

# Greater Falls

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report  
2019/20



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for  
**Communities**

An Roinn  
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# Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership Annual Report 2019/20



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**NISRA**

Northern Ireland  
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**Mórcheantar na bhFál**

Comhpháirtíocht Comharsanachta



Neighbourhood  
Renewal

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## Neighbourhood Renewal

Aims to address the social, economic, and environmental factors that are prevalent in areas of deprivation and impact on the lived experience of residents. Neighbourhood Renewal represents a long-term investment by the Department for Communities to engage and work with communities to develop a multi-faceted intervention-based approach to population-based poverty and deprivation indicators.



## Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

4 main Objectives

- **Community Renewal:** Commit to improving the quality of life within their selected areas.
- **Economic Renewal:** Commit to the development of economic development within deprived neighbourhood and work on the connectivity to the wider urban economy.
- **Social Renewal:** Improvement of the social conditions for the people living within the most deprived neighbourhoods and increase co-ordination between those and public services which will overall see the creation of a safer environment.
- **Physical Renewal:** Creating a more attractive and safer environment that is sustainable long term within the most deprived neighbourhoods.



## **The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership**

Includes community organisations, regional departments, local government, and political representatives working together to deliver the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Plan & priorities.

## **The Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership**

continues to play a pivotal role and focal point within urban regeneration in the Greater Falls area. The partnership continues to lead on designing and delivering services that benefit and regenerate local communities and enhance the lived experience of local residents. The partnership applies a community planning approach to tackling inequalities in the area and work with local government, regional departments and political representatives to co-design and deliver services. By collectively identifying the needs of the community it allows the partnership to develop long-term interventions. The Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership is rooted within the community infrastructure and collaborates with wider groups and partnerships to develop strategic interventions.



## **The Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Area**

Covers from the bottom of Whiterock to Castle Street, it takes in three full electoral wards which are the Falls, Clonard and Beechmount. It also has part of the Whiterock and Falls Park electoral wards (we have not included these parts in the figures below under the new MDM measures)

The area takes in 7,193 households with a population size of just over 17,000 (NISRA has 16,693 but there are quirks in defining the NRA with a few additional streets missing in their calculations).



The area is characterised by interfaces starting at Millfield and continuing right across its geographical spread. There are also several physical barriers which reach across the neighbourhood partnership area. The 'Peace-line' then abounds the area from Townsend Street, Finn/Fingals, Percy Street, Northumberland Street, North Howard Street, Conway Street, and St Gall's Avenue to Bombay Street and Cupar Street. It continues along the Springfield through Lanark Way up to Workman Avenue and the Innovation Centre. The West Circular Roundabout area would also be considered an interface. While on the other side of the partnership area



the interface stretches from the vicinity of Broadway roundabout down the length of the Westlink towards Roden and Distillery Streets.

Clearly as can be seen by the tables below (detailing all the SOA's that make up the Greater Falls area) there is room for some cautious optimism on deprivation statistics released in 2017, as they indicate a marginal change of improvement although it could be argued from the baseline we were at it still presents significant challenges for us all and the area continues to suffer from serious deprivation issues and problems.

As an example, under the banner of health inequalities it is clear that whilst the life expectancy of the general populace (for both males and females) has increased the gap between those in areas of those area of greatest need and those better off areas has increased, the inequality gap has widened. We know from the Department of Health inequality report from 2018 that:

- Health outcomes are generally worse in the most deprived areas.
- Large differences (health inequality gaps) continue to exist for many different health measures

Deprivation related inequality was most prominent in indicators relating to alcohol and drugs, self-harm, smoking in pregnancy and teenage births, which were among the five largest inequality gaps for the majority of Trusts and LGDs.

- Large inequality gaps relating to suicide and respiratory mortality among under 75s were also seen in many of the LGD and Trust areas. Under 75 respiratory mortality was among the five largest inequality gaps for Belfast Trust and Belfast LGDs.
- Drug related mortality was the largest inequality gap within the Belfast Trust (113%)
- Drug related mortality was also the largest inequality gap seen in six of the eleven LGDs, where rates in the most deprived LGD areas were between two and three times the LGD average rates. In Belfast LGD the largest gap was seen with drug related admissions (99%).

Increasingly many partners have pointed out that whilst life expectancy is an important indicator of inequalities but that we also need to focus on the quality of life as an indicator of success or failures of our collective efforts, this however is much more difficult to gauge and not a lot of work has been done around indicators in this regard and translating these to local planning processes. There are several attempts to measure wellbeing through the ONS (office of national statistics) and through all 11 community plans who all have wellbeing at their heart, this is being aided by a pilot programme run through the Carnegie Trust developing wellbeing set of indicators specific to the region. On top of this there is a regional outcomes delivery plan developed by the Executive Office for 18-19 reflecting all outcomes contained in the draft PfG ( this was published in June 2018 – [executive office outcomes delivery plan 2018/19](#))



**Comparative data on deprivation in local Partnership areas.**

<b>SOA</b>	<b>Deprivation Rank 2017</b>	<b>Deprivation Rank 2010</b>
Falls 1	41	8
Falls 2	30	3
Falls 3	29	4
Clonard 1	50	13
Clonard 2	55	2
Beechmount 1	121	105
Beechmount 2	66	56
Beechmount 3	181	109

Across significant indicators (see graph below, NISRA 2011 census figures) the Greater Falls area continues to require significant co-ordinated input from all relevant stakeholders.

<b>Key facts/Area</b>	<b>Economically inactive %</b>	<b>No or low qualifications %</b>	<b>Long term limiting illness %</b>
Falls	51.74	63.50	33.80
Clonard	45.94	56.05	29.09
Beechmount	42.21	53.32	26.87

To continue to enhance the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, the Greater Falls Partnership oversees the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action planning. The Partnership currently comprises members which include representative's communities, elected representatives and locally based statutory organisations, although this is a difficult task with challenges to maintain attendance.

**Key messages from the statistics.**

Deprivation figures across the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership areas continue to make steady progress in significant parts. The collaborative working of the groups across the partnership has affected and contributed to significant health and wellbeing to local communities. However the upturn in figures must be carefully nurtured by statutory partners in securing longterm strategies for tackling deprivation.

Continued cuts to funding and uncertainty around policy and planning development are not conducive to the change & impact that is needed to the continued growth of communities that are currently suffering from deprivation. The cross boundary nature of deprivation can not be left to one government department to solve, in that context clear unequivocal direction on the future direction of the Neighbourhood Renewal policy to tackle deprivation, the development of the Belfast Agenda and a localised reflection of the NI Executive led 'Outomes Delivery Plan' is crucial to meeting local growth needs.

The impact of Neighbourhood renewal as seen in the figures has the potential to be maximised and the upward trend improved through cross departmental working and significant investment within communities, this was acknowledged in a Department for Communities review/ series of workshops in November 2018.

### **Policy Environment**

There have been many considerations made in determining our future path including a review of the following documents;

- NI Assembly constituency report for West Belfast (updated September 2017)
- Greater Falls 'Key Issues and Priorities' October 2015

In addition, we have looked at a range of Departmental policies and we believe that our focussed approach within our organisation and across our range of partners offers the most realistic chances of success and best practice delivery, these include:

### **Dept. of Health**

- Health and Wellbeing 2026 - Delivering Together (published October 2016)
- Making Life Better – A whole system framework for public health (2013-23)
- Systems Not Structures - Bengoa Report (published October 2016)
- Protect Life 2 – Suicide Prevention Strategy (consultation document issued September 2016)
- Autism Strategy (2013 – 2020)
- Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability



### **The Executive Office**

- Delivering Social Change
- Delivering Social Change - The Executive's Child Poverty Strategy (published in March 2016)

### **Belfast City Council**

- Belfast Agenda (Belfast's Community Plan 2035, published November 2017)
- Belfast City Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035
- Draft Employability and Skills framework 2015-2025

### **Draft Programme for Government**

Draft Programme for Government Framework (2016-2021) - 14 high level strategic outcomes supported by 48 indicators which are clear statements for change. Outcomes which we considered specifically relevant to the Greater Falls area.

- We have a more equal society
- We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
- We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
- We care for others and we help those in need
- We have high quality public services
- We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
- We give our children and young people the best start in life

## Outcomes

The outcomes are as stated linked to a series of indicators relevant to the work of the Neighbourhood Renewal partnership organisations, some of these include:

- Prevalence rate (% of the population who were victims of any NI Crime Survey crime)
- Healthy life expectancy at birth
- Preventable mortality
- % of population with GHQ12 scores  $\geq 4$  (signifying possible mental health problem)
- The proportion of babies born at a low birth weight
- Number of households in housing stress
- Number of adults receiving social care services at home or self-directed support for social care as a % of the total number of adults needing care
- % care leavers who, aged 19, were in education, training or employment
- % school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths
- Gap between % of non-FSME school leavers and % of FSME school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths
- % children at appropriate stage of development in their immediate pre-school year
- % population living in absolute and relative poverty (before housing costs)
- % of all journeys which are made by walking/cycling/public transport
- % engaging in arts/cultural activities
- Confidence (as measured by self-efficacy)
- Employment rate of 16-64-year olds by deprivation quintile
- Reoffending rate
- Average life satisfaction score of people with disabilities
- Gap between the number of houses we need, and the number of available.



## **Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership (GFNP)**

Has developed 5 cross cutting thematic areas of work;

1. Community Infrastructure
2. Education
3. Development & Regeneration
4. Social Environment
5. Health

### **The GFNP involves the following partners;**

- Divis Joint Development Committee (DJDC)
- Blackie River Community Group (BRCG)
- Roden Street Community Development Group (RSDCG)
- Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership (CNDP)
- Ionad Uíbh Eachach
- Neighbourhood Development Association (NDA)
- Springfield Charitable Association (SCA)

It is clear the levels of cooperation across the Greater Falls area remain good, despite the difficulties but the area needs to promote the good work being done in a much more proactive manner, this will be a focus of the GFNP partnership as a whole but specifically the work of the GFNP coordinator.

The GFNP remain active partners who stretch across the neighbourhood renewal area and across the city in terms of influence to enhance and improve local services. All partners actively look for opportunities to collaborate to share best practise and to maximise the most efficient of resources.

As can be seen the work of the individual groups who benefit from Neighbourhood Renewal support from DfC produces results, however the broader impact of NR cannot be underestimated and many of the partners who don't receive direct financial support from DfC are part of the NR process and developments, their work is not directly reflected in any detail in this report, however it may be referenced by many of the GFNP partners listed above as part of their community development approach.



We continue to demonstrate the value in increased financial investment by others with DfC core financial input acting as leverage and the unpaid input of local volunteers attached to all our partners contained in this report.

Our collective efforts across the GFNP and capturing the value of the work we all do continues to be the focus of our efforts with the GFNP coordinator focussing on publicising the work of the GFNP across the year. Additionally, organisations continue to publicise the work of neighbourhood renewal and the support from the GFNP.



- The GFNP coordinator continues to work closely with local resident's groups on a number of capacity building and development project

### **Negotiation/ Lobbying**

GFNP members as throughout this report are prominent in many aspects of development across the city and are actively contributing to the redesign and reshaping of services across Departmental lines

This year this included input to;

- The development of the Transport Hub led by Roden Street Community Development Group.
- A health planning group for West Belfast.
- The continuing development of the family support hub in the Greater Falls area led by Blackie River Community Association.
- Dementia Friendly West Belfast (including support for Cullingtree Meadows, a supported living complex for people with a dementia diagnosis located in the GFNP partnership area)

### **Social Clauses**

Continue to lobby across Departmental lines around the potential benefit of a new Social Value Act for the North of Ireland. Locally this has also involved some examination of the Belfast Agendas inclusive growth strategy.

### **Civic role**

Our members continue to fulfil civic duties in the decision-making processes which determine how services are developed across the city including key inputs to Policy developments;

### **Implementation of the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan**

(Belfast's Spatial Plan)

The GFNP partners and members continue to actively contribute to discussions and development around the plan, making several inputs to consultations across the city in health, education, employment/ employability and of course social development. Additional key discussions have been held within the local communities around the value and outworking of the Belfast Agenda (community planning and local government reform).



### **Building Successful Communities**

The GFNP continues to input to this forum and shape discussions around where investment should be made and this year it appears, we may finally have movement around key local schemes with work due to commence later this year.

The GFNP lead on local consultation with local groups liaise with the Building Successful Communities project team.

### **Belfast Strategic Partnership (Former)**

Our partners were heavily involved in the outworking of this city-wide Partnership and across the 5 thematic areas identified by the BSP including the launch of a city-wide framework for Lifelong Learning and the establishment of 'Belfast a Learning City'. This year the focus has been one of transition from this Partnership to new homes of responsibility with the newly formed community planning infrastructure.

### **Physical Improvements**

Key partners have been involved in a range of negotiations/ discussions for physical improvements to community facilities throughout the area including;

### **St Comgalls**

For several years the GFNP has highlighted and supported Falls Community Council in their campaign/ programme to revitalise the former St Comgalls school site, which looks likely now to happen with support from the Social Investment Fund and Belfast City Council.

### **Community Cohesion programmes**

- The GFNP continues to build social cohesion working with groups throughout the Greater Falls area to improve and enhance people's lives. By building social cohesion we believe we are building a strong social capital base and foundation for future community regeneration

### **Lobbying and advocacy role**

- The GFNP continues to lobby and advocate on behalf of the Partnership area to improve outcomes for people living there.
- Raising awareness of mental health issues facing communities and its association and linkages to drug misuse.

### **Distillery Street Focus Group**

GFNP have continued to participate in the Distillery Street Focus Group, which Roden Street Community Development Group lead. During 2019 this included Grosvenor running a summer school with QUB to review interface redevelopment, completion of the BRANCH project by a PHD researcher and securing of a SUDS feasibility study.



DSFG includes NIHE, BCC, NIE, DFI, DFC and DOJ, the current vision is for a SUDS scheme, biodiversity, natural play, connection to the Forth meadow section 5 of the Greenway, natural socio-economic stimulator units, paving, lighting, art and climate change mitigation factors.



## **West Belfast Active Travel Strategy**

### **The Vision**

The GFNP continues to play a central and active role within the group.

Most recently the GFNP coordinator submitted a draft strategy document to the group and met with the Minister for DFI Nichola Mallon. The group continues to lobby for a West Belfast Greenway which will link West Belfast to the Lagan toe paths and provide an active travel route from Colin area to the City Centre. The active travel strategy hopes to help to address many of the inequalities within West Belfast i.e. health, economy and environmental. The active travel strategy also interacts with regional and local government indicators on Climate change.

It is hoped that the cycle infrastructure becomes the catalyst to improve health outcomes within the population such as improving mental health, obesity, and respiratory disease.





## **A Better-Connected Active Travel Network**

### **Objectives**

- To develop an active travel network within West Belfast.
- A greenway running from Colin area to city centre.
- A network of cycle friendly routes that will link West Belfast through tourism, economy, and environmental sites and provide a viable and sustainable alternative to car travel.

## **Safer Cycling within West Belfast**

### **Objectives**

- Address critical issues regarding safety.
- Training people in the safe use of bicycles
- Behavioural change
- Reduce road danger.
- Change perceptions of cycling as dangerous.
- Enhancing the Streetscaping to make safer journeys.

