PEOPLE BUILD COMMUNITIES

Annual Report
1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016
Welcome to our annual report covering April 2015 – March 2016. Following the theme of our 2015 – 2020 Strategy ‘People Build Communities’, we want to present a more graphic representation of our work over the past 12 months, we hope, to make it easier to understand and to allow us to show you the impact and outcome of our work.

As in previous years, this report can only give you a brief flavour of the extent of our work. We have focussed a lot on recording the impact of our work. We are continually refining the recording process to ensure we are measuring the impact in an appropriate way, focussing on our Mission and our Theory of Change. These are:

**Mission**

East Belfast Community Development Agency exists to provide resources, support and capacity building programmes for community groups that are based on partnership, equal opportunities and sustainable outcomes.

**Theory of Change**

EBCDA’s job is to add value to the activity undertaken by groups in local areas and to work with key organisations to ensure the continued development of a community sector in East Belfast that is recognised, valued and effective. We seek to support successful community development, encourage reflective practice and promote cooperation and locally based solutions.
Our three themes, detailed below, form the day to day basis of our work.

**Theme one**
Community Support & Capacity Building
To assess the needs of the community sector and work with other key organisations to draw up programmes, projects, plans and strategies that build capacity.

**Theme two**
Community Resource & Finance Services
To promote good financial management practice in the community sector by offering financial management advice, training services and a community accountancy service.

**Theme three**
Community Development Training, Education & Advocacy
To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of quality community development education and training opportunities. To seek to influence the policies of community, voluntary, government and public agencies so that they recognise the value of adopting a community development approach and that the community sector in East Belfast might benefit.
How our work has impacted East Belfast

EBCDA had **520** interventions

95 were based in East Belfast
11 were based in Belfast
14 were Northern Ireland wide organisations

**9** were associate members of EBCDA
**120** organisations

**39** were full members of EBCDA

EBCDA worked with **4178** people

In the following age groups
- 18-25: 5%
- 26-40: 26%
- 41-60: 35%
- 61-74: 23%
- 75+: 11%

The people involved were
- **33%** MALE
- **67%** FEMALE

These people had an income of
- £10,000<: 49%
- £10,001 - £20,000: 24%
- £20,001 - £30,000: 14%
- £30,001 - £40,000: 5%
- £40,001>: 8%

They heard about the event through
- Facebook: 3%
- Twitter: 1%
- Weekly ebulletin: 14%
- Word of mouth: 47%
- Email invite: 20%
- Letter: 5%
- Other: 10%

EBCDA accessed an additional **£55,000** to develop the work with groups

EBCDA worked with **1,021** people attending.

These events were conferences, seminars, consultations, forums, training, community development café

EBCDA held **53** events with 1,021 people attending.

They were associate members of EBCDA
11 were based in Belfast
95 were based in East Belfast
14 were Northern Ireland wide organisations

We supported **75** volunteers

An average of **57** interventions per staff member

Consisting of governance, finance support, charity registration, applying for funding, developing programmes, developing and implementing policies, health programmes focussing on the 5 themes of healthy hearts, healthy minds, healthy bodies, healthy communities, healthy relationships

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How was initial contact made or developed with this group?

- This group is an ongoing concern, facilitated by EBCDA.
- Contacted by group and asked for information on training, programmes and information.
- Connect to local communities; to hear local concerns/issues/ideas, promote programmes, service delivery and training provision of EBCDA, to support local health focused work and increase local participation.

Intended Impact
(What Difference Did We Want To Make)

- The aim of the group is to bring together community groups, services providers and statutory agencies to look at issues relating to enforcement, awareness raising and education, services and support.
- To build the capacity of group to apply for funding.
- Connect to local communities; to hear local concerns/issues/ideas, promote programmes, service delivery and training provision of EBCDA, to support local health focused work and increase local participation.

Your View On Impact
(Will Impact Be Long Term)

- The group has a long-term plan but needed some support like this to get started with some “quick wins.”
- Medium if funding is successful but it could lead to long term impact if further funding is sought.
- Participant’s were able to recognise what causes them stress, how they currently deal with it and provided strategies to enable them to manage this better in the future.

Groups View On Impact
(Impact Statements)

- 13 groups involved are grateful for EBCDA’s support in coordinating new collaborative work in place.
- Easy to understand information provided and great interactive display of resources that attracted interest and encouraged participation.
- Support from EBCDA has allowed us to think differently about how we approach our work in the community.

Unintended Impact
(What Additional Difference Did We Make)

- Helped to coordinate a response to drug dealing and drug paraphernalia in the Titanic halt area.
- Created more work for EBCDA! (In terms of drawing up research template and gathering responses)
- Influenced funding application to reduce duplication of programmes and enabled complementary work across East.

Training Programme Details

- Personal Development and Parent & Teen Communication
- First Aid In The Work Place
- Introduction to Community Development

As part of the process, staff were asked to record comments, within the Intervention Record Form, under 6 sections. What follows is an example from the 120 Intervention Record Forms.
We are grateful to our staff team and Board of Directors for their time, effort and commitment to EBCDA. Thanks also to our funders, Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) Department for Social Development (DSD) Belfast City Council (BCC) and the Public Health Agency (PHA). Thank you also to our members for their support and working closely with us to build towards achieving our strategy for 2015-2020 “People Build Communities”.

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ADMIN OFFICER (BALLYBEEN)

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