

East Belfast Community Development Agency

Annual Report 2006

Chair's Comments

The past 12 months have been another exciting and challenging time for East Belfast Community Development Agency. We have continued with our role of supporting and developing the community sector in East Belfast. You can see from the sections within this Annual Report the extensive and comprehensive nature of the work we have been involved in throughout the past 12 months.



One of the highlights for us this year was being nominated for a prestigious Community Contribution Award by The Junior Chamber of Commerce International (JCI). This was seen by the Board and staff as a strong reflection on the work that East Belfast Community Development Agency plays within the city of Belfast.

Our job this year has been made slightly easier by having our strategy for 2006-2010 **“From Challenge to Change”** and has allowed us to manage our work within a proper context. Our operational plan for 2006 has complemented our strategy and has ensured that we achieve all that we laid out in our Strategy and so has acted as our **“true north”**. The ever-changing environment for the Community Sector has of course brought its challenges for us as well and will continue to do so in the coming years but we will meet these challenges with confidence.

C.T. Kennedy
Cliff Kennedy, Chair

Director's Report

This has been another exciting, although challenging year for EBCDA. With big changes afoot in the funding environment and the full implementation of Neighbourhood Renewal, this has meant big changes for the community sector throughout Northern Ireland and obviously we see the manifestation of this in East Belfast. Despite this changing environment, we have continued to provide our core support services for the Community Sector in East Belfast and have continually developed new ideas and opportunities for the sector in East Belfast.

Local Community Fund

This year we concluded the third and final year of the Local Community Fund (LCF) for Inner East. We acted as agents for CFNI/DSD in administering over £460,000 involving local community groups and schools. It also saw the start of a new element of the LCF which targets the 10%-20% most deprived communities in N.I. This has resulted in approx £86,000 being made available for groups and schools in parts of Island Ward,

Bloomfield Ward and Sydenham Ward and we have managed this again on behalf of CFNI/DSD.

Conference 2006



Our conference this year, which was organised between Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and EBCDA, continued with the theme of “change” and targeted the

areas in East Belfast and Castlereagh that are outside the Neighbourhood Renewal areas of Inner East and Tullycarnet.

The conference was held in CFC Church and included guest speakers and workshops and was attended by 62 people from the community sector.

The conference was the first stage in developing work with groups in these areas that will hopefully lead to them not becoming the most deprived communities in East Belfast in the future, so this will form part of our work in 2007.

Networking Centre



Early in 2006 we began the process of looking at the possibility of developing the old Templemore Avenue School into a Networking Centre for

East Belfast. East Belfast Partnership assisted in sourcing the funding that allowed us to commission Community Technical Aid (CTA) to produce a report that would give us an idea of costs and concepts for the building.

We worked with a number of groups who we thought would be interested in being involved in the project.

It will take approx 3 years to realise a fully functional networking centre and £3-5 million, but would be a worth-while development for the sector in East Belfast.



Networking and Advocacy

In 2006 we represented a view from the sector in East Belfast to the wider environment in Northern Ireland. We did this by developing and maintaining contact with MLAs, Councillors, MP, BCC, Inner East Forum, E B Partnership, Castlereagh Council, NICVA, S&E Health & Social Care Group, Community Development Networks Forum, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, Co-Operation Ireland, DSD/BRO and Minister Hanson.

Michael Briggs, Director

Community Resource and Finance Services

Within the Resource Department we continue to offer the following services – photocopying (including colour copying), typing, laminating, collating and binding.

One of the growing sections we have found to be is that of information sharing. We have over 300 groups and they have provided us with their email address which enables us to forward, in a short period of time, any relevant information that might be of interest to them. Our meeting room, now that we have new tables and a full multimedia system, has also seen an increase in use.

Within our Finance Department we continue to provide payroll services, independent examinations and finance advice. We have, as part of the Committees Embracing Change Programme, worked with some groups in developing and adapting a Finance Policy for their Organisation.

