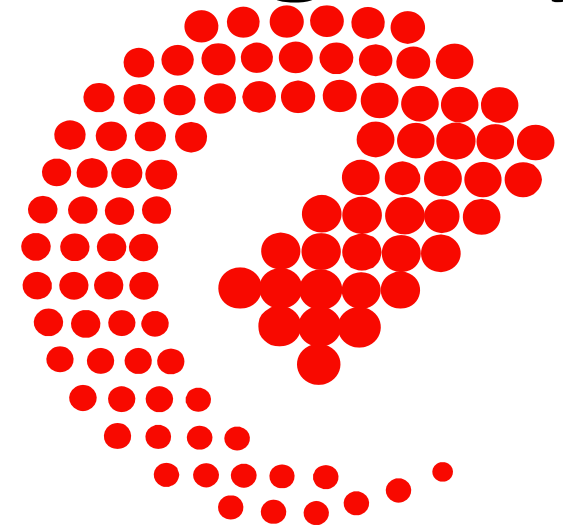


East Belfast Community Development Agency



***Annual Report
April 2007 – March 2008***



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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 which hopefully you can get a better flavour of within this report. You can see from the sections within this Annual Report the extensive and comprehensive nature of the work we have been involved in.

The staff team within the agency has almost doubled over the year and we welcome Joanna, Marie-Anne, Alan and Danny to our committed team within EBCDA. We also said goodbye to Barbara, who retired in December and who had been with us for 16 years.

Our operational plan for the year has complemented our strategy for 2006-2010 **“From Challenge to Change”** and this has allowed us to manage our work within a proper context.

Our pursuit of developing a network centre for the sector in East Belfast has taken another step forward, but it is a long process, although we are committed to making this a reality for East Belfast. The ever changing environment for the Community Sector has of course brought its challenges for us and will continue to do so in the coming years, but we will meet these challenges with confidence and action.

East Belfast Community Development Agency has a highly skilled and committed staff team and we are grateful for their continued commitment. Despite all our Board members being volunteers, the time, effort and commitment that they give to the agency is very much appreciated.

As ever we are extremely grateful to our funders BRO/DSD, VCU/DSD, Investing for Health, Belfast City Council, CFNI, Belfast Health Trust and East Belfast Partnership.

Cliff Kennedy, Chair



Director's Report

The chair has already stated within his comments this has been another challenging year for EBCDA. The biggest challenges being the ever changing 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 these ever more daunting challenges, we in East Belfast Community Development Agency 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

We continued with our support for groups in making the LCF happen again in East Belfast. This round of LCF started in April 2006 and was a new element of the LCF which targets the 10%-20% most deprived communities in N.I., it will finish in March 2009. In 2007/2008 this has resulted in approx

£86,000 being made available for groups and schools in parts of Island Ward, Bloomfield Ward and Sydenham Ward. We have continued to work with CFNI to manage the LCF on behalf of DSD in East Belfast.

Connswater Community Greenway

Most people will be aware that East Belfast Partnership had made an application to the National Lottery for £23.5m to bring the Connswater River back into community use. EBCDA had responsibility for carrying out the community consultation for the Greenway. We were pleased when the Project was successful and got financial support from the Lottery and Belfast City Council and are awaiting a decision from DSD, which they are confident will happen in April 08.





Networking Centre



We have continued to pursue the development of the old Templemore Avenue School into a Network Centre for East Belfast. As with all projects of this size things take longer than you might expect. An extremely important element of the development of the old school is in the support of the Princes Regeneration Trust. We have worked hard at this and feel we have them on board and have their full support in making the Network Centre happen in the coming years.



An application has been made to DSD Modernisation Fund and applications will be submitted to Peace III, IFI and Lottery Heritage Fund. Putting all the planning elements together will take 18 months and the build will take 18 months at a cost of approx £5m, so we should be opened for business in 2012.

