



## Volunteer Opportunity: Board Members for Community and Voluntary Groups

This role presents a meaningful community engagement experience and the opportunity to make a real difference to community groups and the neighbourhoods in which they work.

### Background

The Northside Partnership catchment area is a vibrant community that provides good opportunities for social and recreational activities, education, employment and services. Local community groups have been instrumental to creating this.

These organisations have always faced complex challenges, not least due to the unemployment, lack of services or social isolation experienced by the neighbourhoods in which they are active. In recent years new challenges have arisen for the entire voluntary sector. Organisations are under increased pressure to improve their standards in corporate governance. Funders often require evidence that organisations are progressing towards full compliance with [the Governance Code](#), a voluntary code of good practice for boards, committees and executives of not-for-profit groups.

Of course organisations broadly welcome the spirit of transparency and practices of good governance that these developments have brought. Full compliance however involves a great deal of expertise, particularly in the areas of HR, finance, risk-management, planning and general corporate governance. These expertise are not always available amongst the current staff or board members of local community groups. The support of enthusiastic, voluntary board/committee members who have professional knowledge and experience in these areas is therefore crucial to the continued success of local community groups.

### Benefits:

- Develop your career through first-hand experience at the most senior level of an organisation, exercising strategy, contributing to major decisions, overseeing performance and acting as an advocate.
- Become a governance leader, enhancing the governing capacity of a community-based organisation.
- Enhance the board's diversity by sharing your point of view
- Make a meaningful difference to a non-profit organisation and the community they serve, by sharing your professional skill set.
- Work with inspirational people who are dedicated to vibrant communities and have a wealth of experience in the community and voluntary sector.

## Support and supervision:

- Northside Partnership provides Directors Training which involves an overview of the Governance Code. We will work with new board members to identify and fulfil specific training needs.
- Community groups will provide an induction to new board members and adequate information in a briefing pack.
- Ongoing support will be available from both Northside Partnership and the individual groups.

## Expectations:

- Attendance and engagement at meetings
- Due notice for inattendance at meetings
- A commitment of at least one year
- Participation in training
- Willingness to become familiar with the Governance Code and to develop an understanding of how the community and voluntary sector work
- Application of expertise, particularly within sub-committees (e.g. finance sub-committee)

## Board positions available

Organisation	Location	Specific expertise required	Meetings frequency and time
A supportive, accessible, friendly community setting for students who invariably settle into and enjoy the learning. This <b>community-based adult education centre</b> offers: literacy courses, QQI accredited courses, continuing education and classes in foreign language, art & hobbies, relaxation and fitness. A childcare service is also offered to facilitate students' attendance.	<b>Kilbarrack, Dublin 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance (Treasurer)</li> <li>• IT</li> <li>• Company secretary</li> </ul>	Every six weeks. Evenings
Organisation responsible for both the management of a multi-function <b>community resource complex</b> and the integration of various services (both community and statutory) within the complex.	<b>Darndale, Dublin 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Relations</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> </ul>	Every six weeks. Mornings and evenings, alternatingly.
<b>Afterschool project</b> delivering quality, inclusive care to local school-age children. The project endeavours to meet the needs of the community. Many of the participants are referred from other local services and the afterschool care provides them with a welcome relief from distractions at home or elsewhere.	<b>Kilmore West, Dublin 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Strategic Planning</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Marketing</li> </ul>	Every six weeks. Evenings
<b>Community childcare</b> centre offering day-care facilities on a full and part-time basis to local families. We cater for children from 6 month's up to school-going age.	<b>Coolock, Dublin 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Development of finance base &amp; connection to philanthropic sources</li> </ul>	Every six weeks. Thursdays at 3pm

<p>A <b>not-for-profit home care service</b> which believes that everyone has a right to live independently in their own home regardless of their age or disability. The organisation's mission is to provide a service to incapacitated individuals in need of care, to assist families in times of illness and stress and to nurture and enable the vulnerable to maintain dignity and quality of life in their own homes.</p>	<p><b>Coolock, Dublin 17</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Strategic planning</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Legal</li> </ul>	<p>Every six weeks. Late afternoons</p>
<p>Professional, voluntary and <b>community-based counselling</b> service and training centre providing an essential and professional counselling service and training. Dedicated to ensuring that a counselling service is accessible to all irrespective of people's means. A member of the Association of Agency Based Counselling in Ireland delivering a quality assured service.</p>	<p><b>Coolock, Dublin 17</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of finance base, connection to philanthropic sources</li> </ul>	<p>Every six weeks. Mornings</p>
<p><b>Community childcare</b> centre providing quality childcare for the children and families from local communities. The centre's aim is to meet the increasing needs in the community for high quality, safe, affordable and inclusive childcare aimed at promoting the physical, emotional, social and educational well being of the children.</p>	<p><b>Darndale, Dublin 17</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• HR</li> <li>• Strategy</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Finance</li> </ul>	<p>Six to seven times a year. Tuesday mornings</p>
<p>A <b>community and youth organisation</b> at setup stage, based in a new development which lacks social and recreational facilities. The neighbourhood is largely made up of families from new communities and is currently developing its sense of place. The organisation is looking to address the lack of community facilities and to grow its activities to serve all members of the community.</p>	<p><b>Northern Fringe, Dublin 13</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Strategic development</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul>	<p>Every six weeks. Evenings</p>
<p>A vibrant, <b>busy Junior School</b> with well over 400 pupils. The school caters for boys and girls from Junior Infants to 2nd Class. There are 14 mainstream classes, five learning support/resource classes and a language support class for newcomer children along with two ASD classes which caters for 12 children.</p>	<p><b>Donaghmede, Dublin 13</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Development of finance base, connection to philanthropic sources</li> <li>• HR</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul>	
<p>Network of three <b>youth projects</b> providing a high-quality service to young people aged 10 – 24 from neighbourhoods classified as disadvantaged. Different services are provided to young people based on their needs, issues and interests including: educational and issue-based group work programmes, one-to-one support, detached youth work (outreach), outings and residential activities, summer project, a Youth Justice Project and a Listening Service.</p>	<p><b>Darndale, Dublin 17</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal</li> </ul>	<p>Every six weeks. Afternoons</p>
<p>A <b>community-based drugs intervention project</b> providing effective recovery support for individuals affected by problematic substance misuse. The project also provides related support to families and the community at large, including youth outreach and prevention education facilities. The main objectives are to minimise alcohol and drug misuse and its impacts, present and future, among people of all ages in the community.</p>	<p><b>Edenmore, Dublin 5</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Development of finance base, connection to philanthropic sources</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul>	<p>Every six weeks. Thursday evenings</p>