We also make all our written policies available to the sector in East Belfast for adaptation and reference purposes. These policies include:-

- - Health & Safety
- - Staff Handbook (detailing conditions of employment)
- - Finance Policy
- - Anti-fraud

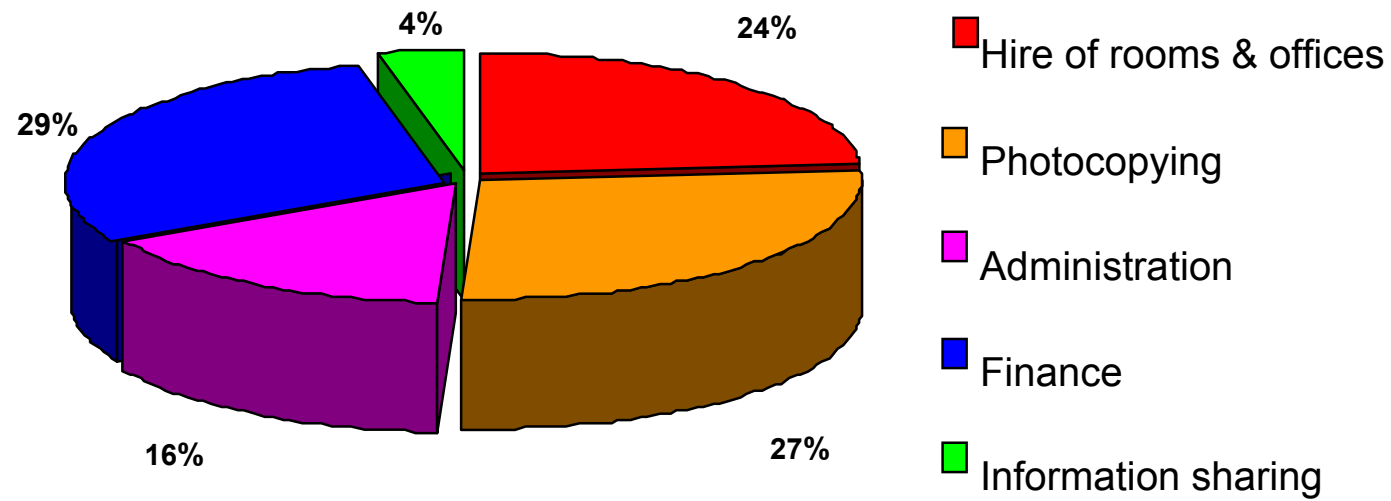
Our biggest piece of work this year was the final stages of administration the Local Community Fund 2005/2006. The budget for the fund was broken down as follows:-

- - £43,430 - 5 schools
- - £335,250 - 30 groups (main grant)
- - £36,414 - 14 groups (small grant)

Community Resource and Finance Services continue to provide administration and financial management for EBCDA, as well as managing the building and services related to this.


Kim Wightman, Finance/Office Manager

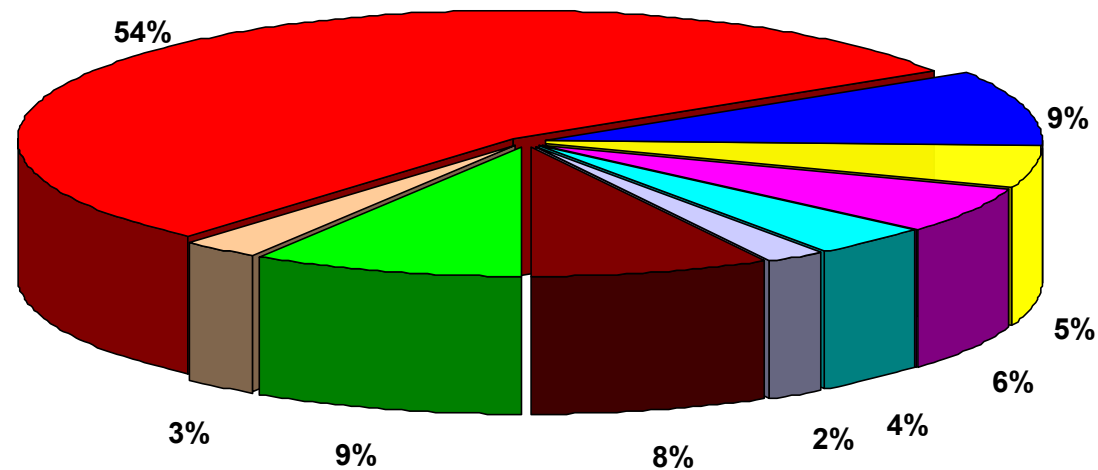
Breakdown of Community Resource & Finance Services used by Groups



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Agency's total income for 2005/2006 was £543,429 and total expenditure was £494,516. Therefore income exceeded expenditure by £48,913. The following graphs show where our money came from and how it was spent. A full set of our accounts can be obtained from the offices of EBCDA.