Networking and Advocacy

As an Agency we continued throughout 2007/2008 to represent a view from the sector in East Belfast to the wider environment in Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and other parts of the UK. We also continued to develop and maintain contact with MLAs, Councillors, MP, Belfast City Council, Inner East Forum, E B Partnership, Castlereagh Council, NICVA, S&E Health & Social Care Group, Community Development Networks Forum, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, Co-Operative Ireland DSD, VCU and BRO and we are grateful to The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland for both financial and practical support in our work.



Michael Briggs, Director



Community Support Unit

Support, Advice and Information

During the year I continued to provide support to groups with regards to sourcing, applying for and managing funding, setting up a group and governance issues and provided a signposting service for both new and existing staff and groups. Our quarterly newsheet and clash diary, along with our twice monthly email bulletins, were distributed throughout the year and I would like to thank all members who contributed information and photographs to be included.

Training and Networking

As in previous years I have responded to training needs as they arise by organising various courses, seminars and events - including a Funding Month which involved a 2 day accredited Fundraising training course, 1-1 grant-tracker and financial management sessions and a funding information evening. The Community Workers Forum is still going strong and meetings provide a valuable networking and peer support function every 6 weeks to community workers and volunteers.

Lobbying Project

Funded by CFNI Bill of Rights Programme, a 2 month pilot lobbying project was successfully held at the end of 2007.



The programme involved community workers and volunteers completing a session on using a rights based approach to community development; a one day training course on the Bill



of Rights; a two day training course on lobbying skills (including information on how the new Assembly works); 2 learning visits to organisations in North and West Belfast who have successfully lobbied; and an educational visit to Stormont. This included face-to-face question and answer time with each of the political party advisors. The project finale was a Panel Question & Answer session where over 50 attendees had the opportunity to question and network with politicians. We were pleased with the level of engagement from our local party representatives. The panel included: Sir Reg Empey MLA, Carmel Hanna MLA, Naomi Long MLA, Dawn Purvis MLA, Rt Hon Peter Robinson MP MLA and Steven Agnew (representing the Green Party). Evaluation of the project highlighted how valuable participants found the programme and proved the need to run this type of project in East Belfast again.

Ford Fellowship Programme

This year I attended the Ford Fellowship which offers candidates from 6 different countries each year the opportunity to visit New York for 3 weeks to develop their

community leadership capacities. I was joined by 3 others from Northern Ireland, 5 from Sudan, 4 from Israel, 2 from Sri Lanka, 2 from Costa Rica and 4 from Russia. We visited various community organisations, met with business and government representatives, learned from each other about community development in our respective countries, went on guided tours of Harlem, Brooklyn and Manhattan to see mixed and changing communities and attended a global community leadership course at Columbia University.

The days were long as our hosts, the 92nd St Y, wanted us to experience as much as possible in our 3 weeks but the 'craic' was good and the opportunity for making contacts was even better.



Sonia Anderson, Community Support Unit Manager



Community Resource and Finance Services

The Resource department has seen a change of staff in 2007. Barbara Haig (who had been with us for over 15 years) retired from her post of Receptionist/Administrator. Everyone who was in touch with EBCDA during Barbara's time will remember her unique and valuable contribution to the agency. We wish Barbara well in her retirement.

We had two new members of staff start with us at the end of 2007. Joanna Loudon is now our Receptionist /Administrator and Marie Anne McMillan is the Administrator for Health Development and Connections Programme.

We continue to offer the following services to all community groups – photocopying (including colour copying), typing, collating and binding, laminating and room hire.

Our finance department continues to provide payroll services, independent examinations and finance advice for the sector.