### **Increase the number of cyclists.**

#### **Objectives**

- To make cycling more accessible to everyone
- Health benefits
- Economic benefits
- Environmental
- Bike scheme



## Maureen Sheehan Centre Regeneration

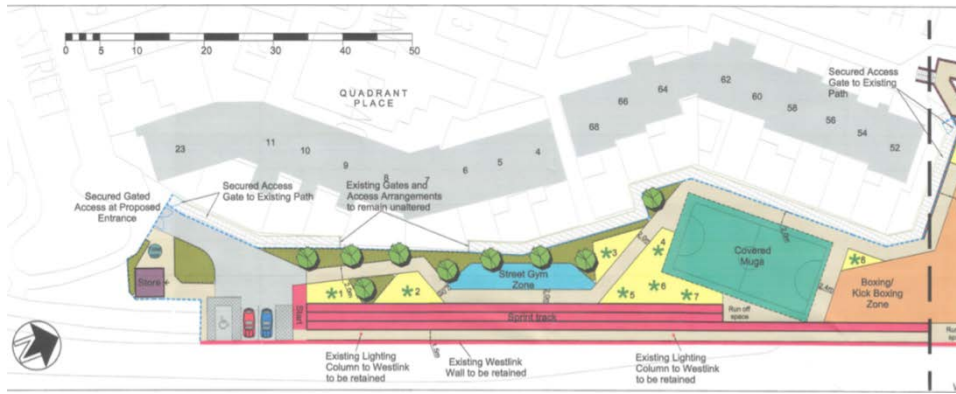
We continue to play a vital role in the regeneration around the Maureen Sheehan Healthy Living Centre which will see a car park added to the centre and with some restructuring of pathways and derelict sites another 2 local homes added. We have liaised with planners and the trust as well as convening consultation sessions with local people in the surrounding areas. The project planning is now at an advanced stage and work will commence shortly



The GFNP have been involved in the design process throughout and engagement with stakeholders and residents. We have been at the forefront of future proofing the designs to consider the Ross Street flats regeneration project. We continue to attend steering group meetings and driving the project.

## Cullingtree Road Back Path Regeneration

The GFNP has played a central role in the regeneration of the back path. The site which was once used for anti-social behaviour and bonfire has now been transformed to include an open-air gym and open space for residents. The project represents a significant investment by DFC and building successful communities along with continued input from the GFNP on strategic vision, design, and community engagement.



The regeneration work also included new play park and car park for the Frank Gillen centre.

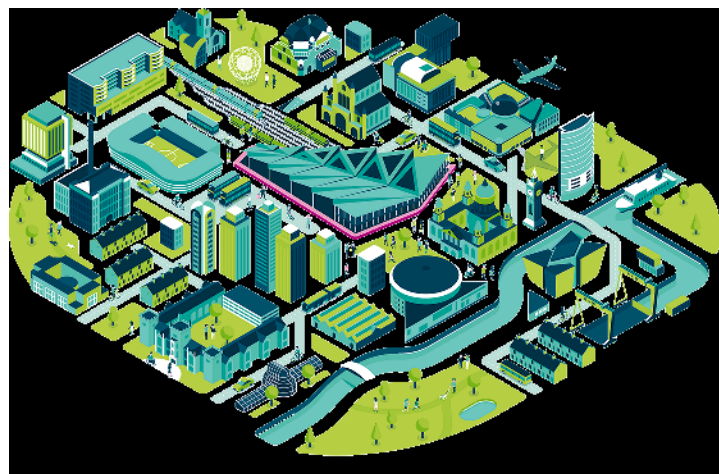


### **Communications strategy & Social media presence**

The GFNP continue to work to a communications strategy to promote the work of the partnership and widen its reach and potential. The strategy involves increasing the online presence to promote the work of local groups and the partnerships identity. Further work will continue to develop a GFNP brand to market online.

### **Weavers Cross Transport Hub**

GFNP have been actively involved in raising issues of local concern and interest including employment opportunities offered through the proposed Belfast Transport Hub, including employment opportunities for local people through Belfast City Councils employment academies, this is being led through Roden Street Community Development Group and the Greater Falls NR coordinator.



2019/2020 included a sustained programme to review art and creative open spaces linked to and around the site and engaged South and West Belfast community partners.

## Ross Street Flats Regeneration

Ross Street Flats regeneration remains a priority for the Partnership, and we continue to lobby on behalf of the local community. Significant progress has been made to date with the Housing Executive securing the site for demolition.

The GFNP continues to play a role within the Building Successful communities' regeneration forum in developing an urban plan for the site and surrounding area.



The GFNP have been at the forefront of future proofing existing urban regeneration projects to interact with future plans. The site will link with the regeneration of Maureen Sheehan site and the planned street scaping improvements in Albert Street.

### Introduction to Divis Joint Development Committee:

Over the past year from the beginning of **April 2019 to end of March 2020** our focus has remained on the continuing development of the Falls Partnership Initiative (FPI) and the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership (GFNP) as the 2 vehicles for strategic and operational development of area wide initiatives whilst providing our own very direct input in the delivery of services. However,

during our last few weeks of the year like everyone else we **began** to feel the **effects and impact of the global pandemic/ Covid** on our work and this has had a major impact on our delivery and the people we work with.



For the most part of the year however we remained involved:

- Involved in the development of the GFNP priorities for the coming number of years, the development of community planning via the Belfast Agenda and its impact on the local community.
- Continue to co-ordinate the Falls Partnership Initiative's development of locality planning and integrated working.

A key focus remains around the reflection of the core priorities of the GFNP and many issues have been raised, day to day support takes place across the area with a range of smaller local organisations which do not have staff or physical resources, we remain committed to working with these groups to determine their needs and develop appropriate responses and plans to help them achieve their goals.

At all levels of our organisation there are attempts to fully involve local people in the processes by which decisions are made, however there are continuing discussions that need to be held with key statutory agencies as to how and when local communities

should be involved in the design and potential delivery of services and despite new language of co-production appearing across many Departmental lines this remains largely elusive.



Concerns remain that there are still no clear plans for the development of the Neighbourhood Renewal policy, either to reshape or replace it. Despite an ongoing review there does not appear to be much progress on the development of locality work and whilst community planning (CP) and the publication of the Belfast Agenda (in 2017 - Belfast's first community plan) does offer some opportunity to make long term change and establish lasting impact, discussions have not yet progressed to make that an inclusive planning process.

There is frustration that 5 years into the legislation for CP being acquired by local government little discussion with communities' takes place, a community planning partnership has been formed and only very recently has any discussion taken place.



### **Introduction to Blackie River Community Group:**

Blackie River Community Group has been established for 24 years and has evolved over this time. When the group was first established, it came together to look at housing needs within the Beechmount area and from that point it has developed to meet the physical, social, economic and environmental needs of residents.



### **Our Vision Statement**

A prosperous, safe and equal society

### **Mission Statement**

Blackie River Community Group aims to empower residents of the Greater Beechmount area by facilitating Community Development activities that enable residents to celebrate their creativity and culture. We will assist residents to enhance their self-esteem and skills, by promoting their full and equal participation in society and helping to secure the social and economic regeneration of the area.

The Board of directors for Blackie River Community Group understood from a very early stage that the main way to improve the Beechmount area is to empower residents to take ownership of the area and to build the capacity of local people to lobby for resources, which would have a positive impact on the area.

Blackie River Community Group has expanded over the last 23 years to meet the needs of the local area. The needs, identified, are:

- Family Learning
- Supporting Parents
- Supporting Children and Young People to reach their full potential
- The legacy of the conflict
- Under investment of government for generations
- Raising Educational achievement
- Tackling Health inequalities
- Tackling Mental health
- Physical regeneration of the local area
- Improving employment opportunities
- Family Support Hub
- Supporting Community Infrastructure

### **Introduction to Roden Street Community Development Group:**

2019/2020 included the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of community management at Grosvenor Recreation Centre. In 1999 the organisation successfully secured full oversight and a handover from Belfast City Council representing a sea change for the direct community model and locally led visioning.

2019 is also the ten year anniversary of the 3G playing field at Grosvenor Community Centre, this physical development was a massive improvement to community sporting and health landscape of the Grosvenor Road, wider West Belfast and to this city centre surrounding community. A year of historical milestones and a time to reflect on the past 20 plus years, which have included growth of the facility and premises, accompanied by impactful and flexible programming. Grosvenor Community Centre chose to fine tune focus in the period on specific social and health outcomes as well as in driving forward essential physical capital investments.



## **Introduction to Roden Street Community Development Group Continued**

The Trustees would like to thank every person who chooses to use Grosvenor Community Centre for their active contribution to the vitality, diversity and capacity of the area and to the overall dynamism of wider Belfast. The organisation is proud to be considered a 'home' to such a rich tapestry of cultural and community backgrounds and to be a practical example of contemporary Belfast society.

The organisation in year focused on:

- ✚ Environmental Regeneration: Snapshot
- ✚ Grosvenor Garden flourished in usage numbers and is now one of the pivotal spaces for the Plough Men's Shed programme as well as supporting family environmental training programmes.
- ✚ Physical Renewal: Snapshot
- ✚ The organisation worked on a practical vision for Distillery Street 'back fields' including clean ups, planting, and the BRANCH design. This visioning now engages a proposal for a SuDS programme (sustainable urban drainage systems), which could potentially contribute to a better site, make physical impacts to growth across Belfast and aid family engagement in urban spaces.
- ✚ Social Growth: Snapshot
- ✚ There were a number of major events for families, minority ethnic community members and health focus groups including the Summer Festival, Pinoy Celebration Day, Grosvenor Switch On and International Sport and Community Day, collectively providing a platform for people to develop new social relationships.
- ✚ Community Development: Snapshot
- ✚ A founding feature of community development is an engaged and informed population, in the year the organisation continued to foster younger talent via the Roden Street Youth Service including a summer school for young people.
- ✚ Inclusive Growth: Snapshot
- ✚ The organisation has continued to work with major developments to ensure local impact, such as with the Belfast Transport Hub around local employment and change as part of Weavers Cross. The Roden Street Community Development Group, (RSCDG), recognises the crucial need for inclusive growth and capacity development. One fabulous element of 2019 being

the Summer School for Children and Young People in partnership with Queens University Belfast and a local PHD student. The summer school ran for two weeks and looked to ways of improving interface surrounding areas, considering redesign and child centered approaches to an improved site. The culmination being presentations at QUB by the children and young people involved and a report completed by an inspirational local PHD student.

Inclusive growth means to have an eye on the future economic capacity of the area and its people, one which seeks to redress historic imbalances. At the grass roots level the organisation sought to ensure that the wider aspiration setting of children and young people, innovative training for older community members, increased confidence paired with skills and influence job creation.

Activities included:

- ✚ Working with Belfast Transport Hub (Weavers Cross) in developing employment academies and undertaking linked training provision.
- ✚ Training provision on site included CSR, health and safety, risk assessment, youth development, managing difficult situations and childcare.
- ✚ Linking the area to City core developments and regrowth, such as lobbying for inclusion for connectivity options including walking and cycling routes.
- ✚ Healthy Futures
- ✚ The organisation placed a concerted effort in year on younger participation in health programming, the outputs included Kids Gym, Grosvenor Women's Wellness and Grosvenor Wellness Programmes. Participants were provided with a bespoke service to meet their health and capacity needs, which focused on overcoming previous barriers such as a lack of confidence, family pressures or fear of entering an unfamiliar environment. The programme, taken as a whole, included physical activity, health awareness, nutrition and mindfulness.



RSCDG were able in this period to work with a wider number of sports, youth and physical activity teams, minority ethnic community groups and individuals, particularly in relation to strategic development and increased engagement of women in physical activity. The 3g Playing field enabled substantial growth in physical activity and sports engagement centred around extracurricular access to sports, competitive sports, school sports, training, youth engagement and area wide physical activity events. The organisation has secured resourcing to replace the 3G Playing field in year 2020 in partnership with BCC.

Grosvenor Women's Wellness Programme has continued to excel in the year ensuring participation of women and young women who previously did not engage in physical activity. The programme delivery is cantered around supporting the overarching health and wellbeing needs of the individual. As such, participants are facilitated with physical activity and cardio, nutritional support, mindfulness and family support. Grosvenor Women's Wellness is branded, and the kits are worn with pride in and around the area, helping to further showcase the benefits of the programme.



The wider by products of Grosvenor Women's Wellness are clear in terms of other participation at the setting. We feel that the programme has really altered a perception by some women in the area as to their value locally, area wide and to the future of Belfast. The programme has also improved internal family relationships and helped to improve area relations. GWW has also ensured that women facing exclusion, particularly related to additional issues, such as mental ill health

#### Activities Included:

- ✚ Grosvenor Women's Wellness Programme both group and 1 to 1 mentoring and physical activity programming.
- ✚ Kids Gym and young men's health and wellbeing programme.
- ✚ Community Sports provision and capacity growth including non-traditional sports.
- ✚ Movement and wellbeing for children and families programme.

## Social Growth:



2019 saw growth of programming within the Filipino community at Grosvenor Community Centre, the weekday morning programme continued apace and with enhanced Saturday league. June 2019 saw the massive international celebration including promotion of non-traditional sports, food, dance and family fun. Programmes are not sporadic in nature but sustained year round, people grow together, develop friendships and understanding. The centre has truly become a 'home' space for a diverse range of community backgrounds. Grosvenor Community Centre is regarded as a welcoming inclusive and 'multi owned' space. The centre is home for Pinoy Community Association, Fire Blades Eastern European Women's Group, Syrian Sports Support and Rising Stars Filipino Youth Initiative. Multi-cultural inclusion at Grosvenor Community Centre is simply part of the organisation ethos and operation. The organisation supports growth of initiatives, weekly operational provision, events and publicity capacity. In the year the Fire Blades Friday programme launched new sessions, engaging local young women and girls in volleyball and the Pinoy Dad's League supported Filipino dads working shift hours with weekday morning and Saturday sessions. However, the true value of such engagement resides in visibility. This is genuine and sustained multicultural activity at a local setting, this programming is now so



embedded it is regarded as a cornerstone of what Grosvenor Community Centre 'is'. The programming is not viewed as something 'different' but a part of the fabric of work and people engaged at the site. Activities Included:

- ✚ Pinoy Men's Programme for social inclusion via sports.
- ✚ Fire Blades social inclusion and sports programme.
- ✚ Plough Men's programme engagement for older men facing exclusion around environmentalism.
- ✚ Golden Girls older women engagement programme through arts and crafts.



### Physical & Environmental Improvements in year

The organisation continued to focus on area wide renewal in the period, including at sites such as Distillery Street back fields, Grosvenor Road (arterial route capacity), problem sites and streets and in terms of environmental upgrades. As such the group secured investment for vacant derelict sites, including a problematic interface wall, area clean ups and repainting scheme and upgrades in and around motorway sites. Currently the organisation is working as part of the Distillery Street Focus Group in

tandem with NIW to review capacity for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems within the vacant site to support Belfast and the local community. The organisation secured in year support for a new playpark on site to substantially aid access to play for children with SEN, the build will be completed in 2020.

### **Outcome Based Measurement & Programmes in 2019**

Grosvenor Learning Together ran through year with the Tuesday evening Homework club for families, Wednesday and Thursday with student teachers and weekend learning and development support in partnership with West Belfast Partnership Board CEIP. GLT in its entirety assisted 77 families with children and young people's engagement. The programme opened links with partner primary schools, assisted new tracking figures and 95% of parents reported improved homework and attitudes to learning in the home setting. The programme aimed to broaden visions of what is achievable and included visits to decision making venues such as Belfast City Hall.