Where Our Money Came From



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL £48,190

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR N.I. £297,085

DSD - VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY UNIT £27,323

LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND £21,614

SELF-GENERATED AND DONATIONS £42,816

BELFAST LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP £13,886

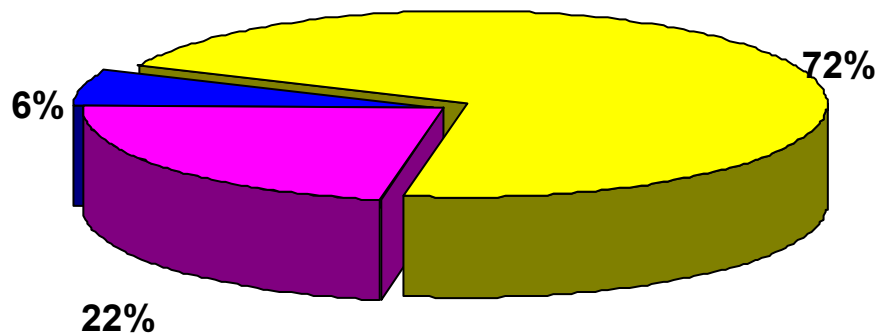
DSD - BELFAST REGENERATION OFFICE £51,165

EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD £31,217

S & E BELFAST HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE GROUP £10,133

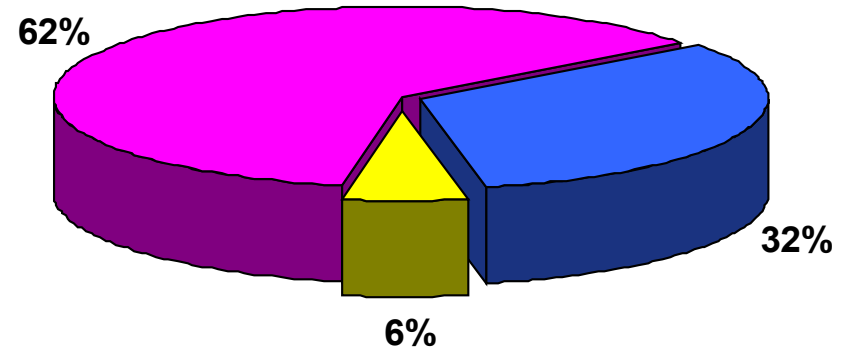
How We Spent Our Money

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 82%



- STAFF COSTS £90,596
- RUNNING COSTS £25,556
- PROJECT COSTS £287,440

GOVERNANCE COSTS - 18%



- STAFF COSTS £56,374
- RUNNING COSTS £29,248
- PROJECT COSTS £5,302

Community Support/Capacity Building

This year has seen the Community Support Programme move into its fourth year and continues to develop groups in East Belfast, support their work, provide a range of networking and training opportunities and encourage capacity building through the provision of various baseline services.

Support, Advice and Resources

We have continued to provide support to groups through assistance with sourcing funding, completing application forms, setting up as a new group, registering as a charity, managing projects. Several Organisations have had support to access grant-tracker and I also developed two new sections for our Community Advice Pack – the first outlining the issue of insurance and the second providing information to assist in completing funding applications.

Involvement in various working partnerships has led to EBCDA helping to implement a wide range of events and community activity, for example: rolling out the Arterial Routes

Scheme, Streetreach 2006 and a Community Health Fair in Avoniel Leisure Centre, and I was pleased to be involved in so many excellent and worthwhile projects.

