenty of anecdotal evidence to indicate the benefits of art activities on mental, emotional and physical well-being...this important research project now offers us direct evidence, supported by medical professionals, of measurable ways in which art contributes to improving health, and reinforces the value of embedding the arts in healthcare settings.”

Noirin McKinney, Arts Development Director at the Arts Council, which



TRAINING SERVICES

CENI's Training Service continued to go from strength to strength last year. A new module 'Introducing Outcomes' was added to our Programme of Training options. The launch of a Big Lottery Funded Training Project has further expanded capacity to meet the needs of the community and voluntary sector. There has also been an emphasis on quality with renewal of our status as an ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) Provider of Endorsed and Development Awards.

LAUNCH OF BIG LOTTERY FUND TRAINING PROJECT

A new Big Lottery funded Training and Development Project was launched in August 2005. This unique project, funded for three years, will involve the development of a comprehensive package of evaluation training modules designed to equip locally based projects in particular to meet the challenges of a changing funding environment.

An Advisory Group drawn from the sector, adult education, funding bodies and evaluation practitioners, has been established to inform and guide the project. Progress to date has included the conduct of a survey to further identify training needs as well as a literature review to aid the development of appropriate training models.

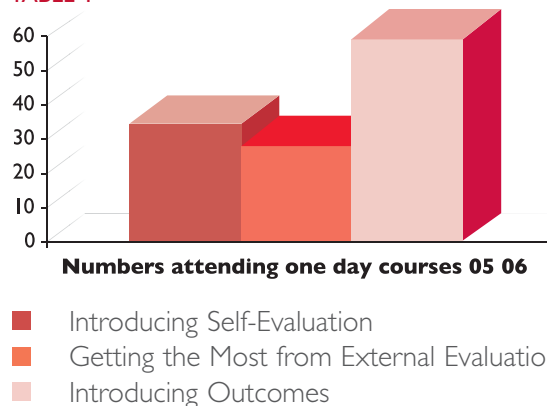


CENI'S PROGRAMME OF ONE-DAY TRAINING COURSES

Following the successful piloting of the new 'Introducing Outcomes' course last year, a total of six Outcomes courses were delivered this year to an average of ten people per course (See Table One). This contributed to a significant increase in participant numbers on one-day courses over this year. 121 attended CENI one-day training courses compared to 81 the previous year, representing a rise of nearly 50%.

Of these, 78% were from the voluntary/community sector; 19% were from the statutory sector and 3% were funders.

TABLE 1





CUSTOMISED EVALUATION TRAINING AND PROGRAMMES OF TRAINING SUPPORT

Customised training is an important element of our services, enabling clients to avail of training and support options tailored to specific organisational needs.

Clients commissioning training on the theme of Outcomes included: Housing Rights

“Perhaps the most useful and relevant course I have attended in a long time. Really pleased I responded to the flyer.”

Introducing Self-Evaluation course participant

Service, the Southern Board’s Trauma Advisory Panel, BIFHE Springvale Community Outreach Initiative, and Community

Development & Learning Initiative. The Southern Childcare Partnership commissioned CENI to deliver training linking the theme of Self-evaluation and Quality, while the Verbal Arts Centre commissioned a number of sessions on Self-

evaluation for Library staff from the Western Board area and Donegal County Council.



Craigavon & Banbridge CHSST staff celebrate the successful completion of the final stage of CENI’s ILM endorsed ‘Self Evaluation Training and Support Programme’. Pictured with the participants are: Nicola McIlldoon, CENI Deputy Director (far left) and Gladys Swanton, CENI Training Manager (back row, second from right) with the Trust’s Chief Executive, Glenn Houston (middle row, far left).

Border Action also commissioned CENI to deliver customised training on the use of Self-evaluation techniques to improve evidence gathering and reporting to their funders as well as other stakeholders.

Overall there was an 89% increase in the number of participants benefiting from tailored training compared with the previous year.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RECOGNITION OF LEARNING



Accreditation and quality assurance are increasingly important themes in the delivery

“Good pace – well prepared and presented and very relevant.”

Introducing Outcomes course participant

of services. Our training survey indicated that 46% of clients felt that ‘recognition of learning’

was of ‘some importance’ to them with 38% stating it was ‘very important’. CENI’s status as an approved provider of ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) Endorsed and Development Awards was renewed in September 05 for a further four years. This ensures that training provided by

CENI is subject to rigorous internal and external quality assurance procedures.

Development Awards are available to participants attending CENI’s one-day training courses. Endorsed Awards are provided for longer term customised programmes of training and support such as the five year ‘Self Evaluation Training and Support Programme’ provided to Craigavon & Banbridge CHSST staff. ‘Strengthening Services’, a joint CENI/Trust report which focuses on the outcomes of the programme was launched in June 05.