#### **Activities Included:**

- ✚ Grosvenor Learning Together for children and young people focused on enhancing aspirations, developing practical study skills, a love for learning and innovation in learning practice.
- ✚ Mentoring and Family Support programme for families facing complexity, this included 1 to 1 mentoring and wider capacity support.
- ✚ Changing Attitudes, this programme ran as a theme across services and aimed to increase confidence and positivity levels of people living in an area of disadvantage. This included altering the outlook as to futures, language used to describe the area and negative social media use.



The organisation continued throughout 2019 with a sustained commitment to in-depth needs analysis and measurement of long term impact. Obviously influencing community change and redressing years of deprivation necessitates a long-term focus and a strongly held vision of what the future could be. However, small steps, which are well measured and open to change, can combine to make long term attitudinal change. Grosvenor Community Centre visions the Grosvenor area as a *vibrant place to live, work and visit where future generations have the means and access to higher level aspirations*. The area still faces substantial deprivation, however, measurable impact has been achieved on figures in Falls 1 specifically related to significantly lower levels of crime and improved academic results. Measuring on a street to street and family to family basis has shown positive progress particularly in the Grosvenor, Roden Street and Distillery Street areas, Falls 1 is now 41 MDM (as oppose to 2).



## Introduction to Ionad Uíbh Eachach



Ionad Uíbh Eachach

Ionad Teaghlaigh Pobal Gaeilge

Irish Language Family/Community Centre

Pobal Ghaeilge Slán Sabháilte a thógáil thart ar ár bpáistí - Building a Safe and Healthy Irish Language Community around our children



## **Cultúr & Teanga /Language & Culture**

Ag tacú le hathnuachán pobail trí chultúr & teanga/ Supporting community regeneration and renewal through language & culture, Language/culture - classes, festivals & events – inclusive, welcoming & cross community – supporting an Ceathrú Gaeltachta.

## **Cúram & Oideachas/Care & Education**

Pobal Gaeilge don aois úr a chothú/Building tomorrow's Irish Language community, High quality, inclusive, child centred, early years, preschool & afterschool care /education through Irish. Involve/ support parents as key educators.

## **Pobal & Tuismitheoirí/ Parents & Community**

An Ghaeilge a oscailt do chách, ag tógáil pobal athléimneach /Opening the Irish language to all and building community resilience, Inclusive, effective early intervention, family support and play support. Working in partnership with the local community

## **Fiontar Sóisialta & Forbairt Eacnamaíochta/Social Economy & Economic Development**

Cúram lae Gaeilge d'ardchaighdeán bunaithe sa phobal a fhorbairt/Developing high quality daycare through Irish in the community, Community based social economy provision, supporting local economic development, employment & training

## **Iue a Fhorbairt Mar Ionad Gaeilge Barr Fheabhais**

Developing Iue As An Irish Language Centre Of Excellence

An eagraíocht a neartú don todhcháí/Build an organization fit for the future – highly skilled staff & management, community input, robust governance

## **Pobal Gaeilge don Aois Nua -Building tomorrow's community through Irish**

Ionad Uíbh Eachach services continued to offer a high level of service for the local community in 19-20 - from the high demand for baby & toddler units, tremendous participation in parenting & family events, increase in numbers accessing family & play support, to the enthusiastic students of all ages attending Irish classes at all levels. There were successes, highlights and challenges - including external & funding challenges, as faced by many community groups, which create uncertainty every year about core funding and potential cutbacks. The need for realistic long term investment in community services remains and Ionad worked closely with our community partners in the GFNP to lobby for this.

### **Language & Cultural Services**

Despite funding pressures which included cutbacks in both staff and programme funding for language & cultural services Ionad continued to provide a wide range of Irish language classes –from beginners and free taster sessions to accredited courses including GCSE and 'A' level Irish. 20 people achieved between 'C' and 'A\*' grades in GCSE & 'AS' Level last year with 11 achieving A or A\* grades. This programme was delivered in partnership with QUB & Gaelchúrsaí and our dedicated team of tutors. As well as the success of the May 'Léargas' and August 'Bí Dána' festivals, Ionad was able to organise – as part of its celebration of 2018 'Bliain na Gaeilge' - a successful event for Culture Night 2018 supported by parents & children, Lynette Fay BBC & JJ O'Doherty, musician. In addition over 100 children took part in the Spraoi project – learning Irish as fun – in St Claire's primary school



### **Cúram & Oideachas - Care & Education through Irish**

Quality early care & education through Irish integrates Irish language acquisition in a play environment with development of children's learning, social, creative and physical skills—delivering high level outcomes for children. **Ionad** provides accessible, affordable, inclusive and flexible services

- **Gaelspraoi immersion playgroup**, preparing 26 children for Gaelscoil nursery (now supported by the Pathway Fund)
- **Tús Maith, Programme for 2 Year Olds**, in partnership with Beechmount Sure Start

- **IUE Cumann Iarscoile**, term time & year-round **school aged childcare for over 60 children** (Bright Start)
- **Gaelchúram**, combining **quality daycare** for children aged 0-4 yrs. with early learning opportunities through Irish for 80 children
- **IUE Scéim Samhraidh**, community summer scheme for over 70 children.

## Pobal Gaeilge don Aois Nua – Building Tomorrow’s Community through Irish



### Development & Regeneration in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

The significant investment in the new Raidió Fáilte premises in Divis Street, situated in an area of high social deprivation and on a site, which had previously been a hub for antisocial behaviour, was recognised in the RICS awards in June 2019 when it was named the top Community Benefit project. Work was completed on the new Áras na bhFál building at the top of Broadway boasting 4 floors of community and business support spaces for language and cultural projects in the heart of the Gaeltacht quarter. Ionad sits on the Ceathrú Gaeltachta Board and works closely with both Irish language & community partners to positively promote the Irish language & culture.

### Pobal & Tuismitheoirí- Parents & Community

Ionad is active on community partnerships & Boards including Beechmount Sure Start, Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership, Greater Falls Family Support Hub, Altram and the Belfast Childcare Partnership (Co-Ordinator is Vice Chair).

Supporting Parents as key educators –Health & Well Being Group/Take 5 for you mental health/Family trips/events were a highlight in 1920 with trips to the farm,, Stormont Park, a focus on Maimeo & Daideo (Granny/Granda), stay and play and family events. A key focus for all in 19-20 was the campaign to highlight global warming with a number of marches on the Friday school strike days



including local schools, parents and infants. Just before Coronavirus a Health Week was held – Feb/March 2020 with a focus on physical and mental health.

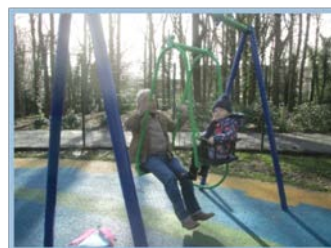
### **Supporting children & families facing challenges**

Home visiting & play support was provided to over 30 children and parents in partnership with Greater Falls Family Support Hub and this valuable service, funded by Belfast Outcomes Group, worked to capacity with a waiting list all year. Mile buíochas to Fiona Lovely, play support worker, for her endless energy & creativity. SHINE– Parents Support Group for Children with Autism which offers support & training to address the social isolation of children with autism and peer support to parents, met fortnightly in the Ionad which provided childcare sessions and hosted the peer support group and their annual activities.

### **Social economy & economic development**

Quality day-care & early learning opportunities through Irish

Gaelchúram, Ionad's social economy childcare project, continued to grow, providing childcare for over 100 children daily thus supporting parents to access work & training. Gaelchúram & the school aged childcare service (school closures/holidays), despite a very difficult financial climate, generated enough income to help fund 40+ posts, creating training & employment opportunities for young Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht quarter.



## Introduction to Neighbourhood Development Association (NDA)



NDA has been working in our community since 1990 and it has been a celebratory year for the Organisation with 30 years now passing since opening our doors. NDA works mainly in the areas of community development and independent free advice provision for the public.

Our Mission Statement is 'Working together for the future' and under our Neighbourhood Renewal programme our work is aimed at promoting social inclusion, building community capacity and empowering local people to play an active role in the regeneration of their neighbourhoods. Inclusivity and empowerment are key values for NDA in our approach.

Since our inception we have been involved in many regeneration and redevelopment projects such as the demolition of the former Divis Flats, establishing the Maureen Sheehan Healthy Living Centre, re-establishing the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in St. Peter's to help people in the locality who are in need and we also founded the Welcome Organisation based in the Townsend Street area of West Belfast which continues to grow and thrive. We also helped establish through constructive meetings and proactive representation, the NIHE community housing framework which has now grown regionally into the Housing Community Network and continues to be a strategic investment and development area of the NIHE in key work with our Tenants and Residents groups particularly in this area.

We have helped develop services and projects in partnership with public service bodies, community organisations and communities resulting in many successful ventures. Our work is targeted and dedicated in this area of community development in the most deprived neighbourhoods and with the most marginalised citizens. We continue to rise to the many challenges and in our advice work have assisted in establishing a successful consortium partnership involving all of the main Council approved independent advice offices across West Belfast, including at the Spectrum Centre in Shankill. This partnership is one we continue to Chair and has developed into a formal consortium known now as the West Belfast Advice Partnership which promotes shared working through formalised frameworks, sharing agreed resources such as training, money advisers and welfare reform staff in areas where it is cost effective and efficient to do so.

In all of these examples we strive to complement and not duplicate the work of others and will always seek to reduce duplication of services yet meet identified gaps in provision in these challenging times.

## **Divis Joint Development Committee – Lead Community Infrastructure Partner**

The Frank Gillen Centre's physical resource has acted as a catalyst for community development activity and delivery of services ranging from local discussions to planning the delivery of services. This year of course has ended with a very different scenario due to the covid pandemic with many of our services being physically suspended and moved (where possible online. This included:

### **Early years and After Schools Programme**

(Reviewed annually)

Children's emotional, social and educational development (via Play Development, 2-3-year-old programme and an After Schools project)

- Play Development continues to operate daily, morning and afternoon for up to 8 children per session (Monday to Friday with 2 sessions per day, except on Friday afternoon)
- 2-3-year-old programme for 12 children each day
- After-schools programme currently due to staff restrictions 24

### **Youth Development**

(Reviewed annually - at present we operate both an in-house youth programme and an outreach project) covers key elements of personal development and life skills, employment support, skills development and capacity building.

- Our Youth programme operates on a nightly basis with some weekend activity both on and off-site, other activity also included; football coaching, community relations & cultural awareness activity, study support, digital technology, magazine production & dance classes. Young people periodically complete structured training and skills building including an OCN level 2 in Youth Leadership and AQA's in a variety of topics. Young people completed training both first aid and mental health first aid and young people completed an OCR level 1 training in 'Youth at Risk'
- Homework & Study support was provided on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings with help from volunteer students from QUB.

- Additionally, GCSE study support (Maths and English) is provided on a one-to-one basis and group basis for up to 32 young people in the year.

## **Family Support Services**

We deliver an SLA for Clan Mor Surestart, a programme for 6 months - 4-year-olds and a family support input.

- Through Clan Mor support we provide, child protection and paediatric first aid training to a range of local staff and volunteers at the FGC.
- Our own direct funded Family Support Worker provided direct one to one support in the form of home visiting and liaises with the Greater Falls Family Support Hub both receiving and signposting referrals. We lost the family support worker to a more permanent post in another organisation earlier in the year, this was a particular challenge brought about by new arrangements and short-term funding of the BHSCT. We made temporary short-term arrangements with 3 other West Belfast providers to cover our contract commitments, but we are also where happy to report we had at the tail end of the year secured this for 20/21 and have recruited for that.

## **Employment support service**



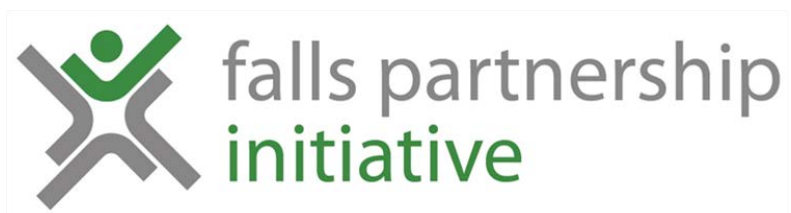
We, with the continued support of DfC, operate our own education and training programme.

- DJDC's continues to be involved in city wide discussions around the issues pertaining to Lifelong Learning (LLL) through the Working and Learning Board of the Community Planning Partnership and continue to hold the position of chairperson on this initiative. A strong strategic base for the initiative and activity has as previously reported centred on developing Belfast as a Learning City, including a binding charter which can highlight the value of City partners working together and collectively make a greater impact on reducing life inequalities across the city.

Belfast has been formally included in the membership of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities for the past 2 years and the task remains to develop a Learning City Plan. Key of work is to develop the theme of 'Learning City Neighbourhoods' and we have links with Cork, Derry/ Strabane, Limerick and Dublin who have developed a similar approach, contacts from Bristol, Wolverhampton and Swansea are that they are also interested in our approach and in particular the Learning Charter we have developed. Glasgow has also recently joined the UNESCO network. We have developed a working network of Learning Cities on this island and established a memorandum of understanding (endorsed by Belfast City Council) through this network to guide our efforts.

It remains difficult however to raise interest in formal training and much of what we offer are practical tools to support people rather than an educational attainment process. Course development remains a challenge.

## Partnerships/ Networking.



We continue to play an active role in many local networks including;

- **Clan Mor Surestart**, a programme for 0-4 year olds and family support.
- The **Heart project** - healthy living centre initiative based in a community health complex, the Maureen Sheehan Centre delivering health education and direct condition management support. This has also now expanded as the Heart Project is the Belfast lead for a regional social prescribing programme run by HLC's.
- **Falls Partnership Initiative [FPI]** a local partnership operating throughout the Falls electoral ward area, brought together to promote and develop and implement an area wide growth process. This has been given a renewed sense of purpose and a more active involvement by local partners including a Belfast City Council report by the local Councillor Tina Black.
- **Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership**; we continue to work at all levels of the Partnership to implement the key issues and priorities outlined in guiding strategic document. It remains as we reported previously becoming increasingly difficult for many reasons; political instability, funding uncertainty and the lack of a clear future for our work and where it is likely to be located e.g. under community planning or within DfC or even continuing at all.

- **Healthy Living Centre Regional Alliance**; as part of the sustainability, development and quality assurance of the local Healthy Living Centre we continue to play an active role in this organisation.
  - A programme continues under the title of '**Strengthening Commonalities**' to continue to develop common approaches and programming across a network of what is now 29 HLC's.
  - We are continuing working with **GP Federations** to develop a more formal relationship that supports our local community where HLC's are based across the network. This has in the last period included being part of discussions on the DoH's ideas around **multi-disciplinary teams** to be attached to GP practices and with meetings with key GP's and reps from the GP Federation covering West Belfast. West Belfast has begun a roll out of this initiative around the role and placing of '**mental health practitioners and social workers**', several new posts have been identified and recruitment has been underway for some months.
- As part of the **Connected Care Hub**. 4 key link workers are employed throughout the city, the West contact is based at the Maureen Sheehan Centre and this connects to the dementia navigators and the BHSCT reablement team as well as a range of community deliverers and service providers. We have been involved in conversations with the CCC Hub to develop a stronger organisational relationship between them and the HLC network and have developed and agreed a memorandum of understanding.
- DJDC's key worker continues to be involved in city wide discussions around the issues pertaining to **Life Long Learning** (LLL) and the development of a Belfast a Learning City, this period has focussed on a commissioned piece of research to identify key indicators relating to learning and tackling inequalities.
- **West Belfast Partnership Board** on behalf of the Neighbourhood Partnership and chairing their health sub-group which is developing an agreed approach to an older people's plan and a focus on resilience in mental health. Additionally, we hope to develop a project around health literacy with their education sub-group

## Policy responses/ Discussion

Where held covering a range of our key priorities including;

We continue to strive to achieve excellence in partnership with a range of stakeholders who have the same ethos and values as our organisation to provide better services to local people.



