



MAIL

Produced by EBCDA and supported by



Keeping the Community Sector in East Belfast Informed

Issue 33

June - September 2012



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"Living on the edge" with Knocknagoney Area Forum



(KAF developed a Winter Emergency Support Plan for vulnerable older people in the area which included the provision of "gritting stations")

The Knocknagoney Area Forum was set up to address the issues in the Knocknagoney, Garnerville and Orchard Court area. The area is located in East Belfast, between the Old Holywood Road and Parkway, and is situated on the edge of Belfast City as it borders North Down Borough. We are close to George Best City Airport and one of the largest Tesco stores in Northern Ireland.

There are approximately 1,200 people and 635 households within the area. The area as a whole has a higher than average older population, although there are some parts with a higher than average younger population.

In 2010 East Belfast Community Development Agency commissioned a community consultation and a report was finalised in January 2011. As a response to this report several groups and organisations working in the area formed the Knocknagoney Area Forum. Four working groups were formed to act on the issues arising from the report on the following themes:



The Forum provides opportunities for the local organisations to share information and to work together for the benefit of the area and has already organised a number of joint events for the whole community.

Visit www.knocknagoneyareaforum.co.uk for up to date information on the work of the group.



Titanic Yardmen Cycle and Walk– 1st April 2012

Over 1000 people took part in the Yardmen Cycle and Walk to raise money for and awareness of Bowel Cancer UK. 600 walkers left Pitt Park dressed as yardmen from the 1900s and met the 400 cyclists (who departed from Billy Neill) at Titanic Belfast. Over £20,000 was raised for Bowel Cancer UK!

Thank you to everyone who took part– cyclists, walkers, volunteers and sponsors. There was a great atmosphere on the day, an atmosphere we hope to have again in future events

Contract Update

Belfast City Council and the Connswater JV (SIAC NI Ltd and Galliford Try Infrastructure) have agreed that it is in both parties' interests to mutually terminate the contract to build the Connswater Community Greenway. Final terms of mutual termination have now been agreed and the Council will be moving to re-start the project. We hope to release details shortly of the revised construction programme.

Community Clean Ups

Following on from a hugely impressive and enjoyable community clean-up in April 2011 local residents, community, CCG and businesses have taken to the Hollow three times since to maintain and further improve the area. The Hollow Cleanups have all been well attended, productive events and could not have taken place without staff and volunteers from Connswater McDonalds, Bloomfield Community Association, Walkway Community Association, East Belfast Alternatives, Pastor Roy from Elim Pentecostal, Belfast City Council, Tidy NI and Linda from Abetta Parade.

Feedback from local residents has been incredibly positive and further interim improvements will take place in the area as a result.



QUB PARC Study Update

The PARC research team has completed the baseline assessment of the project and are currently analysing the data and writing papers. The household surveys (1209 residents participated) and green space observations (Victoria Park, Orangefield Park, Cregagh Glen etc) have been completed. Thank you to those who completed the surveys and to those who helped with the data collection in the parks. More information and findings are available in the 'Research' section of the CCG website. To ensure that the CCG achieves its full potential the team are keen to talk to individuals and/ or groups about the project. If you would like to find out more, are interested in attending our quarterly Stakeholders Forum or feel you have something to contribute to the project please contact Sean Brannigan, Community Engagement Officer by telephone 9046 7930 or email sean@eastbelfastpartnership.org.

You can also keep up to date with the project via :www.communitygreenway.co.uk
www.facebook.com/connswatercommunitygreenway
www.twitter.com/connswatercg

VIO NETWORK



Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO) NETWORK



VOLUNTEER INVOLVING ORGANISATIONS (VIO) NETWORK

Are you the person who recruits and manages the volunteers in your organisation? Whether it's part of your job or you are a volunteer yourself, you're invited to the new VIO Network run by EBCDA to gain some training on volunteer management, chat through your challenges and share ideas.

VIO Network meets every quarter. There's a chance to gain some knowledge, network with other organisations and learn a bit more about looking after volunteers.

