

Report of a workshop held in partnership with the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) at the Community Relations Council premises, Moygashel on Tuesday 6 October 2009.

1. Attendance

Louise Coyle	NIRWN
Majella Murphy	NIRWN
Clíodhna Geraghty	South Armagh Rural Women's Network
Isobel Holmes	Women's Forum NI
Helena Ewing	Methodist Women in Ireland
Lynn Carvill	Women's Resource and Development Agency
Deirdre Brady	Craigavon Travellers' Support Committee
Pearl Marshall	South Armagh Rural Women's Network
Kathleen Magennis	Training for Women Network
Ciara O' Hanlon	Disability Action
Edna Walmsley	NIRWN
Anne McKinley	Community Focus Learning
Anita Kelly	Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network
Sunita Patra	Women's Information Group
Nigel McKinney	CFNI
Charlie Fisher	CFNI

2. Workshop outputs

The workshop was facilitated using the Consensus Workshop Method.

The focus question under consideration was

“What must my organisation do to ensure our community needs are better met now and into the future?”

Individuals listed answers to the question. They then worked in pairs to prioritise answers. Answers were then collectively grouped by consensus and

the lists were given names by consensus. The answers agreed by the group to the question and names given to the lists are detailed in the table below.

Summary of workshop outputs



INCOME GENERATION	IDENTIFY NEED	EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS	PROTECT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	FUNDING	INVEST IN PEOPLE	LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS	ACCOUNTABILITY
Heighten awareness of social economy projects – encourage groups to experiment	Continue to identify and quantify need and identify gaps in services	Partnership working together (community/public/statutory and private)	Sustainable projects and resources	Applications forms and processes made more simple	Empowerment	Lobby for funding	Communications upskilling – creating communication channels between local groups and government 9 local and central)	
Encourage the build up of reserve funds (social economy)	Community audit – census	Sharing of information	Focus on specifics	Core funding (not necessarily 100% of all resources)	Positive leadership at all levels	Lobby to create policy change and attitude	Keep it simple and understandable(i.e . avoid jargon and abbreviations)	
	Expand and/or develop to ensure equity of service delivery across the region	Effective partnership working and share expertise	Unravel tension between service provision and community development	More funding for the voluntary sector	Training and support	Advocacy work and listening to people		
	Needs analysis	Develop collaborative and strategic partnerships				Engage with new governance structures directly		
	Identification of needs (ongoing and changing)	Promote partnerships and networks				Develop a cohesive infrastructure		
	Identify local needs and convey to government (local and central)	More interaction with funders – less funding led						
	Collect evidence of needs (monitoring and evaluation)	Merge, collaborate and work better together						

		Interacting with other groups						
The vertical or horizontal organisation does not imply any priority								

3. Evaluation

+	-
Very focused	Shock of loans
Well organised	
Good discussion	
Positive and good method	
Well delivered	
Very well delivered	
Enjoyable	