At our funding evening in 2007 we offered financial training and this was taken up by several groups. The main theme of the training was financial procedures, and during the sessions with the groups, we helped them draw up financial policies for their organisations. We again this year carried out the administration of the Local Community Fund 2007/2008. The areas covered this year were three of the super output areas and the grants awarded were as follows:

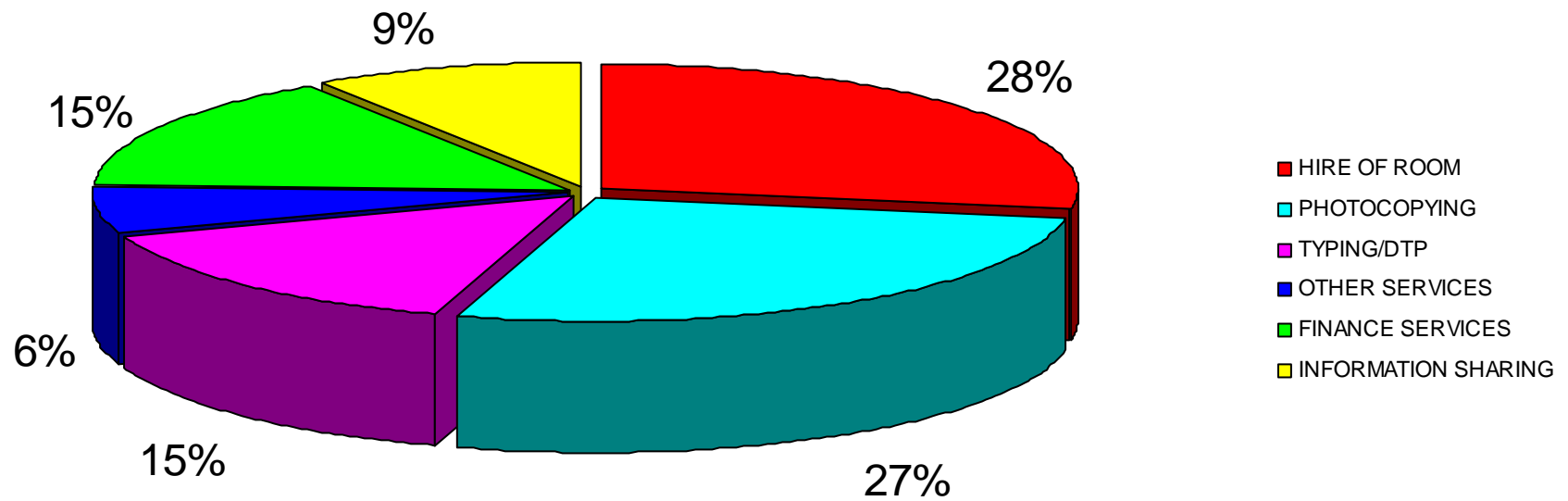
✿ Island	(SOA 2)	£32,955
✿ Sydenham	(SOA 1)	£22,242
✿ Bloomfield	(SOA 1)	£22,040

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

Kim Wightman, Finance/Office Manager



BREAK-DOWN OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND FINANCE SERVICES USED BY GROUPS

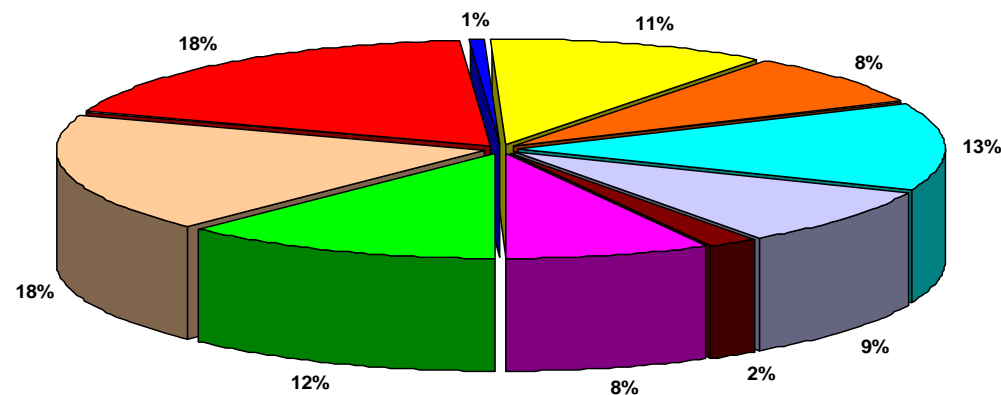




FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Agency's total income for 2007/2008 was £402,972 and total expenditure was £411,215. Therefore expenditure exceeded income by £8,243. The following pie charts 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