If you'd like to become a part of VIO Network please inform Katy Purvis, Volunteer Development Coordinator at EBCDA on 90451512 or katy@ebcda.org.



At the invitation of Jim Nicholson MEP, twenty delegates from East Belfast and Castlereagh Age Concern (Independent) recently visited the European parliament in Brussels.

Marian Harkin MEP for Ireland North & West gave an inspiring talk. She is involved in the European Year of Actively Ageing. John Fordham gave a tour of the Chamber and then Jim Nicholson also gave a talk. The group then spent a wonderful day in Ypres with a very emotional guided tour of the battlefields and attendance at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

For more information on the work of the group contact Syd Cook at syd.cook@ntlworld.com or call 07760 430404.

P O V E R T Y A N D S O C I A L E X C L U S I O N

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland - Joseph Rowntree Foundation

This report updates the 2009 report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, written as the recession was hitting Northern Ireland especially hard. Northern Ireland had seen a steeper rise in unemployment than any other part of the UK. Since then, there has been long-term improvement in some areas but persistent problems in others. Here are some of the key findings:



The previous report in this series came out in the depths of the recession in 2009, when Northern Ireland had seen a significant rise in worklessness. The outlook was bleak. This report shows that while things have not got much better, they have not got much worse. Northern Ireland is, like much of Great Britain, in a pause after the very worst of the recession but before the public sector cuts have really begun. A full copy of the report can be downloaded by www.jrf.org.uk.



Addiction NI is a drug and alcohol treatment charity established in 1978 providing treatment, advice and support for people affected by alcohol or drug problems.

We offer individually tailored treatment by professional, experienced counsellors free of charge. Clients can self refer to Addiction NI without having to go to their doctor first.

Addiction NI has been working in East Belfast for 24 years and our branch is located on the Albertbridge Road where local people can receive the help they need. Addiction NI works closely with local community groups providing talks and awareness raising and training.

Addiction NI provides the following treatment programs in East Belfast:

Counselling and support

We provide one on one sessions for adults who are assessed by a professional counsellor, before starting a treatment of 8-12

weeks tailored to their needs.

Older Focus

We specialise in providing alcohol and drug treatment for people aged over 55 years and their families. This award winning service includes home visits and was specially designed by Addiction NI, it remains the only service of its kind in Northern Ireland.

Family and Friends

Addiction NI provide counselling to the family and friends of those with addiction, even if that individual is not in treatment. They are taught coping mechanisms and given the chance to express themselves. Addiction NI provides family and friends group sessions to help them build a good support network.

Workplace Service

We use our knowledge and expertise to advise local employers on drug and alcohol policies, policy implementation and staff training and counselling. Reports from any employee counselling are shared with the employer to help keep the employee in work.

What Addiction NI can do for you:

We are keen to work closely with communities in East Belfast to provide help, support and treatment advice.

We can run a group in your area to help support parents and family members of a person with alcohol or drug problems

We accept self referrals and you can drop into our centre for advice

We can provide training and information to communities and groups about alcohol, drugs and how they can affect people, especially older people

Visit our website www.addictionni.com or see Facebook or twitter.

Addiction NI East is at 219 Albertbridge Road, telephone 02890731602 or email eastbelfast@addictionni.com.

FUNDING NEWS

Funding News

Here are some upcoming funding deadlines which may be of interest. For the latest news on fundraising visit www.fundraisingni.org.

Funder	Description	Amount	Deadline	Contact
Lloyds TSB Foundation	Grants for community needs/education/training	Up to £5000	6 July / 12 October (quarterly)	www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org
Santander Foundation	Grants for education/training/financial capability	Up to £10000 (average award £4000)	Rolling programme	www.santanderfoundation.org.uk
Turkington Fund	Community projects planned and run by older people	Up to £3000	1pm on 11 June / 16 August / 11 October	www.communityfoundationni.org
Belfast City Council Rolling Grants	Support for Sport/Culture and Arts/Park Events	Varies depending on programme	Ongoing programmes	www.belfastcity.gov.uk/funding
Volunteer Now and Disney Small Grants	Support for young people seeking to make a positive change	Up to £750	21 June	www.volunteernow.co.uk
Tesco Charity Trust	Children's education and welfare/elderly/people with disabilities	Up to £4000	30 June (children) 30 September (elderly/people with disabilities)	www.tescopl.com



