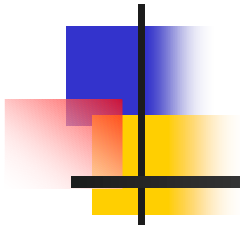


# 'Sustain the Sustainers'



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Ann Pendleton

Belfast Institute of Further and  
Higher Education

# Background work

## Community Work Education and Training Network

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Work towards a Community work Qualification  
in its own right

Map progression routes for community  
development qualifications

Pilot endorsement project for Community  
Development education and training



## Background cont.

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Research training needs within statutory and voluntary sectors

Campaign for the inclusion of forms of education which values and acknowledge the life experiences of community activists.



# Sustaining the Sustainers

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- Strategic Investment in our most valuable asset:- **'People'**
- Engagement with the debate on Professionalising the Sector
- Comprehensive Learning and Development strategy



# Strategic Investment in our most valuable asset – 'People'

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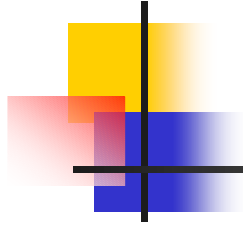
- Investing in intellectual capacity as well as skills capacity
- Progressive and dynamic learning community
- Reflective space for critical thinking and consciousness raising



# Engagement with the debate on 'Professionalising' the Sector

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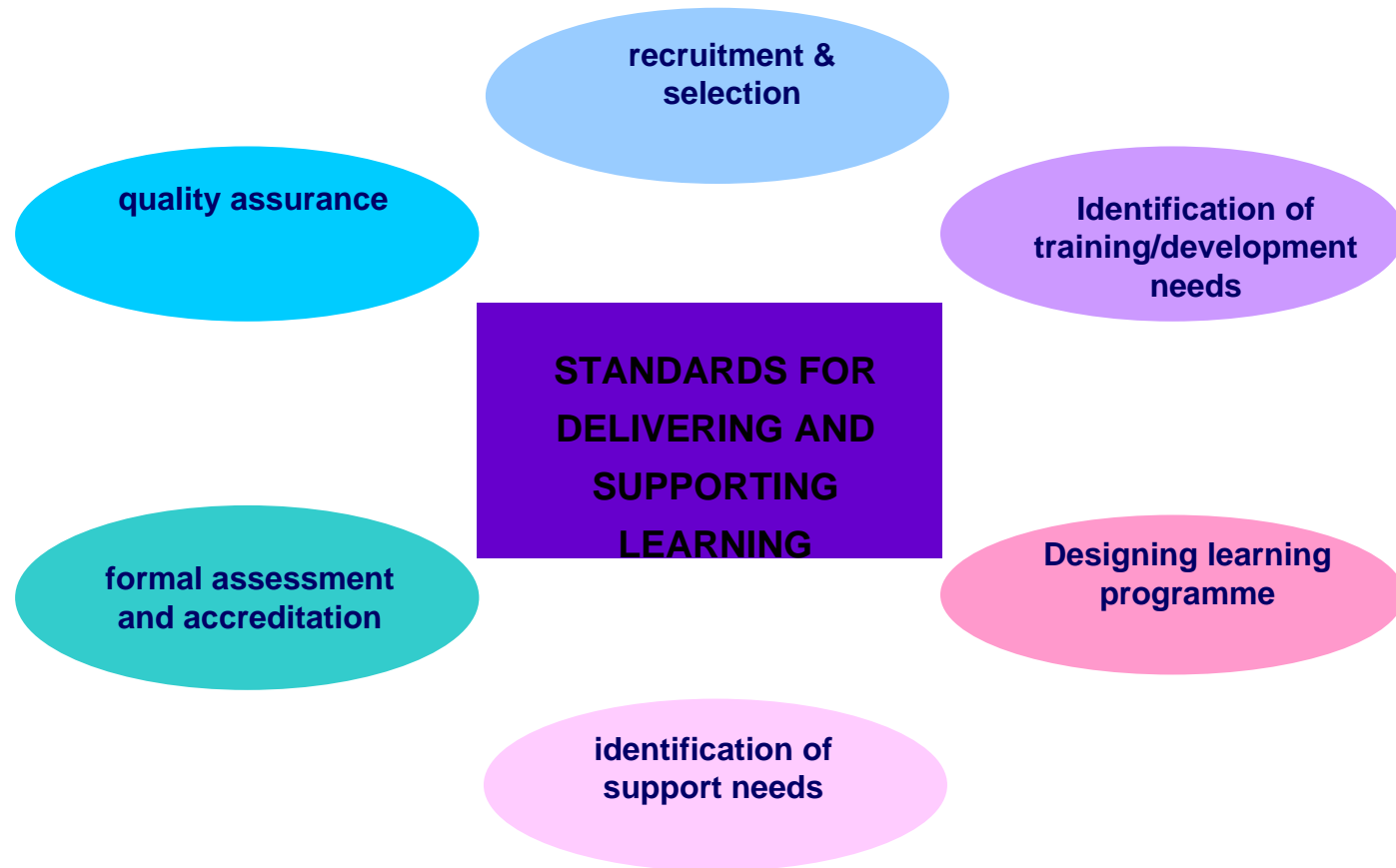
- Occupational Standards for Community Development
- Life Long learning UK established 2005  
**an employer led body replacing the former sector NTOs  
with strategic responsibility for**
  - workforce planning
  - workforce standards and qualifications
  - training and development
  - labour market intelligence



## **the workforce employed in:**

- higher education
- further education
- work based learning
- community based learning and development
- libraries, archives and information services

# Why are Standards Important?





## Some of the core debates surrounding Standards include:-

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- Professionalisation would in some way exclude the most marginalized- volunteers
- Academic learning would in some way be more valued than experiential Learning
- Fragmentation of provision with a need for a coordinated learning strategy



# Debates

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Endorsed and Accredited programmes would not be accessible or affordable

Current Occupational Standards do not reflect the specificities of community development in Ireland north or South



# Advocating for a brand of professionalism that:-

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- Is inclusive of traditionally excluded individuals and groups
- values vocational as well as academic learning
- Recognises community based and statutory provision
- Promotes participation and accessibility
- Is value driven
- Reflects the specific nature of Community Development In N Ireland
- Standards do not mean standardisation
- Is portable and transferable



# Comprehensive Learning and Development strategy

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A strategy which acknowledges the particular education and training needs of:-

- Community development workers paid and unpaid,
- Those tasked with supporting and managing workers
- professionals using a community development approach to their work
- Civil servants interfacing with community development work



# Comprehensive Learning and Development strategy

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A strategy which

- supports the creation of progressive and dynamic learning communities and learning organisations
- Facilitates the mobility of community workers North, South, East, West.



# Sustaining the Sustainers

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“The power to rethink a situation is our greatest tool for transforming the world”

Marrienne Williamson 2003

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