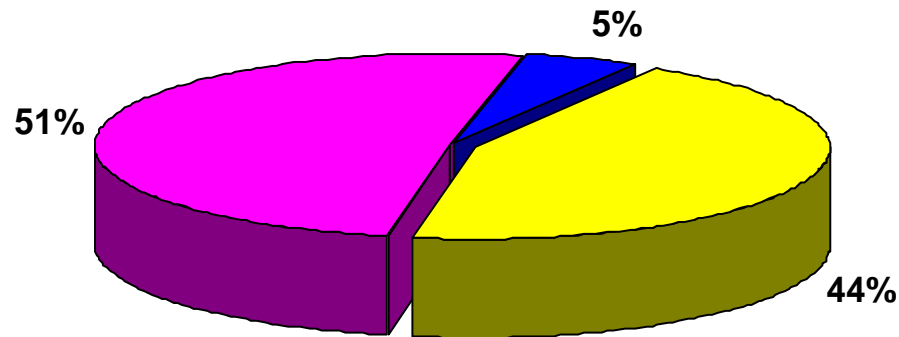


- BELFAST CITY COUNCIL £49,250
- DSD - BELFAST REGENERATION OFFICE £74,663
- DSD - COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND £42,432
- EHSSB - WELLNET £53,298
- SMALL GRANTS £8,318
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR N.I. £73,235
- DSD - AREAS AT RISK £2,286
- EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD £32,390
- EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP £35,880
- SELF-GENERATED AND DONATIONS £31,220



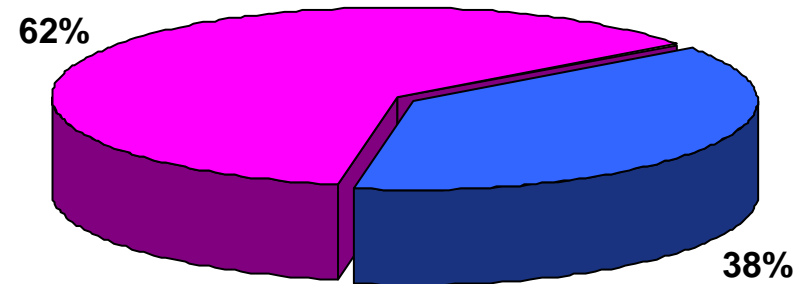
How We Spent Our Money

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 78%



- STAFF COSTS £101,948
- RUNNING COSTS £27,060
- PROJECT COSTS £230,246

SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS - 22%



- STAFF COSTS £65,836
- RUNNING COSTS £34,387



Health Development & Connections Programme

This year we saw the development of this new programme. Danny McShane and Alan Houston were employed as Health Development Workers in November 2007 joining Justine Brown, Health Connections Worker. The beginning of this programme was very much focused on establishing and strengthening communities within East Belfast to address issues around health and well-being and pick up on the excellent work established by EBCHIP over 5 years.

Lay Health Information Workers

An important priority for the Programme was to re-engage with the lay health information workers and work with them to develop a program of action for each neighbourhood group. Planning days held with each of the neighbourhood groups resulted in identifying priorities for work, setting up organisational structures and sharing group roles and responsibilities. We will continue to support and develop these groups in the coming year.

The Wise Men of the East Network

The Network meets monthly and the partnership remains strong and this has helped to plan a more sustainable financial planning process.

A draft business plan has been produced and stakeholder meetings are underway. A new signposting leaflet and two



nutrition leaflets were produced and launched in co-operation with Glentoran Trust at the Oval. A position paper showing the results of a men's

health service pilot at Woodstock Lodge has also been drafted with a view to developing stakeholder's engagement in the months ahead.