Contact the Health Development Team on 90 451 512 or email:

Alan Houston alan@ebcda.org

Chris Deconink chris@ebcda.org

Sharon Traynor sharon@ebcda.org

Health Development & Connections Programme

EBCDA's Health Development and Connections Programme team is funded by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Public Health Agency with a focus on addressing health inequalities in some of the more disadvantaged communities across East Belfast. In order to carry out our work, the team relies on the good will and passion of many of our Lay Health Information Worker Volunteers whose help is invaluable in sustaining the important work that we do across East Belfast. Like most areas of community development, you can never have enough enthusiastic people committed to the cause. If you're reading this and believe that you have a few hours a month that you could commit to working alongside EBCDA and our Lay Health Information Worker Volunteers, our Health Development Team would really love to hear from you to have a chat about how you could become a Health Champion for your community as well as some of the benefits you could receive from volunteering through EBCDA.

Men's Health Clinic Hollywood Arches

If you are one of many men who find it difficult to get to your GP during day time practice hours, why not give our fortnightly Mens Health Clinic a visit.

You will be greeted by male friendly health professionals and volunteers who will be able to help you with any health concerns.

For further information regarding clinic times etc, contact Alan Houston on 028 9045 1512 or email alan@ebcda.org



Suicide Prevention Information Officer

Information regarding signposting to relevant services involved with suicide prevention and mental health promotion is available through EBCDA's SPIO.

Contact Trisha McQueen 028 9045 1512 or email trisha@ebcda.org for further information

Lay Health Information Workers visit Parliament Buildings

Eight Lay Health Information Workers met up with Michael Copeland, Castlereagh Councillor and Member of the Legislative Assembly on Thursday 22 March at Stormont buildings. During the two-hour meeting there were a lot of personal stories shared as well as discussion on a number of important issues. These included how to improve communication between the community and the health authorities about the introduction of campaigns like Bowel Screening. Also discussed was the need to improve communication over personal Patient Care Pathways and placing greater value on engaging local volunteers to take an active part in support and prevention programmes.

Michael highlighted that the priority health issues faced in his constituency office are mental health and post traumatic stress disorder and he made the link with changes to the social security system. Some personal stories of how the system failed individuals were shared but the meeting provided mutual understanding and a shared recognition of the complex relationship between health, relationship breakdown and unemployment in the district of East Belfast that is often viewed as well off.

He also congratulated the Lay Health Workers on their commitment to sign posting services to local people and for raising their concerns and issues. If you're interested in becoming a Lay Health Information Worker contact Alan Houston, Health Development worker, on 028 9045 1512 or email alan@ebcda.org.

Get Active Mens' Group & Wise Men of the East Health Network

EBCDA's Health Development Worker Alan Houston has teamed up with local men to offer weekly activities including cycling, gardening and walking.

Alan is also involved with the Wise Men of the East Health Network. For information on how to get involved with either of these two mens initiatives contact Alan Houston on 028 9045 1512 or email alan@ebcda.org

RECENT EVENTS

Ballybeen Health and Fun Day

EBCDAs Lay Health Information Worker Brian McClean took part in the Ballybeen Health Fair and Fun Day at the Enler Centre on Sat 21st April 2012.

The event, which was organised through Ballybeens Women Centre and attended by in the region of 300 people on the day was a huge success and included many notable services and activities including outdoor climbing wall, mechanical bronco bull and DJ.

Inside the main hall there was an Arts and Crafts Stall, Aware Defeat Depression Information Stand, Allergy Testing, MOT Health Checks, Army Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Team, Ballybeen Women's Centre Peer-Educators, Forum for Action on Suicide Awareness/ Substance Abuse Information stand and a Tombola Fundraiser with all proceeds to the Women's Centre.

