

CENI Research Develops a New Model for Community Investment

A unique methodology designed to measure local community assets as well as deprivation has been developed by **CENI** in partnership with CFNI (Community Foundation for Northern Ireland). The aim is to enable public investors to identify and assess the internal capacity of deprived communities and so improve the design and targeting of funding interventions.

Funded by the Royal Irish Academy, the findings of the research project were presented to over 50 policy makers, funders and representatives from community organisations at a recent seminar entitled:

'Profiling Communities: A Model for Investment'

The model developed by **CENI/CFNI** defines communities in terms of:

(a) social assets as measured by the number and effectiveness of community organisations within an area, as well as the level of local social capital and

(b) social needs as measured by their multiple deprivation or 'Noble' scores.

Data was collected on over 400 Super Output Areas (almost half of the Northern Ireland total) and analysed to produce a new combined social asset/deprivation measure.

Commenting on the research, Brendan McDonnell, **CENI** said:

"It is increasingly recognised by public investors and communities alike that areas, while appearing to be equally deprived on the Noble indicators, may possess different capacities or 'assets' that enable them to deal with need and so may require different types of investment. For instance, some communities may be so internally fractured and alienated that they need basic community development to literally 'bring them back from the brink'. Whereas other communities, while objectively deprived, may possess internal capacity and social assets that can be utilised and further developed through economic development or partnership initiatives with statutory bodies to deliver local services.

"This model provides, for the first time, a means of mapping and measuring social assets as well as social need down to Super Output Area (SOA) level. It will be of considerable interest to policy makers, funders and community organisations concerned with the planning and targeting of local initiatives, particularly in the context of the RPA and community planning process. We believe the model has the potential to provide decision makers with a much clearer idea of the different conditions for investment within and across communities which would in turn enable them to design and target initiatives accordingly."

A copy of the most recent research paper can be found on **CENI's** website www.ceni.org/inf_pub.htm



From L-R: Mike Morrissey, CENI Consultant; Kat Healy, Policy & Research Officer, CFNI and Brendan McDonnell, CENI Director present the most recent findings of the research project, 'Mapping Community Infrastructure in Northern Ireland'.

Welcome to the 12th issue of CENI news

This is the official newsletter of Community Evaluation Northern Ireland and aims to raise awareness and inform readers of developments in the field of evaluation as well as keeping our growing numbers of members and contacts informed of current work within **CENI**.

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Craigavon & Banbridge Ageing Well Project Celebrated

Findings from **CENI's** external review of the Craigavon & Banbridge Ageing Well project were recently presented by **CENI** consultant Evelyn Gilliland at an event to showcase the project and celebrate its success.

Craigavon & Banbridge Ageing Well has involved a locally based partnership between Age Concern NI and Craigavon and Banbridge Community Health and Social Services Trust developed over a sustained seven year period that commenced in 1999. The project aims to achieve increased social participation and inclusion of older people, enhanced health awareness, the building of social capital amongst community and older people's groups and the empowerment of older people.

CENI was commissioned to undertake a small-scale review of the project to highlight the distinctiveness of the model of practice that has been developed and the practice learning that is beginning to emerge as a result.

The review by **CENI** showed that as a result of the project there is evidence of a more holistic preventative approach to health and well-being amongst older people and increased

participation by older people in physical activity at local level. The project has been embraced enthusiastically by groups with a growth in the number of groups involved from 21 at the end of the first year to 78 by 2006. Many of these groups reported an increase in the number of older people participating and others have indicated that their involvement has given their group a new lease of life.

Findings also indicated that the work is helping to build confidence and leadership skills within older people's groups and is contributing to improving their organisational quality standards. The project is also leading to the increased participation of older people in strategic consultation and lobbying about the future development of public services.



Attendees at the Craigavon & Banbridge Ageing Well Project celebration day.

'Dreams' Project Wins International Arts Award

Arts Care's 'Dreams' art and health project at the Mater Hospital, which was evaluated by **CENI**, has been recognised by the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and selected as a 2007 First Place Professional winner in the Blair L. Sadler International Healing Arts Competition.

This prestigious award recognises individuals or teams for exemplary visual, performing or multidisciplinary arts projects that have had a measurable impact on the quality of the healthcare experience for patients, visitors and staff.

The 'Dreams' Project 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. It aimed to assess the value of their participation in the project through evaluation. The competition review panel felt that the 'Dreams' Project represented one of the most innovative arts projects clearly demonstrating compelling impact on the quality of the healthcare experience for patients, their families and caregivers.

This accolade recognises the evidence brought to light through the evaluation process of the benefits of the 'Dreams' Project. **CENI** is delighted to have been involved in this award winning project.

Understanding and Evaluating Outcomes - Training and Support in Self-evaluation for Sure Start Staff

The South Armagh Sure Start commissioned **CENI** to deliver customised training and support to assist managers and staff to implement self-evaluation over a nine month period. The Programme Co-ordinator was assisted to develop an **outcomes framework** which linked to the four key outcome areas within the National Sure Start Initiative including: Social and Emotional Development of the Child; Improving Health; Improving the Ability to Learn; and Strengthening Families and Communities. The organisation had already in place methods for capturing outputs relating to services/activities delivered and were also introducing the ALICE system for recording quantitative information. However, the Programme Co-ordinator also identified a need for collecting more qualitative feedback which would indicate progress towards achievement of outcomes.

