

POLICY UPDATE

ISSUE 7

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RURAL WOMEN'S POLICY FORUM-NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR



At our October 2010 Rural Women's Policy Forum meeting our Chair, Hazel Hicks stepped down. Hazel had been the Chair since its inception and felt it was time to offer others an opportunity to take up the position. NIRWN and the Policy Forum members would like to thank Hazel for giving of her time so generously and being such an excellent Chair for so long.

It was agreed at the October meeting that NIRWN would send a nomination form out to all members so everyone could have equal opportunity to nominate themselves for the position of Chair or vice Chair. It is our great pleasure to announce Gillian Clifford as our new Chair and Joyce Kullas as our Vice Chair.

Next Meeting: May 9th at 10.30am in CRC Buildings, Dungannon (This will be a joint meeting with NICVA Women's Policy Forum) REGISTER NOW T: 028 8676 9191 E: louise@nirwn.org.uk

Gillian Clifford is the Regional Policy and Information Co-ordinator with Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation addressing domestic violence and providing services for women and children.



Gillian represents Women's Aid on several policy fora including the Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group, NICVA Women's Policy Forum, End Violence Against Women (EVAW) London and the Rural Women's Policy Forum.

Joyce Kullas represents Active Listening and Redeeming Our Communities in NI. With Active Listening, she is training volunteers from churches to reach out into their local community and help vulnerable people who are referred to them by PSNI.



Joyce works in the Early Years Sector as a tutor. She is on the Board of Governors for her local primary school and has trained as a Counsellor and also volunteers in Care in Crisis, Lurgan.

RECENT RESPONSES - VIEW NIRWN RESPONSES IN FULL ON www.nirwn.org.uk/consultations

CONSULTATION	DEPARTMENT
Draft Budget 2011-2015	NI Executive
Draft Budget Proposals 2011-2015	Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Women on Boards: Call for Evidence (<i>WCRP</i>)	Department for Business Innovation and Skills
Early Years (0-6) Strategy	Department of Education
EU Communication on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform	Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Success Through Skills 2: The Skills Strategy for NI (<i>WCRP</i>)	Department of Employment and Learning
Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration	Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister

RURAL WHITE PAPER ACTION PLAN

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan is now out for consultation having been launched on Monday March 21st.

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan is an initiative aimed at addressing the key issues and challenges facing rural areas. The draft Rural white Paper Action Plan outlines the Executive's commitments to rural areas and details the actions that the Executive proposes to take to support and develop rural areas. It also sets out a vision for the future of rural areas and identifies the key policy priorities required to deliver the vision.

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan has had a lengthy period of development which involved extensive consultations with a wide range of rural stakeholders. NIRWN provided representation and input into all five of the thematic stakeholder advisory sub groups on behalf of rural women. The Stakeholder Advisory Group submitted their final sub-group reports to Minister Gildernew at a meeting in Hillsborough in January 2010. DARD then commenced the process of formally engaging with other Departments to identify actions that could feed into the Rural White Paper Action Plan.

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan contains approximately 90 actions which deal with a wide range of rural issues and challenges. NIRWN will be responding to these actions; if you feel your Group could benefit from a facilitated focus group discussion on the draft Rural White Paper Action Plan or you would like to attend one of our planned Consultation Events, please contact our Policy Officer Louise Coyle on: **028 86769191** or email louise@nirwn.org.uk



**DRAFT
Rural White Paper
Action Plan**

On the horizon..... NIRWN will be making a contribution to the following consultations in the coming months. Why not contact our Policy Officer to discuss the many ways in which you can contribute to consultation responses.

DRAFT RURAL WHITE PAPER ACTION PLAN (DARD)

The Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has published a consultation paper on a draft rural white paper action plan. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from the public and other interested parties on the contents of the draft Rural White Paper Action Plan.

Closing date for responses is 13th June 2011

AUDIT OF INEQUALITIES AND ACTION PLAN (DARD) Closing date Friday 13 May 2011

A CONSULTATION ON A NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY FOR NI (DOJ)

The Department of Justice is conducting a public consultation on a new Community Safety Strategy for NI. This consultation paper seeks views on a new Community Safety Strategy for 2011/12 to 2014/15, in line with the Budget 2010 period, and sets out proposals to create safer, shared and confident communities and contribute to the Department of Justice's wider vision of a fair, just and safer community over the longer term. **Closing date for responses is 15th April 2011**

If you would like to be included in our circulation list regarding policy consultations, please contact our Policy Officer, Louise Coyle on 028 86769191 or email louise@nirwn.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
15 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NX
T: 028 8676 9191 F: 028 8676 5644
E: info@nirwn.org.uk W: www.nirwn.org.uk

