



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

Community Resilience

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND A BETTER SOCIETY

www.bitcni.org.uk



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: THE BIG ISSUES

POVERTY

376,000 individuals are living in poverty in Northern Ireland.

Poverty wastes people's potential, depriving our society and economy of the skills and talents of those who have valuable contributions to make. The legacy for children who are affected is lifelong, damaging their early development, chances of doing well at school, and their career prospects. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, among people in poverty in the UK 3.8 million live in families where all adults work and 3.1 million live in families where one adult works and one does not.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

11.3 million people in the UK don't have the basic digital skills they need to thrive in today's world.

A lack of digital skills and access can have a huge negative impact on a person's life, leading to poorer health outcomes and a lower life expectancy, increased loneliness and social isolation, less access to jobs and education.

Digitally excluded people also lack a voice and visibility in the modern world, as government services and democracy increasingly move online. What's more, it's those already at a disadvantage - through age, education, income, disability, or unemployment - who are most likely to be missing out, further widening the social inequality gap.

SOCIAL MOBILITY

From the early years through to universities and the workplace, there is an entrenched and unbroken correlation between social class and success.

Northern Ireland's low rate of social mobility is a major issue for our country and economy. All too often people are held back from accessing opportunities regardless of their talent or hard work compared to those born into more privileged circumstances.



What does this mean for companies?

Strong communities are good for business. By investing in their local communities, helping them tackle the issues that affect the lives of their workforce and customers, businesses are investing in themselves. The ambition of our Community team is to engage business in supporting sustainable and resilient communities across Northern Ireland.

How we can help

Strategic engagement

We provide resources, services and events to help businesses develop a comprehensive and strategic approach to engaging with and investing in the community.

Employer supported volunteering

We support business to engage their employees through practical and skills-based volunteering.

Get involved

Our suite of community investment programmes supports businesses to develop their approach to community engagement and provides access to volunteering initiatives that not only support the local community but also provide meaningful employee development and engagement opportunities.

Introduction to Community Investment

This workshop will introduce you to our Five Principles of Community Investment framework to help you review and develop your approach to how you engage and work with your communities.

Community Investment Learning Network

Join one of our Community Investment Learning Networks to exchange knowledge and experience with other CR Managers and explore opportunities to work with other businesses to tackle key social issues.

Charity Partnerships

We can help you develop your approach to working with charities that will engage your employees in a meaningful way to address social issues, and aligned with your organisational values and purpose. You can avail of our Charity Partner toolkit, access our Charity database, and we can work with your Charity Committee to help you select the 'right' charity partner for your business.

Improving digital skills

Our Digital Assist programme aims to bridge the digital divide within Northern Ireland. With many Government and High Street transactions now moving online, and technology developing at a rapid rate, it's more important than ever that people possess the basic skills to make the most of the digital world.

Volunteers use their IT skills to introduce someone to the benefits of the digital world, with activities ranging from helping someone connect with family members via email, introducing them to social media, or even helping them save money through online shopping. Volunteers don't need to be IT experts. All you need is an empathetic approach and the confidence to deliver informal training to a small group, or on a one-to-one basis.

Employee Volunteering

Our suite of volunteering initiatives will not only help you support the local community but will also provide meaningful employee engagement and development. Our Volunteer Action Days run throughout the year, are designed as team-based challenges and provide something to suit everyone – have a look at the back of this flier for more details.

We also offer tailored, bespoke volunteering opportunities for teams of staff and for individuals who want to share and develop their skills. Volunteers could teach someone how to use the internet, share their professional skills to help a local social enterprise become more sustainable, or even sit on the board of a local charity.

Volunteering Calendar 2018/2019

DECEMBER

7 CARES @ CHRISTMAS

An opportunity to help others in need. Make a difference for many families by purchasing an extra gift, giving of your time to wrap or sort gifts.

MARCH

15 BE A SAINT

Get together with a team of colleagues and take part in a day of volunteering for what will be the 10th anniversary of our partnership with Volunteer Now.

12 WORLD MATHS DAY

Join in and take part in our social media campaign to raise awareness of our Time 2 Count programme.

APRIL

12 BIG SHOPS SHOWDOWN

If you and a group of colleagues have entrepreneurial skills, thrive on a creative challenge and enjoy working as part of a team, then this could be the volunteer event of 2019 for you! Take over the running of a charity shop for the day, compete against other teams to promote and manage a shop with the aim to increase sales on the day.

APRIL

TBC SPRING ONLINE WEEK

A week dedicated to helping people get online and experience the benefits of the digital world.

TBC DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

Taking place at libraries across Northern Ireland, this is an opportunity to share your IT skills and introduce people to the online world

JUNE

1-7 VOLUNTEERS WEEK

Join us for a week of volunteering activities during which we'll be using #ValueofVolunteering to highlight the power of employer supported volunteering and showcasing best practice examples from businesses and charities.

JULY

4 STARS & STRIPES

Celebrate American Independence Day by stepping back in time and volunteering at Ulster American Folk Park.

AUGUST

12-16 NATIONAL ALLOTMENT WEEK

Volunteer at a local allotment and find out more about how you can protect, promote and preserve these outdoor spaces.

SEPTEMBER

8 INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

We'll be celebrating with all of our Time to Read literacy volunteers through a social media campaign.

27 LOVE YOUR LANDSCAPE DAY

Get a team together and see what you can do to celebrate our beautiful and diverse landscape.

OCTOBER

TBC GET ONLINE WEEK

Join us for a week of activities and share your IT skills to help people get online.

NOVEMBER

TBC PRO BONO WEEK

We will be working with leading legal firms to arrange opportunities for local charities to avail of free legal advice during this national campaign.

For further information, visit
www.bitcni.org.uk/community-resilience
or call (028) 9046 0606