FINANCE ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

- The company has no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those included in the net movements in funds.
- All of the operations of the company are classed as continuing.
- The statement of financial activities and balance sheet are extracts only from the company's statutory financial statements. Statutory financial statements have been prepared and audited and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies in due course. The company's auditors have reported on the statutory financial statements by company law and their report is unqualified.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2006 £	Total 2005 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:				
Fees	-	140,416	140,416	170,502
Grants – Big Lottery Fund	37,972	-	37,972	25,285
Grants-Others	12,879	98,026	110,905	103,009
Other income	-	7,136	7,136	6,261
Investment income	-	-	-	1
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	50,851	245,578	296,429	305,058
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable expenditure:				
Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives	34,680	209,035	243,715	275,135
Management and administration	12,689	51,123	63,812	34,698
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	47,369	260,158	307,527	309,833
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR				
Transfer between funds - capital grants	3,482	(14,580)	(11,098)	(4,775)
	(4,138)	4,138	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
Fund balances at beginning of year	(656)	(10,442)	(11,098)	(4,775)
Fund balances at end of year	6,442	56,213	62,655	67,430
	5,786	45,771	51,557	62,655

BALANCE SHEET	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	-	5,982	-	6,907
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	63,903	-	61,671	-
Short term deposits	606	-	606	-
Cash at bank and in hand	24,143	-	44,172	-
TOTALS	88,652	-	106,449	-
CREDITORS				
Amounts due within 1 year	43,077	-	50,701	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS	45,575	-	55,748	-
NET ASSETS	51,557	-	62,655	-
FUNDS				
Unrestricted	-	-	-	-
Restricted	45,771	-	56,213	-
	5,786	-	6,442	-
TOTALS	51,557	-	62,655	-

MEMBERS

Heather Adair
Rethink

Ruth Allen
Volunteer Development Agency

Jimmy Armstrong
Independent Consultant

Mary Black
North & West Health Action Zone

Stephen Bloomer
Interaction Belfast

Colm Bradley
Community Technical Aid NI

Liz Canning
NIPPA

S Catherwood
Chernobyl Childrens Appeal NI Ltd

Graeme Caul
Telephone Helplines Association

Nuala Conlon
Unison

Patricia Cooke
Craigavon Community Network

Libby Cooper
Charities Evaluation Services

Roger Courtney
Independent Consultant

Sarah Craig
National Council for Special Education

Hugo Dale
Individual

Rowan Davison
South & East Belfast HSS Trust

Jim Deery
Ashton Community Trust

Joan Devlin
Belfast Healthy Cities

Willie Devlin
Ards Business Centre

Anne Doherty
Rethink

Geraldine Donaghy
Confederation of Community Groups, Newry

Jason Donaghy
Fermanagh Trust

Jane Field
Education & Development Consultant

Peggy Flanagan
Community Work Education & Training Network

Bryony Flanagan
Green Hat

Jim Flynn
Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Martina Flynn
Newry & Mourne HSS Trust

Susan Gibson
Derry Well Woman Centre

Trevor Gill
Trevor Gill Associates

Joy Hadden
Rural Development Council

Albert Hamilton
Card Consultancy Services

Kieran Harding
Business in the Community NI

Joan Harman
Consultant

Gareth Harper
Rural Community Network

Clare Harvey
Individual

E-J Havlin
Unearth

Brenda Hegarty
SEUPB

Elizabeth Hendron
NIPPA

Olaf Hvattum
North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum

Eileen Kelly
Educational Guidance Service for Adults

Tom Kiernan
Voluntary & Community Unit DSD

Jonathan Kirkpatrick
North Belfast Partnership Board

Nick Mack
Rural Development Council

Seamus Magee
Electoral Commission

Noel Maguire
Sliabh Beagh Cross-Border Partnership

John Mallett
Child Poverty Action Group NI

Sheila Jane Malley
BBC Children in Need

Saka Manful
QUB

Eileen Martin
QUB Science Shop

Cormac McAleer
CFNI

Derek McCambley
CFNI

Elaine McCarthy
North & West HAZ

Chris McCartney
Magherafelt Area Partnership

Fiona McCausland
Old Warren Partnership

Pauline McCleneghan
Lifestart Foundation NI

Miceal McCoy
South Down/South Armagh - LEADER

Sam McCready
UUJ

Gordon McCullough
NICVA

Philip McDonagh
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Roisin McDonagh
Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Gerry McDonald
Sure Start - Dungannon

Lisa McElherron
NICVA

Julie McGinty
Western HAZ

Marie Therese McGivern
Belfast City Council

Grace McGuinness
Dept of the Environment

Maureen McKeague
Lynx Business Services

Paschal McKeown
Mencap NI

Nigel McKinney
CFNI

Margaret McTeggart
Independent Consultant

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South & East Belfast HSS Trust

Rosaleen Meenan
Child Poverty Action Group NI

Jonna Monaghan
Belfast Healthy Cities

Pearse Moore
Nerve Centre

Cyril Moorhead
Vine Community & Advice Centre

Brendan Murtagh
QUB

Jack O'Connor
SEUPB

Teresa O'Connor
Rural Development Council

Emily O'Neill
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups

Martin O'Neill
SHSSB

Joseph Peake
Enniskillen Together

Sandra Peake
WAVE

John Pinkerton
QUB

Olive Rafferty
Rural Community Network

Diane Robb
Craigavon Borough Council

Maolcholaim Scott
Columba Initiative

Kieran Shields
SELB

Eleanor Speers
Educational Guidance Service for Adults

Ruth Sutherland
Rethink

Siobhan Sweeney
Western HAZ

Catherine Taggart
North Belfast Partnership Board

Muriel Todd
Carrickfergus Women's Forum

Kathleen Toner
CFNI

Anton Trant
City of Dublin VEC

Ernie Wallace
Individual

Alison Wightman
Community Change

Lucia Wilson
Northern Ireland Assembly

Mena Wilson
Unicorn Consultancy

CLIENTS

During the past year CENI has continued to work with a hugely diverse range of organisations. 106 groups and organisations benefited from CENI's training and evaluation services, of these, 74% were from the voluntary/community sector; 20% from the statutory sector and 6% were funders.

STRENGTHENING THE
VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY
SECTOR THROUGH A BETTER
UNDERSTANDING AND USE OF
EVALUATION.



CENI 

Community Evaluation Northern Ireland

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