



Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release
08 October 2007

Community groups encouraged to access funding for alcohol and drugs related projects

The Community Support Service based in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area is hosting a one day conference for community groups from the five council areas in the Western area on 18 October 2007 in the Mellon Country Inn. The 'Funding and Beyond' Conference is aimed at providing valuable advice and support to local community groups within the Western Trust area on effective ways of sourcing and developing funding for local projects.

The project is funded by the Western Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (WDACT) and is located within the Western Trust's Health Promotion Department. Its role is to support community and voluntary groups within the Western Trust area to respond to local alcohol and drugs related harm

Speaking about the free event for community groups, Joanne Smith from the Community Support Service, said: "This event provides an excellent opportunity for community groups to find out about successful ways of accessing funding, funding which could further enhance the good work which they are doing within their communities."

The Northern Ireland Community and Voluntary Agency, The Big Lottery and Cresco Trust limited will all contribute to the event. There will be workshops on developing successful applications, dealing with complex funder demands and sustainability.

Denise McCallion the Assistant Coordinator for the Western Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team, which is funding the event, said: "Alcohol and drug misuse are important issues facing local communities. Through the work

of the Western Trust's Community Support Service, and in particular through this valuable conference, local community, voluntary organisations and agencies can begin the process of identifying relevant sources of funding, understanding the application process and exploring the possibilities of sustaining local initiatives that address alcohol and drug issues within communities. We are delighted to support this conference as together we need to provide opportunities for partnership working in order to tackle alcohol and drug misuse in a manner which responds to local identified need."

Niall Blee, Community Support Worker with the Western Trust, said: "It is a wonderful opportunity for community and voluntary agencies to explore, learn and develop skills around the funding market."

If you would like any further information please contact the Western Trust's Community Support Service (028) 7186 5127 (028) 8224 0855:

Ends....

**For further information contact:
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