**Feedback from Participants North East Regional Forum Navan**

**7 March 2017**

Finance

Funding

- match funding is hard or impossible to get

- completing applications is too demanding

- role for The Wheel in directing organisations to where financial assistance is available

Cost of insurance too high

- making losses at festivals

Need for sustainable finance

Local fundraising can be risky – groups need to come together

- Local Resource Point

- some funding streams need funding up front and tax requirements in place

Getting and retaining volunteers too hard

- how can we tap into what motivates volunteers?

- level of work in meeting all volunteer standards is a drain on the organisation

Board Reps and Governance (understanding of the role)

Demands on board too onerous

- too professional (volunteers work)

- HR skills needed

- getting young people on boards

- not only vols get confused!

- but, voluntary boards not that interested in training (only want to be involved in activities/to help out)

Simplified governance code needed (particularly for smaller organisations)

Cost of Wheel membership too high and Dublin-centric

Training that is relevant and not in Dublin

Rationalised/simplified reporting to funders – consistency between funders

Standardisation of questions

Insecurity/short-term funding

- 3 year to allow for planning (not one year as is currently)

Death by a thousand regulations

Continue to work with the Charities Regulator

Need for ‘regulation for dummies’

Sharing our message

Make the case for the charity sector

- streamline information

- letting people know what we do

- Help Government and funders to understand the reality for organisations (increased workload and costs but decreased funding)

Insufficient recognition of volunteers

- award ceremony for volunteers

- need for recognition at local/county level

- reshape ‘Better Together’