Staff were consulted on the development of appropriate and realistic indicators and were involved in the process of gathering evidence which in turn fed into funding reporting requirements. A briefing session was also delivered to the Management Committee which provided an opportunity to explore the strategic role of evaluation within the Programme and discuss issues and priorities. The **CENI** training incorporated group training inputs on the Self-evaluation Process and one-to-one support sessions. Four self-evaluation projects were identified focusing on key areas of service delivery and included: internal & external communications; partnership working in delivering breast feeding support; oral health, and the crèche service. This culminated in a dissemination session to the Management Committee, informing subsequent service planning.

Commenting on the training and support, Joanne Morgan, Project Co-ordinator with Sure Start South Armagh said:

*“One of our biggest challenges is to provide evidence of the impact our services are having. The **CENI** self-evaluation training and support was invaluable in providing us with tools and methods for capturing qualitative evidence and presenting it in a clear concise format. I found the session with **CENI** to be excellent, informative and hugely beneficial. I plan to engage with them during this year to build on the work we have commenced and take self-evaluation within the project to the next stage.”*



Staff share learning from self-evaluation process

CENI Launches New ‘Quality’ Course - ‘Implementing PQASSO’

CENI is pleased to announce the launch of a new ‘Quality’ course - ‘**Implementing PQASSO**’. Following on from **CENI**’s development and delivery of the ‘Approaches to Quality’ course, there has been growing demand from organisations within the sector to provide support with implementing the PQASSO model in Northern Ireland and **CENI** is delighted to respond to this need.

CENI is the first organisation in Northern Ireland to offer the ‘Implementing PQASSO’ course to voluntary and community organisations here. PQASSO is the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations and has been designed by Charities Evaluation Services (CES). The model is aimed primarily at small and medium organisations but can be applied to some larger organisations. The training will be provided by a CES licensed PQASSO Mentor/Trainer. The system covers 12 key areas of organisational life including planning for quality, governance, management, user-centred services, training and development.

This unique two-day course covers all aspects of introducing and implementing the PQASSO system within an organisation. It outlines the necessary steps and explores the processes of establishing a sustainable quality assurance system.

Launching the new course, Gladys Swanton, **CENI**’s Training Manager said:

*“Implementing PQASSO bolsters our current training programme and further strengthens **CENI**’s commitment to helping voluntary and community organisations to improve the quality of their services and so better meet the needs of their communities and requirements of funders. **CENI** is delighted to be able to offer this training to organisations in Northern Ireland.”*

Course dates: 23rd-24th May 2007; 19th-20th June 2007

Course costs: £200 per person (voluntary & community) and £300 (other)

To book a place or for further information on this course, other **CENI** courses or customised training please contact Gladys Swanton, Training Manager, **CENI** on tel: 028 9024 8005 or email gladys@cenl.org. Courses can also be booked online at www.ceni.org/tra_book.htm



BIG Training Project



Now into its second year, the BIG Training Project is delivering sessions throughout Northern Ireland to groups who in the past would not have been able to access training in evaluation. This project aims to make training in evaluation more accessible to groups with limited resources. It is particularly relevant to those groups who are still in the early stages of their development and are planning to secure funding to make them more sustainable.

Two recent sessions in the North West on Self-Evaluation and Quality were well received and attended. Participants found the days informative, practical and a useful networking opportunity.

If you work for a neighbourhood community group or locally based issue group and are interested in attending evaluation training, contact Joanne Templeton to find out more about the Big Lottery Fund Training. Or, if you are an umbrella group and would like to organise a session for the groups you support, get in touch.

Contact Joanne Templeton, Training & Development Officer on 028 90248005 or email joanne.templeton@ceni.org

New Start at CENI

CENI is delighted to welcome Emily Jackson on board as CENI's new part-time Administrative Assistant. In her new post Emily will be responsible for assisting the Finance & Administration Officer and providing administrative support to the whole CENI team. Emily is currently completing an MRes in Research Methods in Politics at Queen's University, Belfast.



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If you no longer wish to receive CENI News or if it would be better sent to someone else in your organisation please email kerry@ceni.org or telephone 028 9024 8005.

CENI Programme of Training Courses April - June 2007

CENI is delighted to launch its programme of training courses from April - June 2007.

1. **Methods/Tools for Self-Evaluation** *NEW* 22nd May 2007

Designed to help participants understand the different approaches to gathering evidence and the range of evaluation methods and tools available.

2. **Implementing PQASSO (2 Day Course)** *NEW* 23rd - 24th May 2007; 19th-20th June 2007

This two-day course covers all aspects of introducing and implementing the PQASSO system (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations) within an organisation.

3. **Introducing Outcomes** 1st May 2007, 5th June 2007



Focuses on measuring the benefits gained from project activities and provides an introduction to concepts and issues as well as a number of examples of outcomes.

4. **Getting the Most From External Evaluation** 26th April 2007



Explores issues such as the purpose of external evaluation, what an external evaluation involves and how to go about commissioning an evaluation consultant so as to ensure best value.

5. **Evaluating Social Capital Outcomes** 14th June 2007

Demystifies concepts and explains the different dimensions of social capital. Participants will be supported to identify social capital outcomes and indicators as well as explore tools for gathering evidence.

6. **Approaches to Quality Within the Voluntary & Community Sector** 3rd May 2007, 12th June 2007

Seeks to explain what quality is and outlines the benefits, approaches and processes involved when an organisation makes the decision to implement a recognised model.

Courses 3 & 4 are approved by the Institute of Leadership and Management and participants may avail of an ILM Development Award, provided at an extra cost of £45 per person per course.

One-Day Course costs: £85 (community & voluntary) £150 (statutory/commercial) + £45 for ILM Award (optional) applicable to courses 3-4.

PQASSO Course costs: £200 (community & voluntary); £300 (statutory/commercial)

Venue: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

Time: Courses run from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

For further information contact Gladys Swanton, CENI Training Manager at gladys@ceni.org