CENI to Host ‘Fit for Purpose’ Seminar

Following on from the success of our first two seminars, we will be hosting in conjunction with the Developing Governance Group, a seminar focusing on the theme of being ‘Fit for Purpose’ and exploring Regulation, Good Governance and the Use of Quality Standards. This event takes place on Thursday 14 April 2011 at NICVA from 9.30am - 1.00pm.

There is no charge for the event and anyone wishing to attend should telephone CENI on 028 9024 8005 or email kerry@ceni.org. Places will be available on a first come first served basis.

The voluntary and community sector is subject to a number of requirements including the new Charities legislation and increased regulation associated with the sector’s growing service delivery role. In addition, there is the on-going audit focus from funders and the need for evidence of the use of quality standards. These developments present new challenges for organisations to be fully ‘fit for purpose’. This event is targeted at voluntary and community groups and funders who wish to find out more about good governance and quality improvement approaches used within the sector.

The key objectives of the seminar are:

• To deepen understanding of the current requirements and challenges faced by the sector with regard to regulation, governance and use of quality standards;

• To further inform understanding of the use of governance support tools and quality approaches within the sector and emerging capacity needs;

• To provide practical illustrations from two voluntary/community organisations representing distinctive approaches to governance and quality improvement;

• To provide the opportunity for participants to discuss the issues and share practice on the theme.

The event brings together a variety of stakeholders around this theme including speakers from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; Big Lottery Fund; Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority; Charities Evaluation Services; The Cedar Foundation; The Organisation for Young Children.

The event will take place on Thursday 14 April 2011 at NICVA from 9.30am - 1.00pm.

The programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.30</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.40</td>
<td>To provide the opportunity for participants to discuss the issues and share practice on the theme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15</td>
<td>Current Developments and Learning from the PADDLE Quality Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.35</td>
<td>Use of Quality Standards and Tools in Improving Outcomes for Young Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Working Towards Good Governance in the早 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.20</td>
<td>Use of Quality Standards and Tools to Support the Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>Good Governance and Quality in Early Years Services - The Challenges for Supporting Young Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Panel Questions and Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>Lunch/Coffee Breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Panel Closing Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>Lunch and Networking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aims of the Change Matrix approach:...

CENI recently hosted the second in its series of seminars on the theme ‘Evidencing the Impact of the Voluntary and Community Sector’. The ‘Measuring Change: A New Approach’ seminar focused on the all important issue of outcomes and included an introduction to the ‘Change Matrix’ approach with presentations of two case examples. The event was well attended by over 50 delegates from across the sector and its funders.

Brand McDonnell, CENI Director said: “The budgetary crisis has re-focused Government’s emphasis on evidencing the outcomes of its funding to the voluntary and community sector. However, as CENI’s recent research report ‘Measuring Up’ shows, evaluation practice is still primarily focused on counting activities rather than demonstrating results, which makes it difficult to show the difference that funding actually makes.”

There is a charge of £50 for non-members which includes: entry to the event, lunch, copy of presentations, copies of Change Matrix approaches and copies of research reports. Persons attending rate free tickets to the event for additional members of their team.

CENI in conjunction with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) has been at the forefront of developing and testing a new approach to measuring the impact of community based programmes.

The operation of the Change Matrix emphasises the involvement of both the programme funders and the funded projects in the planning and evaluation process, facilitated by an external evaluator.

Projects are facilitated to estimate the baseline position for their project against the programme outcomes and then, at set intervals, estimate how far they have moved from the baseline (backed up with documented evidence).

This way both funders and projects are clear about what they are setting out to achieve and have the means to track and measure changes produced at key intervals.

Quantitative data generated from the process can be analysed to assess individual project performance or aggregated to show overall programme impact.

Qualitative data also generated, can be analysed to explain why these changes occur and how to improve or replicate interventions.

Measuring Change: A New Approach

SET OUT OVERLEAF
The Change Matrix was first developed for the Communities in Transition programme operated by CFNI. It has since been applied to the DSD Areas at Risk programme and Age NI Fit for Purpose Programme. It is also currently being tested with the Big Lottery Fund’s Live & Learn and Safe & Well Programmes.

Commenting on the event Brendan continued: "I am delighted with the interest in today’s seminar which follows on the back of our first very successful seminar focusing on how to make reporting more effective. Today has provided an important opportunity for CENI to present the Change Matrix as a new approach to measuring change and to invite feedback from both funders and funded organisations. The response has been positive and we look forward to further consultation with the sector to examine the potential for applying the approach to the funding process."

Speaking at the event were, Catherine Taggart, CENI Board and Belfast City Council, Mike Morrissey, CENI Consultant, Kat Holy, CFNI, Maurice Holy, and Brendan McDonnell, CENI Director.

The Change Matrix was first developed to support the ‘Live and Learn’ funding programmes. It uses a panel of key project participants who are facilitated to extract and triangulate key sources of evidence. This process is facilitated by an external evaluator using a rigorous methodology known as Nominal Group Technique (NGT). NGT uses a panel of key project partners who are facilitated to extract and triangulate key sources of evidence.

The research, which builds on the ‘Change Matrix’ approach referred to in the lead article, involves:

- Developing a framework of programme-level outcomes which funded projects can identify with, and against which they can locate their own activities and outcomes;
- Developing and applying a simple measurement technique to baseline and measure change for individual projects against these programme-level outcomes.

At this stage, we have developed a draft outcomes framework which sets out the anticipated outcomes of the ‘Safe and Well’ and ‘Live and Learn’ funding programmes.

The methodology for measuring change across these themes involves a scoring exercise undertaken with an ‘expert panel’ made up of key stakeholders within individual projects. This produces both quantitative and qualitative data that can be synthesised to show impact at individual project and overall programme level.

Over the first quarter of 2011, we will be piloting both the framework and the methodology for measuring change with a sample of ‘Safe and Well’ and ‘Live and Learn’ projects. Following a report and full review of the pilot exercise it is intended that the process would be rolled out across other projects funded under the two programmes.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The presentation also referenced some of the key achievements of the Eastern HLCs, including:

- Their contribution to promoting the inclusion of marginalised groups of people in mainstream health and social care provision;
- Their role in developing practice to support mainstream health and social care providers;
- Their contribution to social capital in terms of developing relationships across a number of levels.

The conference also highlighted a number of recommendations for consideration by a range of key stakeholders.

This evaluation, which was conducted over a three-year period, reported in early autumn 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference also highlighted a number of recommendations for consideration by a range of key stakeholders.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.

The event, ‘Tackling Health Inequalities in Disadvantaged Communities’, was held at the Waterfront Hall on 9 November 2010, and aimed to demonstrate how Healthy Living Centres are tackling health inequalities through a community development approach. It was attended by delegates from the Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) throughout Northern Ireland as well as representatives from a broad spectrum of statutory bodies and other organisations.

The conference provided an opportunity for CENI to present the findings of its evaluation of the Eastern-area Healthy Living Centre programme, undertaken on behalf of the Public Health Agency / Investing for Health.