

# NIFHA NEWS

COMING  
SOON

## NIFHA Training Workshops

Tuesday 27th February 2024



NIFHA Training Room  
6c CityLink Business Park, Albert  
Street, Belfast, BT12 4HQ

9.30am - 1pm

**Topic:** Personal Safety  
Awareness / Lone  
Working

BOOK NOW >

1pm - 4.30pm


**Topic:** Functional  
Breathing for Improved  
Sleep, Stress Reduction  
and Enhanced Work  
Performance

BOOK NOW >

In partnership with:





After a busy 2023, we were delighted to run the **NIFHA Shining Stars** campaign in December, to give recognition and appreciation to housing professionals who work hard to deliver vital services & support for tenants and colleagues across Northern Ireland. Throughout the campaign, we highlighted 25 shining and rising stars. More information on our housing stars and the work they do can be found on  using the hashtag **#NIFHAShiningStars**.



# Volunteering Opportunities



## Global Volunteering

Every year, volunteers from across Ireland travel to support Habitat for Humanity's partner programmes around the world. They experience first-hand the impact of housing poverty and help make a lasting difference to families and communities in need. Habitat Ireland hopes to encourage volunteers to become advocates for safe shelter when they return home; inspiring others to help us reach many more families in need. Opportunities to volunteer in Romania & Kenya in 2024. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



## House to Home

Habitat's 'House to Home' programme supports vulnerable people who have been at risk of homelessness, to sustain tenancies by helping them to make a house a home. The project makes a house 'a home' for people who need a fresh start, and are already among the most vulnerable in our community.

Habitat Ireland mobilises volunteers to deliver a dramatic impact, both physically and socially.

Volunteer days are Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:30am – 4:30pm in the Lisburn & Greater Belfast areas and Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am – 4.30pm in the Ballymena area. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

## Habitat ReStore

At Habitat ReStore there are volunteer opportunities for people of all backgrounds. ReStore has a role for everyone, from customer service to helping collect donations in the lorry. Learn new skills, meet new people and help to build sustainable community. Stores open in Lisburn, Drogheda, Ballymena, Belfast, Newry & Newtownards. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about volunteering at ReStore.





The USPCA is collaborating with NIFHA to help provide Housing Associations and tenants with support and advice on responsible pet ownership. They will be helping with pet ownership policies for Housing Associations, and giving information that will help tenants to get support with their pets. USPCA Director of Operations and Development, Siobhan McHaffie says 'I am really pleased that NIFHA understand the importance of supporting their members with responsible pet ownership, and I am looking forward to our team being able to provide information in NIFHA newsletters throughout the year.' If you have any initial thoughts about what would be helpful to your Housing Association or tenants, please contact Siobhan directly – [smchaffie@uspca.co.uk](mailto:smchaffie@uspca.co.uk)

You can also find a range of information on the USPCA website [HERE](#).



If you would be interested in bringing a group from your company for a day's Corporate Volunteering at the USPCA animal rehoming centre in Newry, or one of the charity stores – Lisburn, Banbridge or Lurgan – please get in touch with Siobhan. You would be made very welcome by the team!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**NIFHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024**

**Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen**

**17th & 18th October 2024**

Click [HERE](#) to book



# Policy Consultations



## Ongoing Consultations:

### Department of Finance Consultation on:

- **Non-domestic and Domestic Rating Measures to Support Budget Sustainability by Raising Additional Revenue**

### Department of Communities & Department of Justice Consultation on:

- **Proposals to Amend the Legislation to Help Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour**



For a look at previous NIFHA consultation responses, click [here](#)

NIFHA Associate  
Feature... A Word From:



### **NHBC's Building for Tomorrow (BFT) returns to Belfast on 22nd February 2024.**

Organised by the NHBC, the UK's leading warranty and insurance provider for new homes, this is the event where future-focused professionals from across Ireland meet to hear from leading organisations and manufacturers.

Padraig Venney, Regional Director at NHBC said:

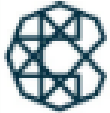
**“Building for Tomorrow has always been an important date in the calendar and I can't wait for the house-building industry to come together again in Belfast. It's a great opportunity to meet other industry professionals and it gives us all the chance to look ahead and learn more about upcoming legislative changes so we can make progress together.”**

Progress waits for no-one. Are you ready to join us in Belfast?

Access your discounted HA/LA Delegate Ticket (valid for housing associations, local authorities or academic institutions) [here](#).

# Under The Roof

Special Feature with:



**connswater**

Connswater Housing Association was formed and registered in 1977, with an aim of regenerating the Connswater area of east Belfast. Following a period of growth and business success the Association relocated to Belfast city centre in 2013, and in 2022 rebranded to CONNSWATER, with homes with heart as a strapline.

Connswater continues to expand with housing developments throughout Belfast as well as Antrim, Lisburn, Larne, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Newtownards, Portaferry and Downpatrick.

In 2022, 10 Connswater employees successfully completed an OCN introduction to Community Restorative Justice (CRJ) practice, as part of Striving To Achieve a Restorative Society (STARS) project. Connswater was the first housing association to complete this training, which was funded through the Communities In Transition (CIT) fund.

Staff then went onto complete an introduction to Mediation, which included six steps, from an introduction to mediation, mapping of process, supervision and best practice in mediation. A further three employees have since completed a formal OCN level 3 qualification in Mediation. These employees participated in developing a Podcast with Alternatives NI based on the learning from the mediation training.

This has enabled Connswater to offer mediation as an early intervention in some lower level anti-social behaviour cases.



For more information on Connswater and the work they do, click [HERE](#).

# NIFHA Associates Breakfast



## NIFHA ASSOCIATES BREAKFAST

THURSDAY 29TH  
FEBRUARY  
8.30 - 10 AM

MALONE HOUSE  
HILSBOROWE ROOM  
BT9 5PB

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**COMPLIMENTARY  
BREAKFAST AND  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
NETWORK WITH SENIOR  
REPS FROM ACROSS THE  
LOCAL HOUSING  
ASSOCIATION SECTOR**  
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**JOIN COLUM JORDAN &  
DAVID TONEY FROM  
STAY SAFE SYSTEMS TO  
DISCUSS THE MODERN  
PHENOMENON OF  
WORKING FROM HOME!**



**BOOK NOW!**

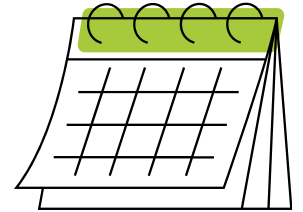


Visit the NIFHA website for job and tender opportunities in the sector.



**ATTENTION: Any Housing Associations that want to avail of training on how to advertise jobs on the our website - please get in touch with Amy at NIFHA!**

# Looking Ahead



6th February - **NIFHA Housing Management Forum** - 10.30am - Microsoft Teams

20th February - **NIFHA Maintenance Forum** - 10.30am - Microsoft Teams

21st February - **NIFHA Business Committee** - 9.15am - Zoom

27th February - **NIFHA Training Workshops** - NIFHA

28th February - **NIFHA Finance Forum** - Online

29th February - **NIFHA Associates Breakfast** - 8.30am - Malone House, Belfast

29th February - **NIFHA Advisory Panel** - 11am - Online



For regular updates from NIFHA, connect with us on our socials or click [HERE](#) to visit our website.