A great day of fun for a worthy cause was had by all with participants leaving better informed with regard to their health and related services available. A huge word of thanks to Ballybeen Women Centre and all those organisations that contributed so much to a fantastic health day for the Ballybeen Community. Last but not least, a big thanks to Alan Houston Health Development Worker at EBCDA for all his work in co-ordinating the volunteers and help on the day.

Short Strand Tea Dance

Short Strand Senior Citizens group played host to a hugely successful Titanic Tea Dance on Thurs 19th April 2012 in commemoration of the great liner. As you can see the Short Strand Senior Citizens Group were very well dressed for the occasion in period costume and the day was well attended by 41 individuals who benefited from the exercise and social interaction on offer.

Thanks to Drew Melville who provided the music and facilitation on the day. EBCDA also wish to extend a huge thank you to Short Strand Senior Citizens Group and staff at the Community Centre for all their hard work in making this fun event possible.

Young Women's Sexual Health Programme

Young women from East Belfast Alternatives Young Women's Group happily received their end of programme certificates after their hugely successful Sexual Health programme at the Alternatives Drop in on Woodstock Road. This was one of four sexual health programmes for East Belfast that were organised and delivered by Sharon Traynor, Health Development Worker.

A huge part of the programmes success is that it also addresses drug and alcohol misuse and risk taking behaviours in relation to unplanned pregnancies.

It will be a relief for all concerned that they can finally turn off those virtual babies and congratulations to the girls for their participation and hard work throughout the programme which finished in April of this year. Thanks also to Sharon who put in a huge amount of work and organisation to ensure the programme ran so smoothly and Mandy from Alternatives pictured beside Sharon for input during the programme. Thanks to Siobhan McKinley from Brooke for her contribution to initiative and presentation evening.

For more information on the programme contact Sharon Traynor, Health Development Worker, on 028 9045 1512 or email sharon@ebcda.org.

Have you ever considered fostering?

Do you have experience of working with adolescents?

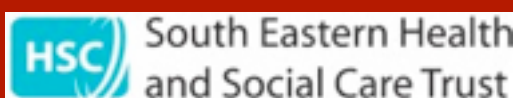
Do you have time to care for a vulnerable young person?

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust are seeking to recruit foster carers in Greater Belfast

- Salary of £18,000 & allowances for the young person
- Support from a multi-disciplinary team (including a psychologist, teacher, a project worker and social workers)
- Training
- 24/7 on call support



For more information contact Jonny or Franz on Tel: 028 90817807 or e-mail Nadine.kirk@setrust.hscni.net or visit <http://www.intensivesupportfosteringscheme.co.uk>





Greenway Women's Centre

Greenway Women's Centre has been providing services to women and their families within Cregagh and the wider community since 1985. Greenway offers a safe, secure environment in which women can learn and grow through social interaction, education and personal development.

Greenway's services include:

- Top Quality Childcare Services
- Education and Training Programmes
- Essential Skills Support
- Live and Learn Classes
- Health and Wellbeing Courses
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Family Support Services
- Drop-In Cafe
- Special Events

Childcare Services

Greenway Women's Centre operates a Sessional Day Care facility, offering top quality, affordable and accessible childcare for pre-school children, aged from birth to three years. In addition to private daycare, Greenway has provision for students and volunteers at the Centre and respite referrals. Greenway's childcare services have been developed in response to local needs and have been successfully supporting children and their parents/carers for over twenty five years.

Contact: Lindsay Cooper
childcare@greenwaywomenscentre.org

Family Support Services

Greenway's Family Support Services have been designed to give families an opportunity to develop friendships, reduce isolation and engage in information sessions, parenting workshops and stress management, as well helping to develop skills and tools to deal with the issues associated with parenting.

Contact: Isobel Loughran
familysupport@greenwaywomenscentre.org

Education & Training

Greenway offers a wide range of classes, delivered in an informal and supportive learning environment. Through our Education and Training programmes, including the Live and Learn Programme and Essential Skills Support, Greenway provides opportunities for women to gain skills and qualifications in subjects such as ICT, as well as enjoy the therapeutic benefits of classes such as Yoga or Creative Ceramics.