As previously stated, we have been actively involved in facilitating discussions around collaboration between community and statutory providers at a number of levels locally, citywide and regionally. This period this included conversations around a number of key issues which affected local people including;

- Belfast Resilience Strategy
- Shared Lives Scheme (a buddy system for people with learning disabilities)
- healthy living centres and social prescribing,
- community planning, integrated health and connected community care,
- suicide prevention including mental health and emotional resilience,
- community learning and learning neighbourhoods,
- dementia friendly communities,
- place making and locality planning,
- youth development,
- tendering and procurement of public service support



HIC Alliance Logo

Including:

- Aiden McGinley (Carnegie UK Trust re: NI Wellbeing Initiative)

- West Belfast Partnership Board and development of a strategic resilience and wellbeing plan
- Belfast City Community Planning Team
- Clan Mor Surestart (re: Business Planning)
- Healthy Living Centre Alliance (re: sustainability of Maureen Sheehan Centre).
- GP Federation Business Support Unit re: Social Prescribing and Community involvement in the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team in West Belfast.
- Belfast a Learning City
  - development of an All-Ireland network of learning cities
  - Granya Long (Belfast City Council Resilience Commissioner)
  - Ulster University involvement in the Learning city planning (Provost Rafaella Folli and Duncan Morrow)
- Department for Communities (re: Neighbourhood Renewal review)
- Weavers Transport Hub
- With NIHE regarding Ross Street flats demolition/ redevelopment
- Belfast Suicide Prevention Group (development and implementation of Protect Life 2)
- Belfast HSC Trust (Connected Care Hubs, Cullingtree Meadows 'Dementia Friendly - Supported Living' scheme)
- Belfast Local Commissioning Group (population planning and public involvement)
- Belfast City Council (community interventions including community safety initiatives and programmes)
- HSCB (re: MDT's and Community Planning)
- QUB Engagement Team (re: Belfast A Learning City)

## Partnerships/ Networking Continued

We continue to strive to achieve excellence in partnership with a range of stakeholders who have the same ethos and values as our organisations to provide better services to local people. Both organisations sit on a range of networks and partnerships to ensure there is a sharing of information and helps with to reduce duplication. We believe we demonstrate that throughout this report and our work listed here

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- place making and locality planning,
- youth development,
- tendering and procurement of public service support

DJDC is the lead body for the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership and as such employs the GFNP coordinator. This has improved connectivity in several ways including involvement in: #

## **Regeneration**

Continue to input to various regeneration forums which now include two BSC project delivery steering groups that will see the implementation of the 'back path project' and the Maureen Sheehan centre/Romania Rise and surrounding area regeneration programmes, this work also includes community efforts to redevelop derelict land at Distillery Street and the pursuance of a timetable for the demolition of Ross Street flats

## **Engagement**

- Liaising with local groups on BSC programmes
- Remain at the forefront on discussions with elected reps and Belfast City council on development plans for the 'back pathway' and Community Planning.
- Belfast Transport Hub: RSCDG continues to lead on the community liaison around engagement in relation to the Transport Hub proposals, but the GFNP Coordinator has been involved in all conversations around relevant issues and the potential of accessing employment opportunities for local people.
- The GFNP has continues to focus on promotion of the work that takes place across the area and ensuring that credit is shown where that takes place to combat the negative image portrayed by the media and others beyond our area, this has been a priority area of work this year.

## **Cullingtree Meadows Supported Living Complex**

- Liaising with Trust members, schools and residents on an ongoing education and awareness programme
- Developing a programme that will see the West Belfast area becoming a 'dementia' and 'age friendly' community including establishments of local groups mirroring the NR areas to take forward localised work.

## Blackie River Community Group – Community Infrastructure Partner



Over the last year, Blackie River Community Group has been working with other partners and stakeholders to continue to address the needs of residents. Here is a snapshot of our work.

### Early Years and after school services

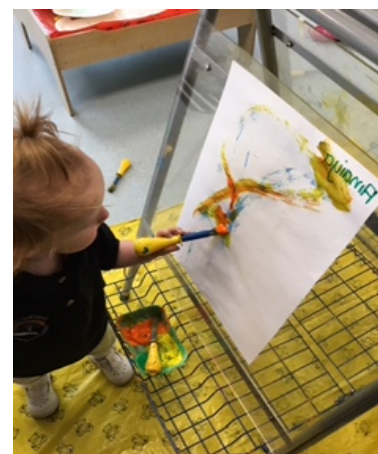
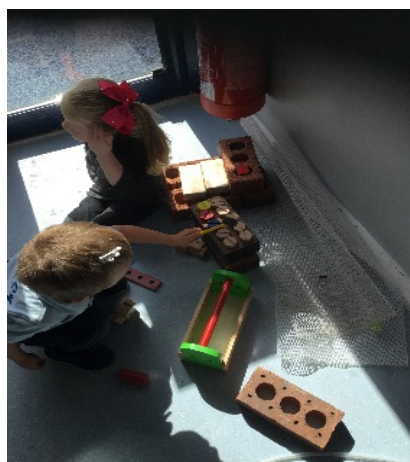


The Blackie River Community Group continues to run very successful early year's programmes for children from the ages of 0 – 12 years old. This includes full time Day-care services for children aged 6 weeks – 4 years, Crèche, Afterschool, Autism developmental programme running twice every Saturday for 42 weeks of the year. We have increased the provision for ASD children due to the demand from the Greater Falls Family Support Hub. We have worked to ensure that we have surpassed the current minimum day-care standards and have ensured that all our staff are up to date with their professional development and techniques for supporting children. We use the Nursery Pal App to communicate with parents; this allows parents to have the security and the comfort of checking in on their children via video, photos and regular updates. We like to believe this gives parents extra confidence and less anxiety when registering and bringing their children to us. It is their responsibility of the key worker to update the child's profile on a daily basis.

We provide individual educational plans for children working with each child having a key worker to develop children's' holistic development. Completing observations, planning for and communicating with other professionals and parents to improve children's early years' experiences.

There has been a large demand this year for our baby room, and new parents wanting to register their children in from a young age, which means we are now running close to full capacity. We always encourage parents to register as room capacity's change monthly and we are always keen to welcome new faces.

Our children continue to benefit from the uplift of our outdoor space, including the new garden, planting area and park area at the back and side of our building, this has been a great success, with children really enjoying the outdoor routine.



Along with the **day-care services** we also promote one to one support services for children who require additional support during their day in the day-care. A full-time designated person plans individual learning and support programmes for these children. Referrals for this service can be made via the Family Support Hub or through our sponsored day care contract; or can be identified by staff for children who are already attending the day-care.

We aim to respond to current identified needs within the area, and because of numerous requests, we designed a homework support club for children who do not have English as a first language. This ran alongside our after-school services.

We used this service to work with the local schools to help develop the children's language and numeracy skills. We frequently used translator methods to communicate with parents, who gave great feedback about the programme and who were extremely grateful. The children involved developed their English language skills and by the end of the programme could communicate in English.

## Beechmount Surestart



Blackie River continue to be the lead and accountable body for Beechmount Surestart which provides a range of early years and family support services.

## Family Support Hub

BRCG is the lead accountable body for the Family Support Hub in the Greater Falls Area. The Family Support Hub is a network of organisations that can provide a variety of services for/with families who may benefit from some early intervention services; across the Greater Falls area. Using the knowledge of local service providers and the Family Support Database, the Family Support Hub can signpost/refer families to services that they feel are appropriate to their needs.

The Family Support Hub has 28 core members and 27 associate members, and since its inception in September 2015 the Hub has processed 699 referrals, (300 families in the past year)



## Partnerships/ Networking



We will continue to play an active role in several local networks including;

- **Play Board NI Cluster Group**  
Our Childcare Co-ordinator is member of the Play Board NI Cluster Group, this is a group that comes together to look at best practice and developments in the childcare provision 4-12 year olds.
- **Early Years Strategic Alliance**  
We sit on this alliance to look at best practice to sit with government officials to improve the quality of services to children from disadvantaged areas.
- **Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership**; we work at all levels of the Partnership to implement the key issues and priorities outlined in their most recent document
- **West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Forum** – We currently sit on this forum to help coordinate programmes from across West Belfast

- **Children and Young People Strategic Partnership**

BRCG feel that it is vital that we engage in childcare networks/partnerships as they provide us with information that can lead to an improvement in practice, and in the development of policies. It also affords us an opportunity to network and promote our own best practice methods.

- **Working with Children with Autism**

BRCG runs a daily session with children with Autism in conjunction with Sure Start and Kids Together after the Family Support Hub had identified the growing need.

## Roden Street Community Development Group – Community Infrastructure Partner



The Roden Street Community Development Group, (RSCDG) is an organisation which can be categorised in both a strategic and practical sense as led by and for the community. The organisation has sustained the core aim of realistically and achievably improving quality of life socially, economically, environmentally and culturally. In tandem with this navigating the sphere of long-term impact outcome focused programming and sustainability. As such RSCDG has continued to more strategically target provision in the period, the organisation operates on a for money basis, with a relatively small staffing team, identified need reflective programmes and analysis of impact as key. RSCDG has continued to pursue a strategy of direct need reflection through the community management model, innovation and provision of wider geographically focused capacity support. In the period, the organisation also worked with other organisations/partnerships in furtherance of the application of the community management model.

Grosvenor Community Centre has had a productive year in terms of programming, uptake, footfall and outcomes. The year was characterised by growth around new trends which mirror local and global need, including an increased environmental programme. As well as this the organisation changed some core services in year to reflect area lifestyles, including renewing the aims of the Women's Health Programme. Changes included extension of the out of school hours programme and hourly change, altered summer provision including earlier restart for Playgroup services and targeted youth provision including mentoring and issue led work. The centre also determined to bring the area together physically more in year with 2 major area environmental drives, walk arounds, baselining of homes and shared spaces, events and Summer schools. As always Grosvenor Community Centre wish to

thank all user groups and peoples for their active contribution to the vitality, diversity and capacity of the area and to the overall dynamism of wider Belfast. The organisation is proud to be considered a 'home' to such a rich tapestry of cultural and community backgrounds and to be a practical example of contemporary Belfast society.

## **Roden Street Community Development Group – Community Infrastructure Partner**

Continued

Grosvenor Community Centre is a key and pivotal contributor to community infrastructure. For instance:

- ✚ Grosvenor Community Centre is considered a 'home' community centre to 5 different cultural backgrounds and is used as such operationally.
- ✚ The organisation provides funding submission support and development plans to a range of sports and smaller groups in furtherance of capacity.
- ✚ The space is viewed as a place to go for help around issues such as housing, anti-community activity, family and area disputes and when someone just needs that little bit of help. Therein lies the fabric of what a 'community' should feel like.
- ✚ Grosvenor Community Centre have provided information to a number of other groups/organisations in the period related to community management.
- ✚ The organisation has adopted a more visionary approach over the past five years and has dared to think on a larger scale, becoming involved in developments such as Grosvenor Connections.
- ✚ The organisation is committed to working with City Centre development approaches to lever benefits up the Grosvenor Road.
- ✚ The centre was used by a range and diversity of peoples with differing focuses from sports, to health, family support to gardening. This mix helps community capacity via visibility and sharing of resources.

- ✚ Grosvenor Community Centre has pro-actively tried to identify problems and has written extensively to agencies such as DFI and Highway Maintenance around parking and litter with some apparent achievements, such as lines at Genoa Street.
- ✚ The organisation has increased partnerships with schools in the period adopting a stance that the children and families supported are the same and the best way to target services is by sharing knowledge.
- ✚ Grosvenor Community Centre provided training in 2019/2020 engaged in or provided the following training, CSR (with Tar Anall), Outcome Star (CIT Health), Multi Sport, Health and Wellbeing Training, Mentor Guides, Manual Handling, Driving Support.
- ✚ The organisation has one on the future and has diversified the managing structures with younger individuals.
- ✚ Grosvenor Garden will further aid the physical regeneration of the Grosvenor Road and the organisation hopes to fully join this to the development at weavers cross.



Direct management in Action: RSCDG lease, (from Belfast City Council), and manage Grosvenor Community Centre, (formerly Grosvenor Recreation Centre), the accompanying 3G Playing field, community garden, facilities and play park. The site is a substantial venue and facility, housing a wide spectrum of projects, programmes and operational terms, this means that ALL voices are relevant and are used to define, schedule and plan services. We abide by the view that anything is possible and achievable

with the right vision pathway driven in a shared capacity by communities. The organic historical development, developed in 1984 and launching with 'We Want Heat Not Cold Fee', of the organisation means that the climate at Grosvenor Community Centre is embedded in community management, responsiveness, flexibility, innovation and pro-active inclusion. Grosvenor Community Centre has become one of the hubs in the area for community activity, community sports, physical activity, environmental programming, capacity building, engagement, family support, youth participation and good relations. Grosvenor Community Centre is viewed as an open, welcoming and feasible arena in which to meet, network, develop and grow, particularly in relation to good relations programme at the local level. RSCDG is both a local provider of a plethora of services and programmes, matched with occupying an active role in terms of area wide development, partnership, shared programming and lobbying. The focus at Grosvenor Community Centre is fixed on the wider determinants of community, social, economic and cultural development as well as in redressing the wider impacts of disadvantage.

### **What is Our Vision?**

Belfast deserves to achieve greatness and its people must benefit from that process, happy, prosperous and healthy

## Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Community Infrastructure Partner



We continue to offer support, information and advice to all our associate organisations which include:

- Surestart
- Clonard Residents Association
- Tar Anall
- Community Restorative Justice Ireland
- Clonard Monastery Youth Centre
- Springfield Residents Action Group
- Belfast Reconciliation Network
- Forthspring Intercommunity Group
- Workforce Training

- Springvale Learning
- Job Assist
- Clonard Women's Group
- Clonard House

We continue to sit on the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and feed into the area action planning.

We sit on the Springfield Multi Agency Group (SMAG) steering group which was established to develop relationships between the new E3 Campus on Springfield Road and the local communities of Clonard and Shankill.

We are represented on the board of Interaction Belfast that looks at interface issues along the Springfield Road.

We co-Chair the Clonard Mid Shankill Initiative which aims to work together to improve relationships across the interface and in so doing create a better future for our respective communities.

We host the area's Surestart programme and work closely with providers.

We've secured funding for a cross-community women's fitness programme which has been running on Lanark Way for the past two years.



We organised and secured funding for a number of cross-community events on Lanark Way including a family fun- day, a Health Day for young people and, for the second year running, a Christmas Market.

We sit on the West Belfast Roundtable group and liaise with our partners on that project in terms of BME and New Arrival families.

We remain actively involved in volunteer recruitment for a range of our programmes and have been very successful in recruiting new members during 2018-19 period,

We continue to support an advice worker who is based in our office every Wednesday.