Networking

We have continued to facilitate a range of networking opportunities throughout the year, including the Community Workers' Forum, Youth Workers' Forum and the



Social Economy Stakeholders' Forum all of which are increasingly growing from strength to strength.

We also began a series of '*information and networking*' events to provide workers and volunteers with an opportunity to learn more about the issues that affect them in their work and to share information about their work in East Belfast.

The first event saw teams of community workers competing against each other in W5 challenges, and the second involved speed networking where all participants agreed that the exercise had been of great value but that they had definitely earned their tea and coffee!

Information and Training

Email, our newssheet, and the clash diary, produced quarterly, have been packed with details about community organisations' events, projects, opinions and successes.

A major programme we have developed and managed this year has been the Committees Embracing Change Programme, funded under Belfast City Council's Neighbourhood Economic Development Programme. Ten management committees have participated in an extensive range of training modules including Using the Media, Using PQASSO – a Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations, Professional Financial Management, Developing a Long-term Financial Strategy, The Changing Community Sector and many others.

The programme was designed to encourage committees to be better prepared to manage their Organisations and was put together in response to Government's Positive Steps



document which said *“we will increasingly require evidence of quality standards as a pre-requisite for funding support; we will put in place mechanisms to*

check that systems of governance and accountability are sufficient and adequate for the disbursement of public money”.

Participants have been very positive about the programme which is due to finish in March 2007.

Other training organised this year included 'Understanding and Using NINIS', 'First Aid at Work', and a challenging 'Women into Politics' workshop.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonia Anderson".

Sonia Anderson, Community Support Worker

Health & Social Connections Programme

It has been one year since the Health & Social Connections Programme began. It has been a year of getting to know communities, people, and the organisations they work for and also finding out the lay of the land in terms of health improvement work in East Belfast. Contact has also been made with a wide range of community, voluntary and statutory stakeholders around the theme of health and well-being improvement. Furthermore a Programme Advisory Group has been established and has met three times to-date.

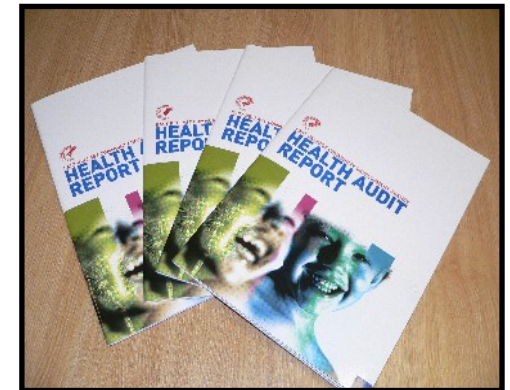
Health Audit Report

One of the core objectives in the first year was to produce a mapping report which reflected existing health activity across East Belfast and Castlereagh.

Whilst the research took a bit longer than expected to complete we received an excellent response from workers and organisations respectively, which in turn has provided EBCDA with the information to inform the Health Audit Report.

It was an interesting piece of research to undertake due to the fact that people on the ground referred to health initiatives they were involved in such as healthy eating, cancer awareness and exercise classes.

Primarily these have an impact on our health, but if we look a little deeper we realize that there are various other determinants which impact on our health such as access to education, access to affordable housing, the ability to develop our skills. One of the main aims of the programme over the coming year therefore is to enable community workers to make the 'connections' between the work that they do and how this assists in reducing health inequalities in their local communities.



Woodstock Ethnic Minority Support Network

I have represented EBCDA on the above network over the past year and was actively involved in the collation of its Ethnic Minority Welcome Pack. The network exists to identify and address issues specific to all black/ethnic minorities living and working within East Belfast eg English language classes, access to advice and information, and health services.

Networking

Over the past year I have facilitated 3 health information sessions, attended 3 conferences and numerous other networking/information sharing events.



I currently represent EBCDA on the SEBT/Investing for Health Mental Health Community of Interest. More recently I was invited to sit on the Community Development Health Networks 'Building the Community/Pharmacy Partnership'.

This has been an excellent opportunity to network with statutory workers and to gain a better understanding of how better to influence policy development at a Government level.

