Associate Members

Age Concern Northern Ireland
ArcheWay Youth Club
Avenue Leisure Centre
Avenue Primary School
Ballybeen Women’s Centre
Ballymac Town
Ballymacarrett Somme Festival
Ballymacarrett Old Tyme Dance & Social Group
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Council/NH Housing Executive
Belfast Community Housing Association
Belfast East Services’ Forum
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Cmnd Dav)
Belfast Improved Housing
Belfast Metropolitan College
Belfast Interface Project
Belfast Public Libraries
Belvoir & Mildmay Action Group
Belvoir Thursday Night Club
Bestellers Music Collective
BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Comm Enterprise)
Brenil Over 60s Club
Brenil Primary School
Bright Lights
Castlederg Borough Council
Castlederg Community Safety Partnership
Castlederg Libraries (SEELIB)
Castlederg Youth Offices
Clara Park Tenants & Residents’ Assoc
Conflict Transformation Institute
Conservation Volunteers
Connswater Womens Group
Cornduff Playcare/Playgroup
CROY - East Belfast Community Development Agency
EBCEC - East Belfast Community
Education Centre
EEAC - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
Friends of Mulvin News
Greenway Women’s Group
Inner East Forum
Inner East Youth Project
Logan Water Sports
Links Women’s Group
Lowry Castleseagh Community Group
Mountpottinger After School Kids
Newtownards Elmore East Pentecostal Church
Newtownards Road Women’s Group
NCAS
Our Partnership
Oasis Caring in Action
Oasis Trading
Old Ml Bowling Club
PMS & PND Support
Round Tower Community Project
Shap Strand Community Forum
Swarm Training Services
The Academy of Ulster Scots (Halted)
The Belit Initiative
The Bridge Community Association
The Centre
The Forward Group
The Hopefuls
The Rivers Community Project
Tulycarnet Community Support Services Ltd
Unwayway Community Association
Woodwards Area Residents’ Group
Woodwards Community Association
Wicklowfield Parish Church
Youth Initiatives
Gingerbread NI
Grum Action
Home-Start South and East Belfast
Invery Community Centre
The Junction Club
Knodroag Community Centre
Knodroag Over Sixties Club
Knodroag Primary School
Linehead Library
Live by the Word of God Ministries
Lower Woodstock Community Association
Mersay Street Presbyterian Church
Mountpottinger Methodist Church
NEA NI
Newtownbreda Women’s Institute
Nich Housing Executive – East Belfast Office
NMAC – the Childminding Association
Old Belmont School Preservation Trust
Open Door Housing Assoc – Inverary House
Opportunity Youth
Playboard
Probation Board for NI
PSNI Community Safety Team
Ravenshill Presbyterian Man’s Fellowship
RNB (Belfast Activity Programme)
Rubicon
Sea-Saw Playgroup
Silver Liners Group
Sirocco Youth
St Colme’s Wednesday Club
St Mark’s Evergreens
St Matthew’s Guidance Unit
Strand Presbyterian Church
Strand Primary School
Strandumond Residents’ Association
Symphony School
Sydenham Court
Sydenham House
Sydenham Infant’s Primary School
Sydenham Rest of the Salvation Army
The Bytes Project
Tor Bank School
Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
Tulycarnet Presbyterian Church
Bowling Club
Tulycarnet Primary School
Tulycarnet Vendors
Ulster People’s College
Willowfield Credit Union
Youth Justice Agency – East Belfast

Full Members

African Community Trust
Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh
Airdron Residents
Ashfield Boys’ High School
Ashfield Girls’ High School
Aslan Association
Askham Old Mill Bowls
Board of Directors
Cliff Kennedy Chair
Janice Cherry Vice-Chair
Bernie McConnell Hon. Secretary
Sanny Douglas Hon. Treasurer
Rev David Brown
Rachael Davison
Rev Mary Gibbons
Thomas Sandford
Des Mannagh
Liz Dillon
Stain Lambert Chair (Dec 2009)
Joe Watson Co-Chair
Beryl Carson Co-Chair

Staff Members
Michael Briggs Director
Jonny Currie Community Support Manager
Kim Briggs Finance/Office Manager
Alastair Houston Health Development Worker
Chris Dearden Health Development Worker
Danny McShintie Health Development Worker
Sharon Traynor Health Development Worker
Ian McGee Volunteer Development Worker
Joan Higgins Royal Victoria Hospital Administrator
Joan Louden Project Support/Admin
Marie Anne McTimian Health Project Administrator
Jane McCarthy Cleaner
Alec McAllister Caretaker

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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.
Chair’s Comments

I am pleased to present this Annual Report to you, in this our 60th year. The report provides an overview of the work of EBCDA for the period April 2009 – March 2010. During the 12 month period it has been an exciting and challenging time for the Agency. Fundamental to our role is targeting the specific needs of the community sector and acting as catalyst and advocate in supporting and developing the sector in East Belfast so that it can continue to exist.

In the past number of years we have consistently reminded the sector that we are in an ever changing environment and that this has of course brought its challenges for us as an organisation and will continue to do so in the coming 2-3 years, but we will meet these and act upon them.