The N. I. Regional Healthy Living Centre Alliance

We represent East Belfast on the Alliance. We have contributed to a regional response to the RPA health consultation and developed a model position paper to help promote the approach of HLC's. Meetings with health spokespersons from political parties helped to establish what the Department of Health's position is on the evaluation of Health Living Centres commissioned by them in 2007.

Health & Well-Being Week

The Health & Well-Being week had a series of events which included a Contemporary Dance Program, Stress Management Morning, Older Mens Health MOTs, Older Peoples Physical Activity & Emotional Well-Being Afternoon, Ethnic Minority Health Info Day, an East Belfast Health Fair and a Community Worker Health & Well-Being Quiz. The event was very successful with approximately 450 people attending.



Mental Health & Emotional Well-Being

Survivors of Suicide Group have secured resources through the EHSSB Suicide Prevention funding on a 3 year recurrent basis. We commissioned a piece of mental health research – exploring working relationships within the Mental Health Community of Interest in South & East Belfast. The research identified a number of key recommendations, which will be taken forward by our Programme.

Minority Ethnic Communities in East Belfast

We have been working with EBEMSN on two key pieces of work: developing an Action Plan for the Network; and establishing baseline information on minority ethnic communities within East Belfast.

Justine Brown, Health & Social Connections Worker

Alan Houston, Health Development Worker

Danny McShane, Health Development Worker



Volunteer Development Project

We continue to help local East Belfast community groups and projects with the recruitment and management of their volunteers. The numbers of volunteers continues to grow and this has increased the capacity of groups to complete the work they are involved with. The recruitment of volunteers is still a key task in the projects overall objectives.

The volunteer vacancies have continued to become more diverse as the project expands the number of groups which we have contact with. This has enabled us to offer a wider choice to our potential volunteers of projects they can get involved with.

Volunteer Events and Training

This year we had committee members training which was facilitated by Community Change. This was well received by all those involved. We have been working in partnership with the Belfast Health Trust and the Institute of Counselling and Personal Development to establish a process of piloting the

Families Bereaved through Suicide initiative in East Belfast and have successfully recruited volunteers to take part in this.

Volunteer Networking

We continue to network with a variety of organisations to help increase the awareness of the project and the services it provides. We have recently made links



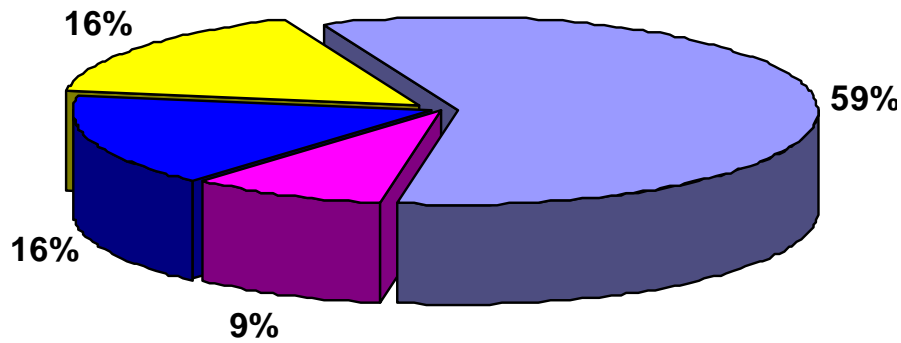
with RSPB, Youth Justice and the Orchardville Society. We also continue to strengthen our links with the two main Volunteer supporting agencies in Belfast, VSB and VDA, to help us keep up to date with the latest developments in the world of volunteering.

