



# Supporting Communities NI

*"Helping Communities Help Themselves"*

Supporting Communities is an organisation that works closely with community groups delivering partnerships throughout Northern Ireland. It has close ties with the Irish Football Association and Diversiton, delivering capacity building programmes and personal development courses. It also delivers offender programmes and is extremely proactive in the local community. **Laura O'Dowd, Training Officer for Supporting Communities NI** is very keen to build relationships and partnerships with other local providers offering stronger and happier communities throughout Northern Ireland.

This is what Laura has to say about the Open College Network Northern Ireland:

## **Why do you use OCN NI?**

The main answer is that all training programmes are accredited by OCNNI. However, we use them because they allow us to provide flexible and accessible training to the groups we work with.

## **What is the benefit of using OCN NI?**

A huge benefit of using OCNNI is the speed and fast tracking that is available e.g. Course access, processing of course certificates etc. Furthermore, the staff are highly qualified and very helpful and the training that is available is key to the way in which courses are delivered and managed.

## **What are the benefits to students?**

The students benefit from OCNNI as they have a means of progression should they want it. They are also getting access to high quality programmes that will impact on them personally.

## **What qualifications do you use?**

We currently use the following qualifications:

- Introduction to Community Development EE3/1/NR/005
- Community Development EE3/2/NR/035
- Community Development Level 3-EE3/3/QQ/032
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/031
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/047
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/039
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/040
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/042
- Community Development EE3/3/QQ/044
- Understanding Equal Opportunities AJ2/1/QQ/001
- Undertaking a Social Enterprise Project AE4/2/QQ/007

## **How long have you worked with OCN NI?**

We have been working with OCNNI for over 4 years, initially as a partner with the Southern Regional College and more recently (2 years) as an OCNNI Centre.