Contact: Helen Smyth
training@greenwaywomenscentre.org

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers play a pivotal role in Greenway Women's Centre's ability to provide services to women and their families in the local community. Greenway offers volunteering opportunities in a number of areas, including childcare, reception and admin, as well as the Greenway Drop-In. As Greenway's main volunteer project, the Drop-In is very popular with all those who use the Centre. The Drop-In is open daily, from 10am to 1pm and offers tea, coffee and homemade scones at very competitive prices. Drop-In volunteers also cater for all events held at Greenway.

Contact: Kirsty Richardson
manager@greenwaywomenscentre.org

Events

Greenway hosts a number of special events each year, including Women's Information Days, Family Support events, and much more.

Other Groups at Greenway

One of the goals at Greenway Women's Centre is to encourage the development of, and whenever possible provide space for, a wide range of supportive groups and organisations and over the years Greenway has built up strong working relationships with many such groups and organisations. Greenway Women's Centre provides space, room hire and facilities for a number of local

groups which meet at the Centre on a regular basis, including Greenway's Weight Management Group, East & South Belfast Fibromyalgia Support Group and Write Here Write Now, a local writing group.

If you would like more information on room hire, facilities, or any of the services on offer at Greenway Women's Centre please contact Centre Manager, Kirsty Richardson.

Contact details:

Greenway Women's Centre

19 Greenway

Cregagh Estate

Belfast BT6 0DT

Tel: 028 9079 9912

Web: www.greenwaywomenscentre.org

Email: info@greenwaywomenscentre.org

EBCDA Registered as Access NI Umbrella body



EBCDA is now registered as an umbrella body to countersign applications for Access NI disclosures.

Access NI is the system for disclosure of an individual's criminal history. All organisations who wish to access criminal history disclosures for potential staff or volunteers need to register directly with Access NI (for a cost of £150) or if they don't want to register directly they can use an umbrella body.

For more information contact Jonny Currie at jonny@ebcda.org, Katy Purvis at katy@ebcda.org, or call 90 451512.

Social Investment Fund Update

The Northern Ireland Executive agreed on 22 March 2011 to the establishment of the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and monies totalling £80million over a four year period were subsequently allocated in the Budget. The high level aim of the Social Investment Fund is to reduce poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration in areas through area based interventions of significant scale which will be delivered in partnership with communities.

Following consideration of the issues emerging from the consultation final proposals on the operation of the Fund were brought to the Executive and agreed on 17 May 2012. The Fund will operate across nine Social Investment Zones with a Steering Group consisting of Community / Voluntary, Political, Statutory and Business representation established in each zone, to develop a strategic area plan.

Social Investment Zones

There will be nine zones in total, four in Belfast (Assembly constituencies), one in Derry / Londonderry and four others aligned to the Health and Social Care Trust & Children and Young People Strategic Partnership boundaries.

Steering Group Membership

Each Investment Zone will have a Steering Group to oversee and manage the area planning process, including engaging the wider community to identify evidence and prioritise needs and associated interventions for inclusion in the area plan. There will be a maximum of 14 representatives on each Steering Group who will be selected as follows:

Community and Voluntary

Officials will hold advertised public meetings at which everyone would be informed of the opportunity to submit nominations. All groups held on databases would be notified of the meetings and the timescales involved. The purpose of the meetings will be to outline the parameters for submitting nominations. Officials will consider and provide advice to Ministers who will then make the final decision. Ministers will see the full list of nominations in each zone. There will be a maximum of 4 community and voluntary reps per Steering Group.

Political

Officials will carry out an analysis of the elected representatives per zone and apply the D'Hondt method to determine political party membership. The Party will then decide who should sit on the Steering Group and whether it be an MLA or councillor. There will be a maximum of 4 political representatives per Steering Group.