Our pursuit of developing an East Belfast Network Centre, in the old Templemore Avenue School, has taken some major steps forward this year and we are committed to making this a reality for East Belfast.

As an organisation we welcomed Jonny Currie to the role of Community Support Manager. Sarah Lorimer joined us in February on a 6 month graduate programme to help us establish a Community Development Strategy for East Belfast. Jonny and Sarah join a highly skilled and committed staff team and the Board of Directors are grateful to all the staff for their continued commitment.

The time, effort and commitment of our Board of Directors, who are all volunteers, give to the agency is very much appreciated. As ever, we are extremely grateful to our funders BRD/SD, VCU/SD, Investing for Health, Belfast City Council, CFNI, Belfast Health Trust, East Belfast Partnership and the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) without whom we could not do our work.

Director’s Report

The period covered by this Annual Report has been a time of reflection and change for EBCDA. We have a new Community Support Manager, Jonny Currie, our 5 year strategy for 2005 – 2010 came to an end, the funding for our Health Programme concluded the Sydenham Community Support Project finished its 2 year programme and we began the process of renewing our membership base. Of course all of these things present to us opportunities to develop the organisation further and understand the importance of the role of the community sector in East Belfast.

Jonny has slotted right in and got stuck into the work. Working closely with the Board and Staff we have developed a new 5 year strategy for 2010 – 2015. The Health Programme received funding for 3 years through to 2013 and the Sydenham Community Partnership is managed by local groups on a voluntary basis, with admin support from us and we have increased our new members by 18%.

The biggest piece of work for us continues to be the development of Templemore Avenue School as an East Belfast Network Centre. This £4.3m development will provide an overview of the work of EBCDA for the period April 2009 – March 2010. The Health Programme received funding for 3 years through to 2013 and the Sydenham Community Partnership is managed by local groups on a voluntary basis, with admin support from us and we have increased our new members by 18%.

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The most important element of our work, which underpins everything we do, is of course people. The various pieces reported on within this Annual Report have resulted in EBCDA having contact with over 3000 people in the year. Our email list has grown and we now have over 300 organisations on the EBCDA website and through our fortnightly email bulletin.

Community Support Unit

Support this year included assistance with sourcing, applying for and managing funding, setting up new groups and implementing good governance within organisations. Support and signposting was also provided for new organisations ensuring that community work in East Belfast continues to remain cohesive and aware of partnership opportunities. We commenced research in areas of weak community infrastructure in East Belfast Ardcom, Bloomfield, Clarendon and Knocknagoney, with the purpose of working with local communities to develop action plans for their areas.

The Community Workers Forum continues to provide an important networking opportunity, meeting monthly with an average attendance of twenty-five and our “E-Mail” newsletter, remaining widely read, with three editions produced this year.

We also send out fortnightly email bulletins allowing us to bring up to date information to this sector quickly.

We delivered a lobbying programme aimed at helping people understand how they can use the N.I. Assembly. Information sessions on community planning, the Bill of Rights process, and the dormant accounts scheme were all an opportunity for the sector in East Belfast to have their say on these important issues.

We managed the Local Community Fund, for East Belfast, on behalf of CFNI as well as supporting a range of groups to work together and apply for specific pieces of funding to support and develop their work.

Community Resource & Finance

Even 60 years on we continue to offer the services of photocopying, typing, collating and binding, laminating and room hire to all community groups, particularly to small and newly emerging groups. Our Finance Team provides payroll services, independent examinations and finance advice for the sector. We have carried out a number of one to one finance training sessions with groups. Reaching out to small groups tells us it is very helpful in understanding the processes they need to implement for good financial management.

Advocacy and information are important elements of our work. In September 2008 we launched our newly revamped website and in March 2010 the website resulted in EBCDA having contact with over 3000 people in the year. Our email list has grown and we now have over 300 organisations on the EBCDA website and through our fortnightly email bulletin.

We assisted and encouraged a number of groups in East Belfast in the uptake of small grants. This year the Volunteer Project played a more active role with the Lay Health Information Workers (LHIW) in various communities, supporting the LHIW network in various aspects of good practice to encourage a healthy lifestyle. We also worked with Stepping Stone to complete a very successful “Test the Waters” programme.

We held two very successful Volunteer celebration events with Volunteer Now (formally VISB) and Castlereagh (Broughshane) Council celebrating volunteer involvement.

This included organising 7 Health Clinics over the year, encouraging early detection and prevention of Stroke, Heart Attacks and Diabetes as well as organising and facilitating health awareness programmes for the local community on identified health priorities.

Volunteer Project

We increased the number of volunteers recruited by 10% in this year, which is excellent for the sector. This year this has meant an increase in the number of community groups looking for volunteers, and these are advertised on the EBCDA website and through our fortnightly email bulletin.

Outside East Belfast

We assisted and encouraged a number of groups in East Belfast in the uptake of small grants for volunteers. Two groups were successful in their applications for grants.

We completed our survey about volunteering in East Belfast in attempt to present a picture of volunteering and volunteers in the area. The survey results will be published in late 2010.

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