Ian McKee, Volunteer Development Worker



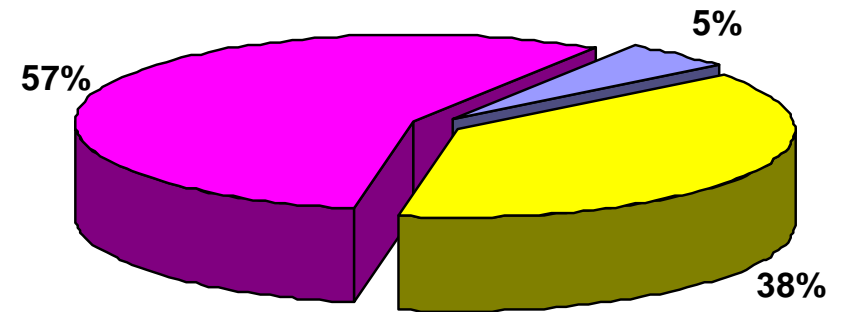
The following pie charts show a breakdown of the areas from which we received enquiries and also a breakdown of where volunteers were placed.

ENQUIRY ANALYSIS



- BT4
- BT5
- BT6
- OTHER

PLACEMENT ANALYSIS



- LOCAL GROUPS
- OUTSIDE EAST BELFAST
- INDIVIDUAL EVENTS



Sydenham Community Support Project

Since my appointment as Sydenham Community Support Worker in January 2007, the “Sydenham Community Partnership” has been established as a Constituted group in its own right. The membership of the Partnership, which at present consists of 16 participating organisations and growing, represents a significant expansion from the “Partnerships” initial inception and includes key stakeholders from the voluntary, statutory and community sectors.

Local Events for Local People

Now that local people are beginning to see action “on the ground” with various projects and community initiatives, I feel that support from within the area for the “Partnership” is definitely growing with more groups keen to become involved in helping to implement the DSD funded and approved Action Plan for the area. Since the turn of the New Year, the “Partnership” has been involved in staging several events, projects and initiatives within Sydenham.

In January, a “Family fun and Fitness Day” was very well attended, as was Liz Weir’s Storytelling day, both of which were held in Strand Presbyterian Church. I had pleasure in delivering the “Mini-soccer” coaching session as part of the fitness day.

Logo Competition

In February, the “Partnership” organised a community competition through local Schools and Youth groups to design a logo for the Sydenham Community Partnership, as part of one of our key objectives to create a



“shared identity” for the area. We received over 150 entries from young people in the community, which were displayed in Connswater Shopping Centre over the Easter weekend in March.



The winning logo is now used on “Sydenham Community Partnership” website and will also be used on all future correspondence relating to the Partnership.

The Competition was judged by Rev. David Thompson from Strand Presbyterian Church and he selected Morgan Allen’s entry, a pupil at Strand Primary School as the winner of a Family Pass to W5 at the Odyssey.

World Book Day Event

In March, I facilitated a “Storytelling, Rhyme and Music Session” for Sydenham Infants School as part of their “World Book Day Event”. The children



enjoyed the chance to join in with the “Gruffalo Story”, the images of which were displayed on a screen in the Assembly hall. They also loved singing traditional tunes accompanied with guitar and interactive rhymes and actions. 130 children took part and it was a very enjoyable session for all involved.

Training

Committee Skills training was also provided in March for “Partnership” members by Community Change. This was particularly relevant to the “Partnership” at the time as we were trying to establish committee roles within the group.

Youth Sub Group

A Youth Sub Group for Sydenham has been established as a sub-group to the “Partnership” and all the Key Youth workers from Sydenham are now involved. They meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues for young people in the area and are currently developing a programme of training and events.

March brought about the new official website for the “Sydenham Community Partnership” which can be accessed at sydenhamcommunitypartnership.com. It has been a very busy first few months for the Sydenham Community Partnership and many challenges still lie ahead. I will continue to build relationships, network and promote the aims and objectives of the “Partnership” on all levels