I'd like to say thank you for your support in developing the Health Connections Programme and my thanks to all the staff at EBCDA for making me feel so welcome, and also to all the respondents of the Health Mapping Exercise who kindly completed the lengthy questionnaire.

Justine Brown

Health & Social Connections Worker

Full Members 122 in Total

- Ace Ventures
- Ardcarne Residents' Association
- Ashfield Boys' High School
- Ashmount Community Association
- Aslan Association
- Ballybeen Improvement Group
- Ballybeen Men in Focus
- Ballybeen Women's Centre
- Ballymac Friendship Trust
- Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society
- Ballymacarrett Group of Churches
- Ballymacarrett Self Help Group
- Ballymacarrett Visual Arts
- Ballymacarrett Youth & Community Project
- Belfast Community Housing Association
- Belfast East Seniors' Forum
- Belmont Council of Churches
- Belmont Tower
- Blind Centre for N Ireland
- Bloomfield Community Association
- Bytes Computer Centre
- Carryduff Playcare/Playgroup
- CEHT
- Clanmil Housing
- Clara Park Tenants' & Residents' Association
- Clarawood 50+ Club
- Clarawood Community Association
- Community Crèche
- Community Restorative Justice
- Connections
- Contact Youth Counselling Services
- Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup
- Crown Project
- Dalry Park Residents' & Tenants' Association
- Dee Street Community Centre
- Doyle Youth Club
- Drug Awareness
- Dundonald Cultural Society

- Dundonald Village Regeneration Group
- East Belfast Anti-Racist
- East Belfast Alternatives
- East Belfast Churches Forum
- East Belfast Community Education Centre
- East Belfast Community Focus
- East Belfast Concerned Women's Group
- East Belfast Enterprise
- East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
- East Belfast Mission
- East Belfast Talking Newspaper
- East Belfast Youth Forum
- Emmanuel
- Entertainers' Group
- Friends of Edgcumbe ATU
- Gae Lairn
- Glenluce Quality Caring Centre
- Great Wars Historical & Cultural Group
- Greenway Women's Group
- Happy Tots Playgroup
- Inner East Forum
- Inner East Youth Project
- Inverary Community Centre
- Inverary Community and Environmental Group
- Joel's Place
- Kinross Residents' & Tenants' Association
- Kirn Park Residents' & Tenants' Association
- Knocknagoney Community Centre
- Ledley Hall Playcare Club
- Leven Park Residents' & Tenants' Association
- Lochinver Residents' & Tenants' Association
- Longstone Community Association
- Lord Street Tenants' & Residents' Association
- Lower Castlereagh Community Group
- Lower Woodstock Community Association
- Man Akin
- Men United
- Mersey Street Area Residents' Association
- Mersey Street Primary School
- Moneyrea Women's Institute

- Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
- Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
- Oak Partnership
- Oasis – Caring in Action
- Old Mill Senior Citizens' Club
- Orangefield Youth Sports Club
- Oval Club
- Round Tower Community Projects
- Short Strand Afterschool Club
- Short Strand Community Centre
- Short Strand Community Forum
- Short Strand Festival
- Short Strand Men's Group
- Short Strand Parent & Toddlers
- Short Strand Playcare Group
- Short Strand Residents' Group
- Short Strand Special Needs
- Short Strand Women's Group
- St Matthew's Community Association
- St Matthew's Darts Club
- St Matthew's Guide Unit
- Strandtown Primary School
- Swann Training Services
- Sydenham Cross-Community Support Centre
- Synergy Park
- TAGIT
- The Academy of Ulster-Scots (Ullans) Ltd
- The Beat Initiative
- The Bridge Community Association
- The Centre
- The Forward Group
- The Hopefuls
- Tra Ghearr Ex-Prisoners
- Tullycarnet Community Forum
- Tullycarnet Young Men's Group
- Vionville Residents' Association
- Walkway Community Association
- Walkway Women's Group
- Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
- Willowfield Parish Community Association

- Women's Weekly
- Workmatters Job Club
- Young Men's Education Group
- Young Women's Group