We have organised a range of training programmes for our volunteers to build their capacity, training included:

- Drug Awareness Training
- Committee skills
- Child Protection / Keeping Safe Training
- Access NI Checks
- Suicide Awareness

We continue to work with local youth providers and sporting organisations to develop youth engagement programmes throughout the year along with intervention programmes at seasonal times such as July and August. We also worked with Clonard Residents Association, Forthspring Intercommunity Group and Workforce Training Services to devise and implement a diversionary youth training programme in response to an upsurge in disruptive behaviour among some young people in the area. We have organised:

- Summer Cohesion & Intervention Programme
- A Summer scheme
- Youth Training Programme



### **NDA Community Development Officer an Example Week in the Life Of:**

- Visit Tenants/Resident Group representatives to update/flag issues/communicate to locals.
- Attend a Tenants/Residents Group meeting
- Follow up actions from Tenants/Residents Group meeting - assist drafting letters/follow up calls/minutes etc.
- Visit to Healthy Living Centre to agree upcoming programmes for promotion/marketing/referrals & distribute flyers locally.
- Meet NIHE staff for updates (e.g. on external cyclical maintenance schemes or area projects)
- Organise and agree next stages of upcoming event/s
- Monitoring and Reporting data to collate and report on for Funders and Management Committee
- Participate in meetings around progression of issues in relation to NR programme or community development projects.
- Contribute to advice centre rota duty and take appointments/provide telephone advice.

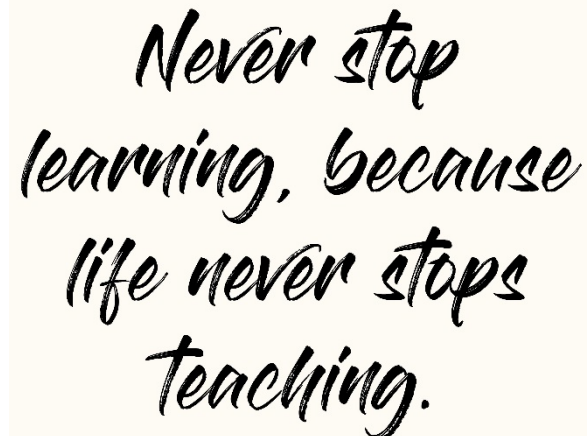
### **P/T Administrative Support an Example Week in the Life Of**

- Open Office daily and confirm work plans and appointments to staff (*Pre 16/3/20 Covid-19!*)
- Telephony duties daily/Log Calls/Run weekly IT Reports required
- Meet/Greet clients/visitors; log same
- Make and diarise appointments; manage office bookings and customer flow.
- Contact clients engaging in services for the week to confirm arrangements and communicate issues as required to relevant staff
- Update Personal and Group Development Plans related to weekly targets and goal achievements
- Update all monitoring and evaluation including surveys completion
- Type minutes/distribute meeting invites and notes etc.

## Blackie River Community Group – Lead Education Partner

### Promotion of Life Long Learning

Due to Covid the education programmes were mostly held virtually on either Zoom or Teams. They were been both accredited and non-accredited courses. We adopt a person-centred ethos to guarantee each student gets the most out of their education experience to help ensure they move forward to reach their full potential.



*Never stop  
learning, because  
life never stops  
teaching.*

We are currently teaching and assessing the following courses:

- ESOL – this is a beginner’s class, introducing Basic English to newcomer families.
- Health and Social Care Level 3 – Family Support
- CCLD Level 2 – 1 evening a week
- CCLD Level 3 – 1 evening a week
- CACHE Level 3 Certificate Understanding Autism - 20-week programme
- CCLD Diploma Leadership and Management – Two Level 5 – 1 day each per week

Each student is allocated a personal tutor and a personal assessor so that the learning experiences for them are extremely personal and meet their individual needs. Tutors and assessors are practicing professionals in their field, so we believe students are getting first class education and learning directly from in practice experience.

## **Youth Development**

We have developed a Mentoring programme to offer support to young people on a one to one basis; Mentors have provided support with homework, personal development, mental health awareness, and physical activities programmes and have developed an engagement process with young people who are disengaged from the community. Each young person is allocated their own mentor, who strives to build a relationship with each young person and aims to help them through any struggles they may face.

We are currently working with the West Belfast Partnership Board to assist our school age children with their educational attainment.

## Divis Joint Development Committee – Education Partner

DJDC has considered educational programming in its widest sense. In the period 2019/ 2020 the organisation has provided a range of services to support the development of children, young people and adults. This year of course has ended with a very different scenario due to the covid pandemic with many of our services being physically suspended and moved (where possible online)

### Education support service



We provide our own education and support programme. This includes;

- ICT classes on a Monday and Tuesday mornings between 10am-12noon and from Tuesday 12 noon to 2pm, each class has a maximum of 10 people and aimed at the 50+ age range.
- In partnership with Clan Mor Surestart we provide, child protection and paediatric first aid training to a range of local staff and volunteers at the FGC.
- Study support provided on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings with help from students from QUB.
- Additionally, GCSE study support (Maths and English,) provided on a one-to-one basis for up to 32 young people across the year through support provided from the Department for Communities,

- DJDC's continues to engage in city wide discussions around the issues pertaining to Lifelong Learning (LL) and the ongoing transition of 'Belfast a Learning City' to the Community Planning Partnership and we hold the position of chairperson on this initiative.

### **ICT training and development provision;**

- Our ICT suite continues to be used in a variety of other ways e.g. study support and IT training for both women and men and job centre online. It is increasingly difficult however to get anyone interested in looking at formal training and much of what we offer is a practical tool for people rather than an educational boost.

This year our list of training and programme activity provision included;

- ICT provision for older men and women (Inc. social media and skype usage),
- GCSE study support in Maths and English
- A homework club for primary and post primary aged children/ young people (including additional support for literacy and numeracy).
- OCN level 2 in Youth Leadership
- Personal Development and Life skills programme
- Anti-bullying programmes
- Cultural Awareness and Diversity Inc. Anti-Racism and Anti-Sectarianism
- AQAs in Mental Health Awareness
- Both first aid and mental health first aid
- OCR level 1 training in 'Youth at Risk'



## **Roden Street Community Development Group - Education Partner**

Grosvenor Community Centre is dedicated to raising aspiration levels with meaningful pathways to achieve goals. In the period the organisation has forged more practical links with local primary and post primary providers. This has included a representative role on the board of governors of one local primary school. More so than this the organisation has worked towards real programming with tangible outcomes which can be measured across sites.

## **Roden Street Playgroup**

Roden Street Playgroup accommodates up to 24 children from the disadvantaged Falls ward area.

The service is exceptionally high quality, receiving excellent inspection reports. The service is ordinarily multi-cultural in nature enabling children to develop high levels of cross cultural interaction from a young age. The service also operates the Media Initiative Scheme. Roden Street Playgroup places a strong focus on engagement of parents and as such is accompanied by a Parental Sub Group.



## **Grosvenor Out of School Hours Services**

The Afterschool's accommodates 48 children each day and encompasses both social, fun, recreational and sporting activities and a homework club. The Afterschool's Service has initiated longer term development activities centred around, Community Safety, Nutrition and Education.



## **Grosvenor Summer Programming**

6-week packed schedule of area events, morning, afternoon and evening diversionary activities, youth outreach, onsite community sports and play development and excursions. The Summer programme altered age range boundaries in the period to enable P7 to join the night programme or stay in the day programme and to enable greater transition planning. The summer programme also included an opportunity to provide local employment for young peer leaders enabling valuable on the job learning.

## Grosvenor Future Youth



Future Youth aimed to increase access to youth services in an interface area of disadvantage through additional and innovative inclusive youth provision. Programming will target young people and by association families facing exclusion, isolation, poverty and barriers to learning and employment. Future Youth encompassed youth hours, late night opening, and day support and non-term time provision. We want to sustain a key focus of the yearly programme to be on realistic and relevant skill accreditation. As well as providing avenues for participation of the wider community and intergenerational engagement of those facing negative community stereotyping. Future Youth has been nominated for the inspiration Youth of West and has enabled a working youth management committee who participated in area visioning, clear training pathways to employment, Friday night late night sessions, weekend support and awareness tailored to the contemporary needs of a young person today.



### **Snapshot of the Year 2019/2020**

- ✚ On site teaching and tutor support for afterschool and youth age children to compliment and reflect the curriculum.
- ✚ Changed operational hours to suit Family Needs.
- ✚ Held Grosvenor Summer School to engage children with QUB Planning in site analysis.
- ✚ Outside curriculum learning including excursions to sites which are studied in school.
- ✚ Needs analysis forms developed and shared across Grosvenor Community Centre and partner primary schools.
- ✚ Shared events for children and young people from the area with education and awareness as a key focus such as Wellbeing day.
- ✚ The volume of programming in 2018 attached to Early Intervention encompassed growth focused on assisting young people vulnerable to engagement in anti-community activity or negative lifestyle choices to be equipped with the confidence to make informed decisions and meaningful opportunities for aspiration. A snapshot of weekly activities in the period included

Training, employment and on the job scheme with local employers, Friday night late night Soccer and Sport Fest, the Sunday 'Sesh' for support and volunteering programme in Summer led by young people.

- ✚ Teacher support on site – this programme helped to more fully coordinate and communicate the activities in community-based Afterschool's and youth provision with formal educational providers.
- ✚ Learning Through play, particularly in relation to Outdoor Play at the Grosvenor Community Garden and the 'World around Us'.
- ✚ Learning outside of term time, particularly in relation to summer off site programming with visits to compliment the curriculum.

## Roden Street Future Youth

Future Youth aimed to increase access to youth services in an interface area of disadvantage through additional and innovative inclusive youth provision. Programming will targeted young people and by association families facing exclusion, isolation, poverty and barriers to learning and employment. Future Youth encompassed youth hours, late night opening, and day support and non-term time provision.



### Activities in Year:

- ✚ Cross Community youth programme with Blackmountain Shared Spaces including history of Belfast.
- ✚ Mentoring support provided including a focus on resiliency.
- ✚ Space and shape planning for the area led by young people including walking the bridges, vacant site review and designing out crime.
- ✚ Area clean ups led by young people and children and engaging with partner statutory agencies.
- ✚ Seasonal celebrations hosted by young people including Halloween, Christmas and summer.
- ✚ Youth Training programme including OCN Level 2 Youth Work.



## **Volunteering & Vision Pathways**

The volunteering and placement programme in operation at Grosvenor Community Centre incorporates parents, young people and children. This is substantiated by a training and skill development programme.

## Ionad Uibh Eachach – Education Partner



### **Timpeallacht Slán, Fáilteach, Foscailte - Safe, Welcoming, Open Environment**

The creation of a safe, caring child-centred environment is the key to quality provision through Irish. Ionad early year's provision supports parents and children in an area of need combining care and learning with language and cultural experiences at an early age. High quality early years immersion supports a child's development and learning and prepares them for their future education. Parents are partners on this journey with their children and Ionad provides specific programmes and resources for parents which we hope to extend and develop over the next year. There are significant waiting lists for childcare places.

#### **Early Care & Education:**

- Gaelspraoi Irish immersion playgroup
- Surestart Programme for 2 Year Old's
- Summer scheme 60 + children
- Inclusion Targeted support respite places





### **Gaelchúram Quality Daycare through Irish - High quality, care & early learning**

- Open 8.00 - 6.00
- Dedicated baby & toddler units
- Wrap around preschool childcare
- Targeted support & respite places
- Flexible bookings – affordable prices
- Child-centred service
- Family environment/home cooking
- Highly skilled experienced staff

**GAECHÚRAM**  
Uachtar Chluanaí



### **Gaelchúram Uachtar Chluanaí - Quality Daycare through Irish**

- New social economy daycare unit opened in Upper Springfield.
- Providing quality daycare & respite places through Irish for local parents
- Supported by Pathway Fund & social economy income- employment & training opportunities.

### **Cumann Iarscoile/After-School**

Building children's confidence & self-esteem in partnership with parents

- Summer/school closure service
- Child-centred stimulating programme
- Respite for vulnerable children
- Children's Committee
- Community Clean ups and Park activities
- BCC Black Mountain trip & art project – workshops & display



**Art projects and displays include:**

- Multicultural cooking,
- Chinese New Year/Diwali
- Friendship, disability & anti-racist theme
- Recycling & planting projects

**Oideachas do Dhaoine Fásta - Adult Education – partnership with Gaelchúrsaí**

14 classes per week with 160 students weekly, beginners to GCSE and 'A' Level'

The Ionad Teanga & Cultúr / Language & Culture programme continued to grow providing a wide range of affordable and flexible courses. Ionad is one of the largest providers of community based Irish language classes, accredited and non-accredited, with clear progression routes and support available. 60 students took exams, 20 people achieved between 'C' and 'A\*' grades in GCSE & 'AS' Level last year with 11 achieving A or A\* grades. This programme was delivered in partnership with QUB & Gaelchúrsaí and our dedicated team of tutors. Gaelchúrsaí also provided mandatory training through Irish including First Aid, Food Safety & Hygiene & NVQ Levels 2, 3 & CCLD to 20+ staff.



### **Outreach Language work**

- **'Spraoi'** Irish course in St Claire's (100+ children)
- **Ceardlanna** - Cultural workshops on St Brigid's cross organised in 7 local schools (200+ children)
- **'Irish for Parents'** 2 courses organised in Gaelscoil an Lonnáin and Ionad.

### **Adult education opportunities:**

- New access courses supported a new wave of beginners in Ionad and Falls Library.
- Courses for Irish medium parents were run in Ionad and Gaelscoil an Lonnáin
- Specialist courses for parents, senior citizens, Fáinne courses and grammar
- 'Irish for Parents' delivered twice a year for local parents
- All day crash courses twice a year, March/November, supporting over 100 students
- June: Féile 'Léargas' daytime and evening week long course, all levels
- August: Week long crash course in partnership with Féile an Phobail
- Yearlong Irish language programme aimed at children, 7-11, in English medium primary schools
- 'Summer Mondays' - daytime and evening provision over the summer



### Cultural & Language Festivals & Events

- **Culture Night** with JJ O Doherty, Gaelscoil na bhFal choir & Lynette Fay – celebrating Bliain na Gaeilge
- **Chinese New Year & St Brigid's workshops** - St Brigid's cross workshops in 7 local schools (200+ children)
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge Ceardlanna** – multicultural storytelling & céilí with local storyteller & Wilson Magwere
- **'Léargas'** – **May summer festival** – walks, talks, classes & trips – 200 participants.
- **'Bí Dana'** – August culture & language festival in partnership with West Belfast Festival



**Bí Dána - Bí  
Linn!**

## Roden Street Community Development Group – Lead Health Partner

### The Roden Street Community Development Group – Health Lead Partner

Health statistics for the Greater Falls area remain concerning, vis a vis other areas of Belfast, one of the most alarming figures being that women in the Court Ward area are likely to die 5 years earlier than women in more affluent post codes\*. Roden Street (West) air quality monitoring indicates the worst air quality in Belfast, meaning that the housing estates surrounding that monitor face associated health impacts statistically linked to air quality. The impacts of poverty and long years of conflict are connected to stress and anxiety and associated lifestyle choices. RSCDG, working within GFNP, wants to make local change and to target those who are currently furthest away from improving life chances. As such in 2019/2020 and planned until 2023 is an increased focus on adult and young males, particularly in resiliency and mental health, avenues for women to engage in safe physical activity both locally and in natural spaces and enhanced opportunities for community sports teams.