Chris Deconink - Sydenham Community Support Worker



Full Members 66 in Total

- ✿ Archway Youth Club
- ✿ Ardcarne Residents
- ✿ Ashfield Girls' High School
- ✿ Aslan Association
- ✿ Ballymac
- ✿ Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society
- ✿ Ballymacarrett Youth & Community Project
- ✿ Ballyoran Old Mill Bowls
- ✿ Bloomfield Community Association
- ✿ Braniel Over 60s Club
- ✿ Carryduff Playcare/Playgroup
- ✿ CEHT
- ✿ Church of Ireland, Ballymacarrett
- ✿ Clarawood 50+ Club
- ✿ Clarawood Community Association
- ✿ Clonduff Community Association
- ✿ Community Drug Awareness (The CODA Project)
- ✿ Covenant Love Church
- ✿ Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup
- ✿ Crossroads Project Limited
- ✿ Crown Project
- ✿ Dundonald Cultural Society
- ✿ Dundonald Village Regeneration Group
- ✿ East Belfast & Castlereagh Age Concern
- ✿ East Belfast Alternatives
- ✿ East Belfast Beacon Centre
- ✿ East Belfast Churches Forum
- ✿ East Belfast Community Focus
- ✿ East Belfast Concerned Women's Group
- ✿ East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
- ✿ East Belfast Mission
- ✿ East Belfast Partnership
- ✿ East Belfast Talking Newspaper
- ✿ Friends of Mullan Mews
- ✿ Greenway Women's Group
- ✿ Hilltop and Glenluce Care Limited
- ✿ Inner East Forum
- ✿ Inner East Youth Project
- ✿ Lagan Watersports Centre



- ✿ Links Women's Group
- ✿ Lower Castlereagh Community Group
- ✿ Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
- ✿ Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
- ✿ Oak Partnership
- ✿ Oasis Caring in Action
- ✿ Oasis Trading
- ✿ Old Mill Bowling Club
- ✿ PMS & PND Support
- ✿ Round Tower Community Projects
- ✿ Short Strand Community Forum
- ✿ Swann Training Services
- ✿ Sydenham Infants' Primary School
- ✿ The Academy of Ulster-Scots (Ullans) Ltd
- ✿ The Beat Initiative
- ✿ The Blind Centre of Northern Ireland
- ✿ The Bridge Community Association
- ✿ The Centre
- ✿ The Forward Group
- ✿ The Hopefuls
- ✿ The Rivers Community Project
- ✿ Tullycarnet Community Forum Ltd
- ✿ Walkway Community Association
- ✿ Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
- ✿ Wandsworth Community Association
- ✿ Willowfield Parish Community Association
- ✿ Youth Initiatives



Associate Members 87 in Total

- ✿ African Community Trust
- ✿ Age Concern Northern Ireland
- ✿ Avoniel Leisure Centre
- ✿ Ballybeen Women's Centre
- ✿ Ballymacarett Somme Festival
- ✿ Ballyoran Old Tyme Dance & Social Group
- ✿ Belfast City Council
- ✿ Belfast East Seniors' Forum
- ✿ Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Community Dev.)
- ✿ Belfast Institute (Belfast Metropolitan College)
- ✿ Belfast Public Libraries
- ✿ Belvoir Thursday Night Club
- ✿ Bestcellars Music Collective
- ✿ BHSCT - Investing for Health
- ✿ Belfast Improved Housing
- ✿ BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Community Enterprise)
- ✿ Braniel Primary School
- ✿ Bright Lights
- ✿ Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
- ✿ Castlereagh Council
- ✿ Castlereagh Libraries (SEELB)
- ✿ Castlereagh Youth Office
- ✿ Clara Park Tenants' & Residents' Association
- ✿ Community Association for Belvoir, Milltown & N'breda
- ✿ Conflict Transformation Initiative
- ✿ Conservation Volunteers
- ✿ Cregagh and District Old People's Club
- ✿ Cregagh Community Association
- ✿ Dundela Football Club
- ✿ Dundela Forum Association
- ✿ Dundonald Green Belt Association
- ✿ Dundonald High School
- ✿ East Belfast Anti-Racism
- ✿ East Belfast Area Youth Project
- ✿ East Belfast Citizens' Advice Bureau
- ✿ East Belfast Enterprise
- ✿ East Belfast Neighbourhood Office
- ✿ East Belfast Prince's Trust Team Programme