Associate Members 100 in Total

- Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh
- Arches Drama Group
- Ashfield Girls' High School
- Avoniel Leisure Centre
- Avoniel Primary School
- Ballyoran Old Tyme Dance & Social Group
- BCC Community Support Unit Level 5
- BCC Neighbourhood Office
- Beechfield Primary School
- BELB Creative Youth Partnerships
- Belfast City Council/NI Housing
- Belfast Education & Library Board
- Belfast Gems

- Belfast Interface Project
- Belmont Church Lunch Club
- Belvoir Thursday Night S.C. Club
- BIFHE
- Bloomfield Community Initiatives
- Braniel Over 60s Club
- Campbell College

- Castlereagh College
- Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
- Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership
- Castlereagh Youth Office – SEELB
- CAUSE for Mental Health
- Community Services, Castlereagh Council
- Creating Common Ground
- Cregagh and District Old Peoples' Club
- Dundela Forum Association
- Dundonald Green Belt Association
- Dundonald High School
- East Belfast Area Youth Project

- East Belfast Beacon Centre
- East Belfast Citizens' Advice Bureau
- East Belfast Partnership
- East Belfast UUP Advice Centre
- EBCHIP (East Belfast Healthy Living Centre)
- Elmgrove Primary School
- Engage With Age
- Enterprise Ulster
- Euston Street Primary School
- Evergreens, Cregagh Presbyterian Church
- First Friends
- Gingerbread NI
- Golden Years Club
- Green Action
- Highway of Holiness Ministries
- Home-Start East Belfast
- Inner East Belfast Sure Start
- Investing for Health
- Knock Parent & Toddler Group
- Knocknagoney Over Sixties Club
- Knocknagoney Primary School
- Lagan Watersports Centre
- Laganside
- McArthur Nursery School
- McMordie Scout Group
- Megain Memorial Silver Liners' Club
- Mersey Street Mums & Tots
- Mountpottinger Methodist Church
- NI Political Collection, Linen Hall Library
- NEA (NI)
- Nettlefield Primary School
- Newtownbreda Women's Institute
- NICAS
- NIHE District 2
- Northern Ireland Childminding Association
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Orangefield Friendship Group
- Overflow
- Park Avenue Free Methodist Church
- Pedestrians' Association/Living Streets

- Playboard
- PMS & PND Support
- Probation Office (Newtownards Road)
- Rubicon
- S & E Belfast Health & Social Services Trust
- S & E Belfast Health & Social Care Group
- S & E Belfast Trust Community Development Unit
- Short Strand Drugs Awareness Group
- Strand Presbyterian Church
- Strandburn Residents' Association
- Strathearn School
- Sydenham Infants' School
- The Bytes Project
- The Church's Ministry of Healing
- The Junction Club
- Tor Bank School
- Tots & Co (Mothers & Toddlers)
- Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
- Tullycarnet Library
- Tullycarnet Presbyterian Indoor Bowling Club
- Tullycarnet Primary School
- Tullycarnet Yarnspinners
- Ulster People's College
- Wandsworth Community Association
- Willowfield Church of Ireland
- Willowfield Credit Union
- Youth Conference Service, Youth Justice Agency
- YouthAction Northern Ireland

- Rev Mervyn Gibson
- Anne Martin
- Des Meredith
- Paulene Morton
- Jim Ferguson (*Deceased, May 06*)
- Sam Lamont – Co-Option
- Jan Costello – Co-Option
- Gordon Walker – Co-Option (*Resigned April 06*)

Board of Directors

- Cliff Kennedy - *Chair*
- Janice Cherry - *Vice-Chair*
- Bernie McConnell - *Hon Secretary*
- Billy Kennedy - *Hon Treasurer*
- Rev David Brown
- Rachael Davison
- Sammy Douglas

Staff

- Michael Briggs - *Director*
- Sonia Anderson - *Community Support Worker*
- Kim Wightman - *Finance/Office Manager*
- Justine Brown – *Health & Social Connections Worker*
- Ian Mckee – *Volunteer Development Worker*
- Jean Higginson - *Payroll/Finance Administrator*
- Barbara Haig - *Project Support/Admin Worker*

- Rose Sidey – *Part-time Project Support/Admin Worker*
(Until Sept 06)

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