Meaningful impact on local families and communities must be relevant, engaging and outcome focused.... Grosvenor Community Centre is a space and place which provides a menu of services of a quality nature, designed to meet specific demand. The organisation recognise that accessibility, familiarity but high quality are the key to securing engagement. The programme is underpinned by wider avenues for family support, including childcare and youth provision, unlocking barriers to engagement particularly for younger parents.

Grosvenor Community Centre is managed as a facility to meet community health needs, from 7-day week participation, community sports to long term outcome focused programming. The organisation attempts to achieve small gains each day, impacting on the individual, the group and later onto wider society.



### **New In Year Growth**

- ✚ Grosvenor Women's Wellness extended operational hours to focus on small group work as well as wider circuit classes. GWW is now a firmly established fixture on the health scene of West Belfast. The programme includes physical health and movement as well as mindfulness and nutrition. This is underpinned by social interaction, friendship formation and confidence generation in women who previously did not participate in any type of group activity.



- \*Belfast City Council – Resiliency Strategy
- Fire Blades strength continued to grow in year including extension of volleyball programming at Grosvenor Community Centre, including winning Team of the Year and engaging young girls in volleyball and physical activity. This sport, health and cultural programme has generated innovation in sporting participation for women, young girls and with the new men’s initiative.
- Grosvenor Children’s Health.... Due to popular demand the circuit programme, nutritional course and mindfulness were extended to the primary school age group. The sessions form part of a programme designed to help children embed healthy lifestyle choices as a natural mechanism of decision making. The programme focus is on positive self-image, confidence to succeed and the ability to make decisions under a longer term judgement. The programme operates in group, small group and 2 to 2 sessions, enabling for differing types of personalities.
- Men’s Health Programme: In response to acute need the Health Officer implemented programmes for young men and adult males focused on mindfulness, resiliency, sharing and physical activity. The sessions operate a 1 to 1 or 1 to 2 basis and include mentoring hours, beneficiaries are those who have faced high levels of exclusion in some instances resulting in choices which had a major family impact. The programme has been applauded by the Parental Sub Group as having ‘changed the lives of some families by helping dad to become dad again’.



## Snapshots of Year 2019/2020

- ✦ The Rising Stars and Pinoy Community Association enjoyed another year of events including sports, health, capacity and seasonal celebrations.
- ✦ The physical building benefitted from substantial investment in the period which has aided our capacity potential in terms of sporting events, level of competitive participation and variety of content.
- ✦ The 3g Playing field and targeting of internal facilities, enabled substantial growth in physical activity and sports engagement centred around extracurricular access to sports, competitive sports, school sports, training, youth engagement and area wide physical activity events.
- ✦ Grosvenor Women's Wellness continued to grow the weekly sessions the service targets effectively those women/young women who have not participated in a sustained physical activity programming historically. The unique selling point of the service is the degree to which the programme corresponds to other projects on site enabling accessibility and willingness to participate.
- ✦ The organisation sustained 7-day week opening and facilitation of sports/youth teams.
- ✦ RSCDG continued in the period to facilitate physical activity provision at another site via ongoing operational support including payroll support.
- ✦ The organisation assisted 3 other groups and health related programmes to complete funding submissions for health programming in the Greater Falls area.
- ✦ Multi-cultural programming has been sustained in the period particularly related to basketball provision and volleyball, with an annual international sports event held in February and in August.
- ✦ Outcome focused health promotion through learning is embedded across projects related to nutritional, positive and healthy lifestyle choices and risk-taking behaviours. RSCDG were able in this period to work with a wider number of sports, youth and physical activity teams, minority ethnic community groups and individuals, particularly in relation to strategic development and increased engagement of women in physical activity. As such community sports, physical activity, cultural engagement health and well-being programming have increased at Grosvenor Community Centre. The 3g Playing field enabled substantial growth in physical activity and sports engagement centred around extracurricular access to sports, competitive sports, school sports, training, youth engagement and area wide physical activity events.
- ✦ The organisation has successfully sustained and increased a massive Health Programme for the whole family unit.

- ✚ The gardening and environmental programme developed in year to facilitate additional groups, including winning a coveted award for Environmental Endeavour.
- ✚ Support increased internally in partnership with BHSCT in facilitation of the Golden Girls, a group supporting those with hearing difficulties.
- ✚ Health programming across services increased in the period, including services for children and young people, such as Rowing for Life, Eating Well Nutritional Awareness and World around Us – Understanding the environmental impact of food transportation.
- ✚ Non-traditional sports and physical activity provision increased in the year including rowing, street games, creative dance.
- ✚ RSCDG has engaged in a board capacity on a community sports provider organisation.
- ✚ RSCDG has facilitated local primary and post primary providers in facility and programme provision.



### **Redressing Access to Healthy Lifestyle Opportunities:**

Continued work towards redressing gender participation in sports in the period with support secured for 2 x partner organisations to run programmes, Fire Blades and Grosvenor Women. 2019 will see a partnership with Immaculata Football Club and Grosvenor Women's Wellness related to establishing a female team. The sports and health landscape at Grosvenor Community Centre is divers ranging from Eastern European Ladies to Filipino young people and added to in the period with Sunday Syrian Soccer Support Group.

### **The Number Crunching**

- School sports day – 10 facilitated in year. Funding submissions for other groups to grow = 11
- Area events for health and sports – 30 held in year
- Junior league – support 44 weeks per year
- Senior league – support 40 weeks per year
- 7 day week opening late nights – support for non-term time use for schools. Coaching provisions
- Sporting and physical activity types – volleyball, basketball, football, strength training, tennis, boules, dance, yoga and Pilates
- Health programmes
  - Grosvenor Women's Wellness – 76 women now engage in regularised physical activity
  - Children's circuit and wellbeing programme – 48 children engage in 3 weekly sessions
  - Youth Health Programme – 39 young people engaged
  - Health Mentor Programme – 24 adult males engaged

## Blackie River Community Group - Health Partner



BRCG have worked with a variety of stakeholders over the past year during the pandemic to help those shielding and at risk and to develop health initiatives, which are targeted at local people to identify their needs. We use this information to work with other agencies/organisations to put in place initiatives and programmes to promote health and well-being.

- During the pandemic mental health was at an all-time low so we continued to work with young people to look at raising awareness of the issues of suicide and self-harm. This piece of work has resulted young people being more aware around coping mechanisms to deal with stress leading to poor mental health.
- Our older people's programmes were put on hold due to the Pandemic.
- We work in partnership with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Social Services) to offer places within our childcare facility to families who need additional support.
- Within our childcare setting we have a healthy eating policy which mean all the children receive food and snacks which are good for them and promote healthy living from an early age.



Blackie River Community Groups is the leading accountable body for **Beechmount Surestart**.

Surestart is a government initiative, which is a partnership between the local community, voluntary and statutory sectors. Surestart aims to provide support and guidance to families to ensure children can flourish at home during their early years. SureStart works with antenatal parents and families with children under the age of 4 years of age. The SureStart team worked very well during the pandemic doing garden gate visits were possible but the programme was limited.

- Blackie River Community Group representative sits on the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and Belfast Outcomes Group to give a view from the community sector about the issues that children and young people are facing.
- This year we have been running to full capacity, with 12 children attending throughout the year. Please see below a selected few photos of children enjoying the SureStart Developmental Programme for 2-3 Year Olds, please note how the programme focuses on using natural and real materials to help develop children's skills and interests:
- Blackie River Community Group representative sits on the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and Belfast Outcomes Group to give a view from the community sector about the issues that children and young people are facing.
- We have supported direct delivery services for people with disabilities to support their clients who live in the local area.
- We have run a number of health days throughout the year to give local people better access to information and the support services that they require to develop their own self-care approaches.



## Divis Joint Development Committee – Health Partner



Seeking wherever possible to promote the values (and active input) of the local community infrastructure to health and social care developments across the Greater Falls area. This year of course has ended with a very different scenario due to the Covid pandemic with many of our services being physically suspended and moved (where possible online)

- Continue to support Maureen Sheehan Healthy Living Centre in their delivery of health programmes and sustainability for their initiatives. Additionally, a lot of time and effort in implementing social prescribing (i.e., non-medical alternatives for GP's to offer and be delivered by local groups).
- Through the West Belfast Partnership Board of behalf of the Neighbourhood Partnership and as chairperson of their health sub-group, implementing a strategic health approach, which envisages a local reflection of wider health strategies.

### Through our core activities e.g.

- Divis Youth Project we have provided a range of opportunities to highlight issues affecting the health of young people in this area.
- Our core Early Years and School Age programming
- Through our family support programme and through our contact and development work with local women.



Divis Youth Project



### **Programming this year included;**

- Sports and physical activity programmes for younger people including with Immaculata Junior Football Teams (across 6 age bands)
- Healthy eating with our homework and study support groups
- Mental Health Awareness
- Increased use of the Arts e.g. dance, drama and creative arts (as a therapeutic approach to behavioural and anger management, stress and anxiety issues).
- Basketball development (with Peace Players and part of a broader Community Relations programme)
- Young people have continued their work on a 'Dementia Friendly' programme to raise awareness of the issues involved

## Support and discussions held with;

- GP Federation regarding West Belfast multi-disciplinary team
- Maureen Sheehan Healthy Living Centre re: health needs of area
- Healthy Living Centre Alliance re: sustainability and effectiveness of HLC's
- Clan Mor Surestart regarding health needs of children and local families
- With the Immaculata Junior Football Club highlighting the health needs of young people.



## Ionad Uibh Eachach Health Partner



## Ionad Uibh Eachach – Health Partner

### Childcare & Respite support

Ionad Uíbh Eachach works in partnership with Beechmount Sure Start – Tús Maith Ard na bhFeá – to provide a Programme for 2 Year Olds for local families through the medium of Irish and also offers respite places funded by Beechmount Sure Start and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Sponsored daycare project. These projects make a significant contribution to improving the health & wellbeing of the families who we work with.

### Seachtain na Sláinte

Health Week- parents, grandparents, all children from babies to afterschool children, benefited from activities organised as part of Ionad's health week, funded by the PHA. Mental health and the importance of the Take 5 approach was a key theme with relaxation sessions, and the opportunity to share experiences and get one to one help. The Health & Well Being group undertook a Nurturing Course and family trips and activities were also organised.

### Health workshops

Were also organized around Cancer awareness including Bronagh from Pretty in Pink, Belfast Breast Cancer charity with a Park Centre shop, gave a lively and informative talk to parents about the Breast Awareness 5 point code. Leaflets & information were made available in center. Be cancer aware - support Pretty in Pink! The Suicide Awareness Centre on the Falls Road came in and did a workshop for local parents – offering one to one support where requested.

### **Family trips**

Mindfulness walk in Local Park, family trips to Ark Farm and Stormont playground were a big success.

### **Play Support**

Ionad Home Visiting packages have supported parents & children provided to over 30 children in the last year, including children on the autism spectrum, in partnership with the Greater Falls Family Support Hub. Thanks to Fiona Lovely for her unstoppable energy & enthusiasm! **SHINE– Parents Support Group for Children with Autism** SHINE gives support & training to local parents to address the social isolation of their children. Ionad welcomes the opportunity to support this dynamic group by providing childcare sessions and hosting peer support sessions. The group has a vibrant Facebook page and a growing number of families have been able to access help.



## Neighbourhood Development Association – A Health Partner

NDA is involved in a range of activity across all 5 GFNP thematic areas and for example in health we have supported and delivered the following;

- 90 people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects
- 121 direct referrals made & accepted
- 5 other community groups supported via programmes



## **Roden Street Community Development Group – Social Environment Partner**






### **People**

The facility, programmes and activities would be irrelevant without the support, participation and leadership provided by the people of the community. In particular, the families of this community have continued to represent a guiding light in terms of the organisation. Grosvenor Community Centre can legitimately be described as ‘vibrant’ this is entirely due to the range, regularity, diversity and enthusiasm of individual beneficiaries and beneficiary groups. RSCDG is indebted to people for continuing to choose to play a role in community management and in sustaining a cohesive community infrastructure. This type of participation requires a willingness to want to come together and a vision as to where the area and its inhabitants could be in the next twenty years. Grosvenor Community Centre would like to thank the wider community and area for continuing to support, use and participate in services and activities at the facility. This area as a locality will thrive if we work together over the next 20 years with a common vision of empowerment and aspiration.

### **The Hope**

Create a vibrant place to live, work and visit where current and future generations have the confidence, skills and access to higher live goals, genuinely improving quality of life economically, socially, culturally and environmentally.

### **Dreams for 2020**

-  Redevelop Distillery Street back fields as an environmentally learning zone
-  Resurface and redesign the 3G Playing Field
-  Establish a new park at Grosvenor
-  Secure longer term investment for a Learning Zone for Post primary age range
-  Grow employment academies

## Community Management Model in 2019

The organisation continued to manage Grosvenor Community Centre, 3G Playing field at Grosvenor, garden and allotment site, playpark and grounds representing a direct provider of community management. Assistance was provided to other service delivery and programme focused groups in the period related to following similar operational procedures, including citation in Developing Trust NI guidance as 'a model of good practice'. Organisations worked with in the period related to sharing of good practice of community management, included, Plough Men's Shed, RB Community Group, Sally Gardens Community Group, Willow bank, Fire Blades, Pinoy Community Association and Spa Club. Grosvenor Community Centre assist groups with a shared ethos related to community development, with submissions and strategic visioning documents including business case compilation, grant submission, reporting and operational provision. The organisation recognise the scale of facilities at the site and are committed to ensuring the entire facility can be maximised in usage, diversity and impact terms.



Youth Mentors Learn their Trade 2018 – The High Vis Volunteers at Grosvenor 2019

## Social Value

It can be a hard to meet the operational opening needs of Grosvenor Community Centre (related to 7 day opening, week nights, levels of health and safety and cleanliness), due to a small staffing team. The organisation overcomes this to some extent via a strong volunteer programme reliance and a flexible staff unit. The staff team realise that provision of the facility and programmes, for the benefit of the community, must mean flexibility in job roles and attitudinal approach. However, this is an area which the

organisation would like to realistically assess in the period 2019 to 2021 and has identified a need for some part time/flexi roles related to issues such as cleaning and risk assessment. We would hope to be able to link this to apprenticeship schemes in an effort to generate employment of those who are NEET. The organisation through 2019 has sought to sustain professionalism but not to the detriment of local access. Grosvenor Community Centre has continued to be a dual vehicle of professional community management matched with an accessible, flexible, diverse and welcoming facility. Grosvenor Community Centre will never lose sight of the bedrock of the organisation, the community.

### **Outcome Based Measurement in 2019**

OBA Approach has and will continue to be a founding feature of organisation work, in period RSCDG undertook outreach related to walk arounds, door to doors and home visits for individual/family problems. As well as in-depth research within individual projects including out of school hours, Grosvenor learning together and Summer School. This has begun to generate a body of work which indicates key area issues and the changes needed within the organisation as an evolutionary unit to meet such changes. This has also indicated a need to alter organisational approach in terms of staffing levels to enable programme leaders to not have as a high a responsibility for facilities whilst also running a programme. The addition of other part time roles related to core opening responsibilities, (such as domestic duties and room risk assessment), is now deemed essential moving into 2020 based on the growth of programmes in number, hours and participants and the associated growth in responsibility for monitoring. We will make this an output for 2020 and 2021. In wider area terms the key issues in order are housing, environmental concerns such as parking, weeds, vandalism, infrastructure concerns, area design, fears over increased needle finds, lighting, road safety, mental and physical health.