- ✿ East Belfast Sure Start
- ✿ East Belfast Ulster Unionist Advice Centre
- ✿ Elmgrove Primary School
- ✿ Emmanuel
- ✿ Engage With Age
- ✿ Equal Lives Action Group
- ✿ Gae Lairn
- ✿ Gems Northern Ireland Ltd
- ✿ Gingerbread NI
- ✿ Green Action
- ✿ Home-Start East Belfast
- ✿ Inverary Community Centre
- ✿ Knocknagoney Over Sixties Club
- ✿ Linenhall Library
- ✿ Live By the Word of God Ministry Grace & Mercy Assembly
- ✿ Lower Woodstock Community Association
- ✿ McMordie Scout Group
- ✿ Mersey Street Presbyterian Church Mothers & Toddlers Group
- ✿ Mountpottinger Methodist Church
- ✿ Newtownbreda Women's Institute
- ✿ NI Housing Executive - East Belfast Office
- ✿ NICAS
- ✿ NICMA - The Childminding Association
- ✿ Old Belmont School Preservation Trust
- ✿ Orangefield Youth Sports Club
- ✿ Playboard
- ✿ Police Service Community Safety Team
- ✿ Probation Board for NI
- ✿ Ravenhill Presbyterian Men's Fellows
- ✿ Rubicon
- ✿ See-Saw Playgroup
- ✿ Silver Liners Club (Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene)
- ✿ St Colmcille's Wednesday Club
- ✿ St Mark's Dundela Evergreens
- ✿ St Matthew's Guide Unit
- ✿ Strand Presbyterian Church
- ✿ Strand Primary School
- ✿ Strandburn Residents' Association
- ✿ Strathearn School
- ✿ The Belfast Sydenham Corps of the Salvation Army
- ✿ The Bytes Project
- ✿ Tor Bank School



- ✿ Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
- ✿ Tullycarnet Presbyterian Indoor Bowling Club
- ✿ Tullycarnet Primary School
- ✿ Tullycarnet Yarnspinners
- ✿ Ulster People's College
- ✿ Willowfield Credit Union
- ✿ Youth Justice Agency - East Belfast



Board of Directors

☀ Cliff Kennedy	<i>Chair</i>
☀ Janice Cherry	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
☀ Bernie McConnell	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
☀ Sammy Douglas	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
☀ Rev David Brown	
☀ Rachael Davison	
☀ Rev Mervyn Gibson	
☀ Thomas Lowry-Haggan	
☀ Anne Martin	
☀ Des Meredith	
☀ Pauline Morton	
☀ Sam Lamont	
☀ Joe Watson	

Staff

☀ Michael Briggs	<i>Director</i>
☀ Sonia Anderson	<i>Community Support Unit Manager</i>
☀ Kim Wightman	<i>Finance/Office Manager</i>
☀ Justine Brown	<i>Health & Social Connections Worker</i>
☀ Danny McShane	<i>Health Development Worker</i>
☀ Alan Houston	<i>Health Development Worker</i>
☀ Ian McKee	<i>Volunteer Development Worker</i>
☀ Chris Deconink	<i>Sydenham Community Support Worker</i>
☀ Jean Higginson	<i>Payroll/Finance Administrator</i>
☀ Joanna Loudoun	<i>Project Support/Admin</i>
☀ Marie Anne McMillan	<i>Health Project Administrator</i>
☀ Barbara Haig	<i>Project Support/Admin (until October 2007)</i>



T h a n k s

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank the following for both their financial help and practical assistance during the past year:

- ✿ Belfast City Council**
- ✿ Belfast Health Trust**
- ✿ BRO South & East Team**
- ✿ Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)**
- ✿ Co-Operation Ireland**
- ✿ DSD Voluntary & Community Unit**
- ✿ East Belfast Partnership**
- ✿ Investing for Health (Wellnet)**

....and of course our thanks to the Board of Directors and Staff for their continued commitment to the community sector in East Belfast.



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