Statutory

Officials will identify key statutory organisations for each zone and invite them to submit a nomination. Officials will consider and provide advice to Ministers who will then make the final decision. There will be a maximum of 4 statutory representatives per Steering Group and they will be expected to be at a senior level and have the authority to make decisions. There will also be flexibility for rotation of membership or to bring in a specific member for a temporary period when required on a particular issue.

Business

Officials will identify key business organisations and approach them for representation. There will be a maximum of 2 business representatives per Steering Group.

Eligibility

Areas will be expected to propose interventions based on objective evidenced need. Current Multiple Deprivation Measures do not always sufficiently measure rural and spatial deprivation against the 4 themes of SIF.

The eligibility is therefore as follows:

Areas within the top 10% most deprived Super Output Areas on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010.

Areas within the top 20% most deprived Super Output Areas on the key domains of income, employment, education and health.

Areas which can provide independently verified and robust evidence of objective need linked to the 4 strategic objectives of SIF.

State of the Sector VI launched

State of the Sector VI, produced by NICVA, is the latest edition in the State of the Sector research programme which dates back to 1997. The publication of each edition of State of the Sector represents another step in the evolution of this type of statistical analysis and, as such, adds to the already broad and in depth knowledge of the sector by examining many of the key issues currently affecting and shaping it.

State of the Sector VI provides high level statistics on the various types of resources available to the sector and the relationship between voluntary and community organisations, government, funders and the general public. The report can be downloaded from www.nicva.org.

Some key findings:

- There are approximately 4,836 voluntary and community sector organisations in Northern Ireland.
- The main source of funding income is from central government (34.2%), followed by the general public through charitable giving (29.7%), and a range of non-departmental public bodies and statutory agencies (17.4%).
- With regard to the major sub-sectors that form the overall voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland, 'community development' (15%) and 'children and families' (14%) are very much to the fore
- The top five most popular charitable causes are religious organisations, children and young people, medical research, health and disaster relief.



COMMUNITY PLANNING TOOLKIT

All you need,
wherever you are.

A new online toolkit was today launched to help Northern Ireland communities and Government work together to build a better future for local people.

Environment Minister Alex Attwood launched the new online Community Planning toolkit - developed by Community Places - at an event in BBC Blackstaff Studios in Belfast.

The online Toolkit is available at www.communityplanningtoolkit.org and is a comprehensive resource for Community Planning, a process that encourages public bodies and community organisations to work together to plan and provide better services for local people.

The toolkit will help communities across Northern Ireland build stronger relationships and gain a better understanding of the Community Planning process which will be introduced as part of the restructuring of local councils.

Launching the Toolkit, Environment Minister Alex Attwood said: "I am introducing community planning as part of the reform of local government. It will provide a framework within which Councils, government departments, statutory bodies, and other relevant agencies and sectors can work together to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of their area.

"It is based on engagement with the community and will ensure that citizens

have a more effective input into decisions that will affect them. The online Toolkit launched today is a combination of research, information, advice and best practice gathered together in one place. It will provide a valuable resource to all those involved in community planning across Northern Ireland."

Speaking at the Toolkit launch, Colm Bradley, Director of Community Places, said: "Community Planning is now firmly on the agenda and the public sector and communities across the region have a unique opportunity to work together to improve services and the quality of life in local communities."

He continued: "The Programme for Government has confirmed an 11 Council model and legislation for boundary changes has been presented to the Assembly.

"The pace of change is increasing and Community Planning is at the heart of this process. This online Toolkit, developed with funding from a learning contract awarded by the Big Lottery Fund, is an important resource that will help all communities understand and get involved in Community Planning so that better services and opportunities are developed for local people."

The Toolkit explores the key themes which are essential for effective Community Planning Practice including, Community Engagement and Working Together and

highlights and directs users to useful tools, resources, case studies and podcasts.

It is a valuable resource for all organisations interested and involved in Community Planning.

Commenting on the new Toolkit, Joanne McDowell, Big Lottery Fund NI Director, said: "Changes in the public sector in Northern Ireland will affect the way services for local communities are delivered. Community planning is an important part of this change and the Big Lottery Fund wanted to ensure voluntary and community sector bodies and groups had a resource to learn from this engagement process.