### **The Year in Highlights 2019**

- ✚ Summer School – the organisation held a Summer School for 9 years and up immediately following the core Summer Scheme programme. The Summer School looked to issues of the future for concern and sought to redress historical failings of the past in the field of place and space making. The Summer School will be an annual event, engaged 25 young people, culminated in a presentation at QUB to international visiting students and wider Belfast tours.



- ✚ Grosvenor Safe Together – throughout summer 2018, the organisation ran an additional Summer Support Service for parents, this included time to participate in parents only trips, positive trips together, rebuilding of some relationships, workshops on the issues facing the back fields and wider considerations around parenting. The programme was a massive success particularly around mental health and wellbeing and this was felt across the family unit. The programme engaged 15 parents per session, sessions included off site activities, workshops and 2 family days. The overall beneficiary number being 30.
- ✚ *Grosvenor Learning Together* ran through the year including Monday teacher sessions for children at Grosvenor Community Centre, Tuesday evening Homework club for families, Wednesday and Thursday with student teachers and weekend learning and development support in partnership with West Belfast Partnership Board CEIP. GLT in its entirety assisted 75 families with children and young people’s engagement. The programme opened links with partner primary schools, assisted new tracking figures and 97% of parents reported improved homework and attitudes to learning in the home setting.
- ✚ *Awards....* The organisation were delighted to win the youth runner up setting of the Year at the Aisling Awards 2019.
- ✚ *Area Vision...* Grosvenor Community Centre played a contributing role along with GFNP in planning for upcoming developments impacting Belfast City Centre and wider West Belfast. Including Belfast Transport Hub, Social Housing Review, Building Successful Communities, West Belfast Drugs Panel, Dunville Park Steering Group.
- ✚ *Health at Grosvenor....* The organisation is heartened to announce continued growth in Health programming in the period related to Grosvenor Women’s Wellness, Eastern European women’s provision and health activities for Filipinas and women of African descent. Programming was extensively promoted in the period via the Fabulous Female Sports Fair, International Women’s Event and branding. The largest success resides in high user numbers and measurable impact on positive health determinants including improved lifestyle choices, physical and mental wellbeing and engagement in non-traditional sports by young girls. Fire Blades were awarded team of the year and we feel this has really shone a light on the vitality of the programme at Grosvenor, what working together can achieve.

## The Year in Highlights 2019 Continued

- ✚ Transport Hub - The organisation has hosted several consultation exercises in the period related to the Belfast Transport Hub, now known as Weavers Cross. This Translink Development is a flagship element in the Belfast City Council - Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy. The site will be located on Grosvenor Road and Sandy Row and will see the relocation of the existing Travel centre to new premises. The project will represent a major drive to decrease congestion in the City Centre and promote public transport. Grosvenor Community Centre have worked with the Transport Hub Steering Group in terms of consultative events, attendance at employment seminars and are currently planning to act as an Employment Academy site for stage 1 job opportunities in build terms and stage 2 job opportunities on site completion.
- ✚ Physical Redevelopment in Grosvenor Road Community: Grosvenor Community Centre led two major clean ups, including skip provision and week removal in estate central. As of the now the organisation is lobbying for the Distillery Street site to be considered as part of the SUDS programme, helping water infrastructure in Belfast and improving the physical space with usability and physical appearance. This will be a long process but one which the community is behind. Grosvenor Community Centre is working towards improvements up to and including Grosvenor cross roads by demonstrating high footfall levels along the road as a key arterial route to the regional hospital and City Centre.
- ✚ West Belfast Drugs Panel and Focus on Increased Needle Finds: Grosvenor Community Centre has engaged in the West Belfast Drugs Panel, a task and finish group established in September 2017 and launched on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The group have undertaken extensive desk-based research accompanied by qualitative visit-based information gathering. This piece of co-design action research has begun to delve into an issue plaguing contemporary inner-city communities, particularly where high levels of deprivation are faced. The report has reviewed issues attached to prescription and illegal drugs and will represent a starkly honest account of the contemporary challenges faced, opinions of statutory agencies and views of those who live and reside in West Belfast with some practical recommendations. Following on from the work of the Drugs Panel the organisation has highlighted an emerging crisis in the City which has spread into city surrounding communities. In 2018 the organisation found extensive drug paraphernalia on Grosvenor Road and adjacent to playing field, including used syringes and associated debris. As such a key focus has been on monitoring the increase, sites, collection processes and the reviewing what the contextual change has been around this issue. This will be an objective into 2020 in avoidance of the problems felt in other quickly growing Cities.
- ✚ Family Capacity and Development and Extended Extra Curricular Learning: In year Grosvenor Community Centre developed a proposal for a local primary school related to physical upgrades, has undertaken a shared programme with

same school and cross community initiative, as well as agreeing a new forum specifically focused on SEN. This has included representation on a board of governor's primary school. The hub enables targeted support at various settings where it is most relevant and proven to be effectual.

- ✚ Community Safety: The landscape has changed across the community right across the Greater Falls, with clearly identifiable spike times for social safety problems, issues around prescription and dark web drugs and decisions made whilst under the influence of such items and an influx of needle use on the streets and needle finds but not emanating from the areas. Seasonal issues arose throughout the period related to summer and new housing developments and theft of regional hospital property. RSCDG contacted the regional hospital around shared issues and is aiming to commence meetings as part of GFNP, the organisation undertook sustained summer programming for children, young people and parents. Community safety elements were included in all programmes, such as meeting with neighbourhood team, improved reporting structures and meeting with other youth outreach teams around needle finds, a report of key issues has been completed and an associated action plan for year 2020 – 2021.
- ✚ Inclusion: Grosvenor Community Centre is regarded as a welcoming inclusive and 'multi owned' space. The centre is home for Pinoy Community Association, Fire Blades Eastern European Women's Group, Syrian Sports Support and Rising Stars Filipino Youth Initiative and South Indian Community. Multi-cultural inclusion at Grosvenor Community Centre is simply part of the organisation ethos and operation. The organisation supports growth of initiatives, weekly operational provision, events and publicity capacity. In the year the Fire Blades Friday programme launched new sessions, engaging local young women and girls in volleyball and the Pinoy Dad's League supported Filipino dads working shift hours with weekday morning and Saturday sessions. However, the true value of such engagement resides in visibility. This is genuine and sustained multicultural activity at a local setting, this programming is now so embedded it is regarded as a cornerstone of what Grosvenor Community Centre 'is'. The programming is not viewed as something 'different' but a part of the fabric of work and people engaged at the site. In year programming was supplemented with events to showcase, integrate and link pathways. *Pictured: South Indian Festival of Flowers and Launch of Dads Filipino League*

### **Community Development:**

To state what makes a 'good' community is difficult, for RSCDG this equates to a community where people know one another, where there is a sense of support, a willingness to engage for the better of others, strong, skilled and confident participants. As such a handful of examples of how we work towards such goals are outlined for the relevant period:

1. Snapshot: Active local walk arounds undertaken in year to outline problem areas, meet on the door, identify areas of improvement, request maps of responsibility and take action locally – such as family led clean ups, visioning and neighbour support.
2. Snapshot: RSCDG employed a team of local young people over the Summer and seasonal periods following on-site training, providing sound work experience and on the job temporary experience
3. Snapshot: Support was provided to new and emerging issues in the area, particularly related to environmental programming, including additional sessions, investment and participant drives
4. Snapshot: A good community is a safe community that means knowing where to turn to in the dead of night..... Grosvenor Community Centre contact numbers are diverted out of hours (after 10pm weeknights) to ring for anti-social activity, area concerns or just a voice
5. Most Importantly Grosvenor Community Centre is open and welcoming. Community Development isn't a technical term it is about how people treat one another, how valued a person feels and how much they influence their lives

## Blackie River Community Group - Social Environment Partner



Blackie River Community Group has been working with residents and other community groups to get through the pandemic.

### Community engagement

- We continued to work with Residents delivering food on a weekly basis to those shielding and in need.
- We continue to work with Clonard boxing club to secure a safe parking place in an effort to relieve the parking stress in the area.
- We continued to engage with residents about their needs and are reviewing our strategic plan to ensure we deliver for local people.
- We have also responded to a variety of consultations with the support of local people around issues, which affect the Beechmount and Greater Falls Area. We have been working with Beechmount Residents Association and Davitt's GAA to tackle the issue of bonfires within the local community. We have engaged with local people to ascertain their views on bonfires and then we have reflected this to statutory agencies.
- We also work with Belfast City Council and NIHE around local people's needs such as bin collections, graffiti, block up houses and safety issues.

## Older People's Programme



We have worked with our Young at Hearts group to put in place a yearlong programme which was designed to tackle social isolation and to build the confidence of older people to make them feel safe within their area and to allow them to play a full and active role in community life. The group meets every Tuesday, and throughout the year they have many planned activities and visits.

## Divis Joint Development Committee – Social Environment Partner



DJDC through its member groups has facilitated or directly provided a range of programmes and measures to support the GFNP's social environment key issues and priorities including;

- Specific tailored programmes aimed at minimising negative behaviour in relation to the July 11<sup>th</sup> night and the run up to the August bonfire were also run over the whole GFNP area. DJDC through its very active member group the Divis Youth Project were part of a series of summer schemes organised collectively under the banner of the Falls Youth Providers, and in our early year's/ youth summer schemes directly within the Frank Gillen Centre.
- A Halloween Festival week, working in collaboration Falls Residents Association.
- A Christmas programme of events was compiled in partnership the Falls Residents Association including inter-generational activity.
- Ongoing programme of environmental awareness programme including community clean ups throughout the year and in conjunction with the Falls Residents Association and Belfast City Council.
- We have young people involved in a range of initiatives and activities including personal development programmes including anti-bullying, anti-car crime, drug/ alcohol awareness and good relations.
- A volunteer group of young people continue to design, produce and distribute '**Cool Reads**' a youth magazine (each quarter) throughout the Falls area through Divis Youth Project.





- Clan Mor Surestart (re: Business Planning)
- Healthy Living Centre Alliance (re: sustainability of Maureen Sheehan Centre).
- GP Federation Business Support Unit re: Social Prescribing and Community involvement in the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team in West Belfast.
- Belfast a Learning City
  - development of an All-Ireland network of learning cities
  - Granya Long (Belfast City Council Resilience Commissioner)
  - Ulster University involvement in the Learning city planning (Provost Rafaella Folli and Duncan Morrow)
- Department for Communities (re: Neighbourhood Renewal review)
- Weavers Transport Hub
- With NIHE regarding Ross Street flats demolition/ redevelopment
- Belfast Suicide Prevention Group (development and implementation of Protect Life 2)
- Belfast HSC Trust (Connected Care Hubs, Cullingtree Meadows 'Dementia Friendly - Supported Living' scheme)
- Belfast Local Commissioning Group (population planning and public involvement)
- Belfast City Council (community interventions including community safety initiatives and programmes)
- HSCB (re: MDT's and Community Planning)
- QUB Engagement Team (re: Belfast A Learning City)

As previously stated, we have been actively involved in facilitating discussions around collaboration between community and statutory providers at a number of levels locally, citywide and regionally. This period this included conversations around a number of key issues which affected local people including;

- Belfast Resilience Strategy
- Shared Lives Scheme (a buddy system for people with learning disabilities)
- healthy living centres and social prescribing,
- community planning, integrated health and connected community care,
- suicide prevention including mental health and emotional resilience,

- community learning and learning neighbourhoods,
- dementia friendly communities,
- place making and locality planning,
- youth development,

DJDC continue through a variety of fora have also been involved in a range of conversations about tendering and procurement possibilities which we hope will benefit local people in expanding the range of services on offer to the community but also continue to help shape the commissioning specifications, outcomes and design of future tenders including currently on family support, tackling health inequalities, healthy living and potentially areas-based youth programming. This remains a significant challenge to community cohesion.

## Ionad Uibh Eachach –Social Environment Partner



## Buaicphointí na Bliana - Highlights of the Year

### 'Léargas' & 'Bí Dána'

This year with funding from Belfast City Council Ionad was able to organize two festivals which included intensive language courses, talks, walks, music, trips, drama and a Céilí! Over 140 attended these festivals and events.



## **‘Léargas’ (Insight)**

In June gave a unique insight into the vitality of the language and culture in Belfast and included

- Dinner, keynote speech and an evening of music & céilí dancing ,
- Music and Storytelling Workshop with Cormac “Buzz” Ó Briain agus Aodán “Jaff” Mac Séafraidh,
- Guided tours of Belfast City Cemetery and Black Mountain kWalk.
- Irish language intensive course at all levels, morning & evening



## **‘Bí Dána’ (Be Bold!)**

Organized as part of Féile a Phobail in August celebrated Irish literature, language and culture with an intensive Irish course, talks on English language writers and Irish, music and dance workshops and a film show. Each language class looked at a piece of Irish literature and feedback was very positive. Thanks to our fantastic team of tutors and all who participated in the festivals!

## **Lá na dTéidí & Bronnadh Gaelspraoi/Tús Maith**

Teddy Bear’s Picnic and Gaelspraoi & Programme for 2-Year-Old Graduation

Children parents and staff enjoyed the fun day, sponsored walk and Teddy’s Bears picnic in the sunshine

In June 2018 accompanied as ever by Pudsey!! Children enjoyed the bouncy castle and walk before being Presented with certificates for completing their pre-school programme preparing them for nursery. A fun time was had by all. 40 children graduated to move on to nursery provision.



### Go n-éirí an t-ádh leo! - Good luck to them all!

- **Parents as key partners - Ionad Parental Engagement** supported by BBC Children in Need & BHSCT
- **Tachráin & Tuistí/Parent & Toddler:** sensory play, music & movement, arts and crafts, storytelling
- **Gaelspraoi/Stay & Play:** Cookery, storytelling, arts/crafts & gardening. World Book Day: Parents & Children reading together
- **Turasanna Teaghlaigh/Family Trips:** Ulster Museum & Carnfunnock
- **Informing & involving** - Keeping parent's informed- curriculum handouts, regular report
- **Tús Maith Ard na bhFeá/ Beechmount Sure Start activities** 'Stay and Play' workshops & trips, 'Song and Rhyme Time'
- **Parenting programmes:** Solihull Parenting, First Aid, 'Food for the Soul', Art therapy, Baby Clinic, Makaton
- **Family Support Programme** - Supported by BHSCT & Greater Falls Family Support Hub
- **Health & Well Being Group** -relaxation, parenting support, Take 5 'Mental Health Project', Cancer Awareness & wellbeing workshops

- **Advice and support** for parents and children facing additional challenges
- **One to one play support & Home Visiting & Family support**
- **Signposting** for benefits, employment & housing advice support.
- **SHINE Autism group**



## Open Days & Family Events

At the beginning of the year an Open Day was held for parents with a fun day for children.

Employers for Childcare offered advice/support to parents re benefits, Childcare Vouchers/WFTC:

- **Páirtíocht:** Ionad works with Fóram na nGael, Conradh na Gaeilge and Glór na nGael
- **Lá Dearg** organised by parents, children & local residents around the Ceathrú Gaeltachta
- Environmental marches & Zero Waste Day –gardening & zero waste in one fun day!

## Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership – Social Environment Partner

- We continue to work with Belfast City Council on the bonfire reduction programme which aims to reduce the number of potential bonfires over the August period. We have developed a full intervention programme targeting young people who would often become involved in building bonfires which often lead to ASB and criminal activity.
- We continue to work with BCRC around interface issues in the local area and, through the Clonard Mid Shankill Initiative are building ever closer links with residents from the Greater Shankill.
- We are involved in the E3 forum (SMAG) which involves BMC, PSNI, BCC, DOJ, elected representatives and community representatives from both the Clonard and Shankill areas which looks at interface issues along the Springfield Road.
- We work with Springfield Residents Action Group on the issue of contentious parades along the Springfield Road which takes place every June and July. In recent years we have organised intervention programmes at times of heightened tension throughout the summer months which aim to offer young people an alternative to tension and violence.
- We continue to develop a local community festival every August which aims to replace the issue of negative behaviour at this time of year
- We continue to monitor any planning applications within the local community to ensure they fit with the character of the area and that there is no over development. As and when is required, we facilitate engagement meetings with local residents and the developers.
- We continue to work with CRJI around ASB and criminal activity that takes place and we also engage with the PSNI when required on these issues.



## Neighbourhood Development Association – Social Environment Partner

### NDA over the past year has had;

- 42 people/volunteers involved in advice service, physical development and/or environmental improvement projects during the year
- 125 people benefiting from projects to promote personal & social development
- 42 volunteers created/sustained

### Additionally we;

- Work with the NIHE, via the District & Area Community Housing Networks to gather information about proposed developments and redevelopments and schemes in the NRA;



- Held 2 community outreach information sessions to provide important information and advice on Welfare Reform changes and Universal Credit.
- Worked with 5 other community groups to help support their work and develop their capacity during 2019/20.



## Ionad Uibh Eachach – Lead Development & Regeneration Partner



### **Development & Regeneration in the Ceathrú Gaeltachta**

Last year saw significant investment in Irish Language community infrastructure in the Ceathrú Gaeltachta with the new Raidió Fáilte premises in Divis Street winning an award and building completed on the new 'Áras na bhFál' building at the top of Broadway. Ionad sits on the Ceathrú Gaeltachta Board working closely with Irish language & community partners to positively promote the Irish language & culture as our common heritage.

### **Developing & Sustaining IUE as a Centre of Excellence Fit for the Future**

Sustaining and improving services that are accessible and affordable for the local community depends on both grant and social economy income. While social economy income has risen steadily over the last 5 years this year saw a decrease in reserves. This reflected the impact of funding cuts at the same time as rising staff costs and Ionad investment in staff development.

## Gaelchúram – Social economy & economic development

**GAECHÚRAM**  
Uachtar Chluanaí



Supporting parents to access work & training opportunities quality day-care & early learning opportunities through Irish

Gaelchúram, continued to grow, providing childcare for over 100 children daily thus supporting parents to access work & training. Gaelchúram & the school aged childcare service (school closures/holidays 60 children), despite a very difficult financial climate, generated enough income to help fund 40+ posts, creating training & employment opportunities for young Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht quarter. Ionad attended local employment fairs and hosted visits from St Marys College and local secondary schools including Coláiste Feirste. Gaelchúram Uachtar Chluanaí: new employment & training opportunities – an Irish Language Childcare Service in the Upper Springfield area has been sustained employing 5 members of staff and supporting over 30 local children. It was officially opened in June 2018 by the Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge.

### **Expansion of Family Support Services**

Ionad provides family support & parental engagement services with project grants. Despite not accessing funding for a dedicated worker programmes have continued successfully. Thanks to Judith and Fiona Lovely (Play Support Worker) for their enthusiasm and hard work.



### **Quality Development**

Maintaining quality provision requires constant review, reflection and improvement & Early Years Management continue to develop quality systems for childcare & education services. Ionad is now working on quality assurance for the whole organisation through ISO, which has been facilitated by the Falls Partnership Initiative and the Ashton Centre.

### **Working in partnership**

Strong local partnership is the key to effective development & regeneration.

**Ní neart go cur le chéile – unity is strength**

## Roden Street Community Development Group – Development & Regeneration Partner

### Physical Regeneration:

- ✚ Secured investment to resurface Sports Playing Field at Grosvenor Road to upgrade in line with 10 year period, this will significantly enhance capacity of community sports providers and health programming in Greater Falls.
- ✚ Secured additional resourcing for installation of a spectator stand to ensure capacity to advance in leagues in football and aid all weather safety for families and spectators.
- ✚ Secured investment from DFC for new playpark at Grosvenor Community Centre.
- ✚ Upgraded community garden (ongoing).
- ✚ Secured LED retrofitting in partnership with DFI for Grosvenor Road and Grosvenor estate.
- ✚ Grosvenor Community Centre worked in partnership with GFNP related to Building Successful Communities including in Belfast Bikes, arterial routes clean up.
- ✚ RSCDG is lobbying for Distillery Street to be considered for SUDS programme with associated improvements, feasibility study is now complete.
- ✚ Worked with BCC for inclusion as Stage 5 of Forthmeadow Greenway which has been achieved.
- ✚ The organisation is working with Social Housing Providers around repairs and maintenance priorities.
- ✚ Secured installation of new refuse provision at Grosvenor Road with Belfast City Council.
- ✚ Secured clean up from Highway Maintenance at Westlink/Grosvenor Road which is undertaken periodically.
- ✚ Worked with NIHE in weed removal and related to area repairs.
- ✚ Housing support provided with NIHE related to tenancy.
- ✚ Periodic clean ups of Grosvenor Community Complex and area clean ups undertaken in period.

- ✚ Developed Grosvenor Connections Plan for place shaping proposals.

## **Transport Hub**

The organisation has hosted several consultation exercises in the period related to the Belfast Transport Hub, now known as Weavers Cross. This Translink Development is a flagship element in the Belfast City Council - Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy. The site will be located on Grosvenor Road and Sandy Row and will see the relocation of the existing Travel centre to new premises. The project will represent a major drive to decrease congestion in the City Centre and promote public transport. Grosvenor Community Centre have worked with the Transport Hub Steering Group in terms of consultative events, attendance at employment seminars and are currently planning to act as an Employment Academy site for stage 1 job opportunities in build terms and stage 2 job opportunities on site completion.

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## **West Belfast Drugs Panel and Focus on Increased Needle Finds:**

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### **Family Capacity and Development and Extended Extra Curricular Learning:**

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## **Community Safety**

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## **Divis Joint Development Committee – Development & Regeneration Partner**

Throughout the year we have represented the views of the Falls community at many events and facilitated discussion on a range of topics locally including with/ to:

- Cullingtree Meadows Supported Living Complex and the development of Dementia Friendly Communities throughout West Belfast.
- Supported partners SCA Ltd successful capital proposal for Lawther Buildings
- Tension reduction initiatives during the summer
- Completed an ISO 9001 quality management award
- Work with Healthy Living Centres across the region (including our local centre) around sustainability.
- Work with WBPB around strategic health planning
- Inputted to BCC's discussion around community planning
- Locality Planning discussions with Public Health Agency
- Belfast a Learning City (UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and development of Learning City plan)
- Building Successful Communities key proposals for Westlink backpath, Ross Street flats demolition/ redevelopment, Maureen Sheehan Centre environment improvements and carpark
- Work with Falls Residents Association including the Housing Executives community cohesion unit
- Discussions with newly formed GP Federations about links with local community sector, development of the 'connected care hubs' and the future development of multi-disciplinary teams
- Transformation Implementation Group (Dept. Health) re: Healthy Living Centres and broader Community engagement

- Completion of a successful business plan for HLC's Social Prescribing business case (Big Lottery UK bid with 10 organisations in Scotland)
- Education support for young people with the West Belfast Partnership Board
- Ongoing development of the Belfast Transport Hub
- Suicide Prevention (involvement in Protect Life 2 discussions)
- Belfast HSC Trust (re: Connected Care Hub and Cullingtree Meadows 'Dementia Friendly' - Supported Living' Complex)
- Belfast Local Commissioning Group (population planning and public involvement)
- Belfast Strategic Partnership (health inequalities and lifelong learning)
- HSCB (re: Community Planning)
- GP Federations (connected care hub, community planning and community engagement)
- QUB Careers development
- Department for Communities and their Neighbourhood Renewal investments and reviews process.
- Clan Mor Surestart re: Business Planning

DJDC continue through a variety of fora have also been involved in a range of conversations about tendering and procurement possibilities which we hope will benefit local people in expanding the range of services on offer to the community but also continue to help shape the commissioning specifications, outcomes and design of future tenders including currently on family support, tackling health inequalities, healthy living and potentially areas based youth programming. This remains a significant challenge to community cohesion.

Much work has taken place around the core priorities of the GFNP and many of these issues have been raised there, day to day support takes place across the area with a range of smaller local organisations which do not have staff or physical resources, we have been working with many of these groups to determine their needs and develop appropriate responses and plans to help them.

## **Divis Joint Development Committee – Development & Regeneration Partner Continued**

DJDC continues through its base at the Frank Gillen Centre and through its active involvement in the Falls Partnership Initiative and its member groups dealing with early years, youth development and adult training initiatives provide practical support and mentoring daily across a range of issues from life skills to employment support.

DJDC provides practical and direct administrative support to the Falls Residents Association, Falls Youth Providers and Immaculata Junior Football Club'.

These meetings and levels of support all reflect key areas identified within the core strategic document of the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership.

Through DfC support we have been able to secure, as a Partnership, support for 7 community development organisations across the Greater Falls.

# Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership

Development and Regeneration Partner



- We have secured funding through Belfast City Council for the development of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) beside the play park in Springfield Avenue.
- We are engaging with Belfast City Council around the Invest NI/Mackie's Site. BCC has already built a £11m Innovation Centre on this site and we are working with them to look at the community benefits for both the Springfield and Shankill areas and also the potential regenerative effects on the entire site.
- We worked with a number of local groups and support them to continue with their services including Clonard Boxing Club and Clonard Residents Association



## Achievements of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019/20 Year

### Community Development

Project	Target	Total
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	ER 15 - No of FT posts safeguarded -30	30
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	ER 4 - No of people receiving job specific training - 20	20
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	ER 11 - No of social enterprises supported - 1	1
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	ER 13 - No of new/existing childcare places supported to facilitate training and/or employment - 100	100
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	CR 1 - No of people participating in community relations projects - 20	20
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work - 12	13
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	CR 10 - No of people using existing community facilities - 150	160
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	CR 16 - No of direct referrals to other support services -15	18
Ionad Uibh Eachach Community Development	SR (H) 1 - No of people benefitting from healthy lifestyle projects - 50	51
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	ER 15 - No of FT posts safeguarded - 1.8	1.8
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	ER 4 - No of people receiving job specific training - 36	37
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	CR 1 - No of people participating in community relations projects - 107	110
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work -42	43
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	CR 7 - No of community/voluntary groups supported - 5	5
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	CR 16 - No of direct referrals to other support services -114	139
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	SR (H) 1 - No of people benefitting from healthy lifestyle projects -89	90

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Total</b>
Neighbourhood Development Association Community Development	PR (9) - No of projects improving community facilities - 4	2

## Health

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Total</b>
Roden Street Community Development Group Health	SR (H) 1 - No of people benefitting from healthy lifestyle projects - 1535	1551
Roden Street Community Development Group Health	SR (H) 3 - No of people accessing intervention /treatment services - 400	402
Roden Street Community Development Group Health	SR (H) 10 - No of people using existing sports facilities - 2050	2090
Blackie River Community Groups - Health	SR (H) 1 - No of people benefitting from healthy lifestyle projects - 450	450
Blackie River Community Groups - Health	SR (H) 10 - No of people using existing sports facilities - 100	100

## Education

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Blackie River Community Groups Education	SR (Ed) 1 - No of childcare/nursery places created/safeguarded - 98	98
Blackie River Community Groups Education	SR (Ed) 7 - No of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved - 22	22
Blackie River Community Groups Education	SR (Ed) 19 -No of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved against baseline position- 40	40
Ionad Uibh Eachach –Education	SR (Ed) 1 - No of childcare/nursery places created/safeguarded - 100	100

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Ionad Uibh Eachach -Education	SR (Ed) 7 - No of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved- 90	90
Ionad Uibh Eachach -Education	SR (Ed) 19 -No of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved against baseline position- 20	20
Ionad Uibh Eachach -Education	SR (Ed) 27 - No of people engaged in parenting skills/development programmes - 50	50
Ionad Uibh Eachach -Education	SR (Ed) 28 - No of people undertaking accredited courses and qualifications completed - 100	100
Divis Joint Development Committee – Education	SR (Ed) 7 - No of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved - 32	32
Divis Joint Development Committee - Education	SR (Ed) 28 - No of people undertaking accredited courses and qualifications completed - 40	40

### **Community Infrastructure**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Total</b>
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	ER 15 - No of FT posts safeguarded - 3.5	3.5
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	SR[C] 6 - No of young people benefitting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects - 27	69
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work - 7	7
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	CR 7 - No of community/voluntary groups supported - 3	3
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	Use of NR Action Plan at Partnership Meetings - 4	4



<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Total</b>
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	To facilitate 10 NRP meetings per year and issue minutes of same to NRP at least 5 working days in advance of next scheduled meeting in the period - 10	10
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	Establish (and develop existing) local partnerships within the Greater Falls Area	
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure	Engagement with NR Partnership and other local providers	
Blackie River Community Groups - Community Infrastructure	ER 15 - No of FT posts safeguarded - 5	5
Blackie River Community Groups - Community Infrastructure	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work - 4	4
Blackie River Community Groups - Community Infrastructure	CR 7 - No of community/voluntary groups supported - 1	1

## **Social Environment**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Totals</b>
table details project name, education output measures & targets and totals	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work - 20	24
table details project name, education output measures & targets and totals	CR 12 - No of enquiries and clients by category - 1500	1532
Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Social Environment	CR 4 - No of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work - 42	15
Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Social Environment	CR 12 - No of enquiries and clients by category - 400	100
Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Social Environment	SR [C] 3 - No of people participating/attending community safety initiatives - 60	15

## Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership 2019/20 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2019/20 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2019/20 total expenditure in the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	19/20 Spend (as at 31/03/19)
Social Environment Theme	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	£73,307.15	£72,197.69
<b>Total Social Environment Expenditure</b>		<b>£73,307.15</b>	<b>£72,197.69</b>
Community Development & Regeneration Theme	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	£85,862.12	£85,867.40
<b>Total Community Development &amp; Regeneration Expenditure</b>		<b>£85,862.12</b>	<b>£85,867.40</b>
Community Infrastructure Theme	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	£129,034.97	£127,175.97
<b>Total Community Infrastructure Theme</b>		<b>£129,034.97</b>	<b>£129,175.97</b>
Education Theme	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	£112,001.85	£105,886.62
<b>Total Education Expenditure</b>		<b>£112,001.85</b>	<b>£105,886.62</b>
Health Theme	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	£99,805.42	£99,903.84
<b>Total Health Expenditure</b>		<b>£99,805.42</b>	<b>£99,903.84</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£500,011.51</b>	<b>£493,031.52</b>

## **Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership**

In the 2019/20 financial year, Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership total overall spend was **£500,011.51\***:

Community Renewal:       £215,043.37

Social Renewal:           £277,988.15

\*This does not include services delivered on a west Belfast wide basis and across the Greater Belfast area. These services received £1,095,179 in 2019/20 from Neighbourhood Renewal funding.

This was paid out to projects operating under the following themes;

Education, Health, Community Development & Economic Regeneration, Social Renewal, Disability Services and Good Morning Services

**For further information regarding the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership please contact:**

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