"The new online toolkit developed by Community Places is an important resource to help local people and organisations understand, learn about and get involved in this process so they can help to plan and shape services in their communities."

Community Places is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation which provides advice on planning issues to disadvantaged communities and individuals and support to community planning, consultation, research and building projects.

For further information please contact:

Louise McNeill, Community Places, on 028 9023 9444 or louise@communityplaces.info

C O M M U N I T Y D E V E L O P M E N T F R A M E W O R K

East Belfast Community Development Agency



**East Belfast's
Community
Development
Framework**

East Belfast's Community Development Framework

The framework, produced by EBCDA is now available from our offices or online at www.ebcda.org.

It offers a joined up vision for the future of East Belfast. Achieved through refocusing the skills, awareness, knowledge and experience of community development workers, the voluntary sector and the statutory sector to empower local people to speak and act on their own behalf and provide a framework that enables local groups to participate more widely in society.

The purpose of the Community Development Framework is to provide a document which contains principles that organisations can sign up to in terms of the delivery of community development in East Belfast.

As part of the underpinning process, of making the framework a success, organisations have agreed to have their names included in the document as being in support of the framework.

If your organisation would like to be included for the next re-print email joanna@ebcda.org.



TEMPLEMORE AVENUE SCHOOL East Belfast Network Centre

People's History Project

"The People's History Project" is an essential element to the success of the re-development of TAS and will involve pulling together the stories of people who attended the school as pupils, teacher or who were associated whilst it was in operation as a school.

The aim of the project is to involve local people in the re-development of TAS and ensure that a wide range of people will benefit from access to the project. We aim to develop a catalogue of personal accounts and photographs, which will be presented in exhibition format as a permanent fixture in the school. I have been interviewing people informally and gathering photographs and other documents that past pupils and teachers are very kindly offering to contribute to the project. We are also producing a book on Memories of Templemore Avenue School. Recently we started having monthly outings, which are a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with old friends, make new friends and have a cup of tea and a scone! Here is a taster of one of our most recent outings on the Titanic Explored Bus Tour and tour of The Thompson Dock and Pump House from one of the past teachers.

"We set out on a cold, wet morning for our tour of the Titanic Quarter and were immediately transported back to the old days as we boarded the double-decker bus. The tour took us down to the new Titanic building where we caught a glimpse of Samson and Goliath. Then, on down the Queen's Road to the time keeping office. The guide Ashleen kept us well informed of the history and the antics of the shipyard men. We saw the magnificent Drawing Office where the Titanic and so many great ships were planned and the enormous Paint Hall now bringing in money as a film studio.

After a quick look at HMS Caroline we reached the Thompson Dock, and in spite of the rain and cold we stood in awe as it brought home to us the size of Titanic and the skilled workmen who built the dock. The Pump House was another awesome experience and again we were made to appreciate the skills of the men, especially the Belfast-men who worked and planned, through a short film presentation.

We were all glad of the warm soup and coffee to end the tour and who could resist a visit to the gift shop! The day brought back many memories as we enjoyed the guide's information, stories and wit of the Yardmen who were on tour with us.

Many thanks to Emma for her planning and making our day so enjoyable."

Nell and Jim McDowell

For more information on the project or if you went to the school and want to get involved contact Emma Trueick, People's History Project Worker on 028 9045 1512 or email emma@ebcda.org.



C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

get set for digital

Digital Outreach is working to make sure that everyone in the area is ready for the big switch to digital TV on 24th October 2012. Over the next few months there will be lots of information in the press about how to get ready for switchover – we will be helping to cascade the key messages throughout East Belfast.

Key points to note;

- If you are watching five channels or fewer- you will need to convert your TV to digital
- You don't have to buy a new TV, almost all set can be converted with a digital box
- There is help available for older people and those less able to cope

Watch out for dates of information sessions in the area and if your community groups/organisation would like an information session for their members, contact Lorraine at the North Belfast Partnership Board (tele 02890-752990) or email lorraine.whittley@nthbp.org Local groups can also apply for funding through a Small Grants Scheme to run information events locally (info from Lorraine)

The BBC Switchover Help Scheme will provide help for anyone aged who is over 75 years, registered disabled or blind or partially sighted and they will write to you directly to ask if you want help.

For information on the Switchover Help Scheme call Lorraine or go to www.helpscheme.co.uk or call free on 0800 4085900. Textphone users can call 0800 4085936.

Director's Update.....

East Belfast Community Development Agency AGM and Information Seminar

This is simply an advance notice that EBCDA will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Friday 14 September 2012 from 9.30am to 12.30pm, venue to be confirmed. As part of the AGM we will be holding an information seminar on some of the latest developments that will have an impact on the community and voluntary sector in East Belfast. Some topics being considered are;

- Update on the Welfare Reform Bill,
- Review of Public Administration (RPA),
- Community Planning,
- Future Funding Opportunities etc

We are keen to include as many things as possible so if you have any suggestions as to what you might like to see included then please email michael@ebcda.org with your suggestions.

Templemore Avenue School/East Belfast Network Centre

Anyone who has passed the old Templemore Avenue School recently will see that great progress is being made. By the time you read this the roof and repointing of the entire building should be completed, then the work on the inside begins. The electrician has already been in marking out where things are to go and trenches have been dug for the new drainage system. Everything is still on schedule.

We are disappointed to report that the building will not now be home to East Belfast Surestart and a new Ballymacarrett library. In the end both organisations had to withdraw due to funding shortages. We are sorry to loose both organisations but we all know what funding is like in the current climate.

On the positive side we are in discussions with an organisation about basing a child care facility in the building and another organisation about basing their counselling service and offices within the building. So as the old saying goes when one door closes another one opens.

We still have some space left for rent in the building. So if you are in the community or voluntary sector in East Belfast, Belfast or Northern Ireland and your organisation or an organisation you know is looking to relocate into a newly developed building email michael@ebcda.org for further information.

Peoples History Project - Templemore Avenue School

We are still looking for documents, photos and individuals to interview. If you have any documents or photos or you went to the school, or if you know of someone who went to the school or someone who has photos or documents then please get in touch with Emma at EBCDA by email emma@ebcda.org, phone 028 9045 1512 or call into the office.

E B C D A C O N T A C T D E T A I L S

Michael Briggs: Director - michael@ebcda.org

Kim Briggs: Resource and Finance Manager - kim@ebcda.org

Jonny Currie: Community Support Manager - jonny@ebcda.org

Alan Houston: Health Development Worker - alan@ebcda.org

Chris Deconink: Health Development Worker - chris@ebcda.org

Sharon Traynor: Health Development Worker - sharon@ebcda.org

Trisha McQueen: Suicide Prevention Information Officer - trisha@ebcda.org

Katy Purvis: Volunteer Development Worker- katy@ebcda.org.

Emma Trueick: Good Relations Coordinator - emma@ebcda.org

Jean Higginson: Payroll/Finance Administrator - jean@ebcda.org

Marie Anne McMillan: Project Administrator - marie@ebcda.org

As always, the views and opinions expressed in this newssheet do not necessarily reflect those of EBCDA Board of Directors and Staff

Produced By:

East Belfast Community Development Agency

269 Albertbridge Rd

Belfast, BT5 4PY

Phone: 02890 451512

Fax: 02890 738039

Email: info@ebcda.org

www.ebcda.org

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Ways to stay connected with us:

1. Log onto www.ebcda.org

Visit EBCDA's website to access:

- EBCDA history, mission and aims
- Board and staff contact details
- Searchable database of community organisations in East Belfast
- Online clash diary to publicise community events and meetings. Contact Joanna at joanna@ebcda.org to submit information.

2. Sign up for our eBulletin

The eBulletin is an email newsletter which is sent out on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Items should be emailed to Joanna on the email address above by 11.00am on the Tuesday before.

Contact Joanna to be added to the email list for eBulletin.

3. "Like" our Facebook page

If you have a facebook account, search for "East Belfast Community Development Agency" and "like" us!