

Board of Directors

Staff Members

Cliff Kennedy	Chair	Michael Briggs	Director
Janice Cherry	Vice-Chair	Kim Briggs	Resource and Finance Manager
Bernie McConnell	Hon Secretary	Jonny Currie	Community Support Manager
Sammy Douglas	Hon Treasurer	Alan Houston	Health Development Worker
Rev David Brown (Until May 2010)		Chris Deconink	Health Development Worker
Des Meredith		Sharon Traynor	Health Development Worker
Rachael Davison		Ian McKee	Volunteer Development Co-Ordinator (Until March 2011)
Rev. Mervyn Gibson		Sarah Lorimer	Community Development Framework & TAS Project Worker
Tommy Sandford			Payroll/Finance Administrator
Liz Oslen		Jean Higginson	Receptionist/Admin Worker
Beryl Carson (Co-Option)		Joanna Loudoun	Finance/Admin Worker
Joe Watson (Co-Option – Until February 2011)		Emma Trueick	Suicide Prevention Officer (from September 2010)
		Trisha McQueen	Cleaner
		Janyne Duncan	Caretaker
		Alec McAllister	

Associate Members

Avoniel Leisure Centre	Knocknagoney Community Centre
Avoniel Primary School	Knocknagoney Primary School
Ballymacarrett Somme Festival	Live by the Word of God Ministries
Belfast City Council Youth Forum	Lower Woodstock Community Association
Belfast City Council/NI Housing	MERGE
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Comm Dev)	Newtownbreda Women's Institute
Belfast Interface Project	NI Housing Executive
Belfast Regeneration Office	Old Belmont School Preservation Trust
Belvoir & Milltown Action Group	Opportunity Youth
Belvoir Thursday Night Club	Playboard
BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Comm Enterprise)	Probation Board for NI
Braniel Primary School	PSNI Community Safety Team
Carryduff Play Care/Playgroup	Ravenhill Presbyterian Men's Fellowship
Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership	Ravenscroft Nursery School
Charter for Northern Ireland	Recon Community Group
Clara Park Tenants & Residents' Asscn	RNIB (Belfast Activity Programme)
Conservation Volunteers	SEELB (Castlereagh Youth Office)
Contact Youth	See-Saw Playgroup
Dundonald Green Belt Association	Silver Liners Group
East Belfast Alternatives	St Mark's Evergreens
East Belfast Beacon Centre (NIAMH)	Strathearn School
East Belfast CAB	Sydenham House
East Belfast Neighbourhood Office	The Junction Club
East Belfast Sure Start	Titanic School Project
Elmgrove Primary School	Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
Engage with Age	Tullycarnet Presbyterian Church Bowling Club
Equal Lives Action Group	Tullycarnet Yarnspinnners
Euston Street Primary School	Ulster People's College
GEMS Northern Ireland Limited	Willowfield Credit Union
Gingerbread NI	Willowfield Parish Community Association (Ethnic Minority Support Group)
Green Action	Youth Action
Headway Belfast	Youth Justice Agency - East Belfast
Hosford House	

Full Members

African Community Trust	Inner East Youth Project
Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh	Knights Men's Group
Archway Youth Club	Links Women's Group
Ardcarn Womens Group	Mountpottinger Methodist Church
Ardcarn Youth Club	Nettlefield Primary School
Ashfield Boys' High School	Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
Aslan Association	Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
Ballybeen Women's Centre	NICAS
Ballymac Friendship Trust	Oak Partnership
Ballymacarrett Self Help Support Group	Oasis Caring in Action
Belfast East Seniors' Forum	Oasis Trading
Belfast Evergreens	Old Mill Bowling Club
Bloomfield Community Association	Open Door Housing Asscn - Inverary House
Braniel Community Association	Palmerston Residents Association
CEHT	Round Tower Community Project
Clanmil Tenant Forum	Short Strand Community Forum
Clarawood 50+ Club	Skainos Project
Clarawood Community Association	Solway Stars FC
Clonduff Community Association	TAGIT
Connswater Womens Group	The Bridge Community Association
Connswater Community Group	The Bridge Youth Project
Cregagh Community Association	The Bytes Project
Crossroads Project Ltd	The Centre
Crown Project	The Forward Group
Dundonald Community Concert Band	The Hopefuls
East Belfast Area Youth Project	The Rivers Community Project
East Belfast Churches Forum	Tullycarnet Community Support Services Ltd
East Belfast Enterprise	Walkway Community Association
East Belfast Mission	Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
EBIAC - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	Wandsworth Community Association
Glenluce Quality Caring Centre	Willowfield Parish Church
Helping Hands Autism Support Group	Willowfield Parish Community Association
Home-Start South and East Belfast	Wise Men of the East Network
Inner East Forum	Women 2 Gather
	Youth Initiatives

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East Belfast Community Development Agency



ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2010 –
31 MARCH 2011



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

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of EBCDA for the period April 2010 - March 2011. During this 12 month period the Agency has continued to play our important and fundamental role of targeting the specific needs of the community sector and acting as a catalyst and advocate in supporting and developing the sector in East Belfast. In the past number of years, we have consistently reminded the sector, that we are all in an ever changing environment and that this has of course, brought its challenges for us as an organisation over the past 12 months. We continue to meet these challenges with confidence and action.

We are extremely pleased that our development of East Belfast Network Centre, in the old Templemore Avenue School, had all the funding confirmed at the end of March 2011 and we can now move on to making this a reality in 2011/2012.

In March we said goodbye to Ian McKee, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, after being with us for 5 years and we wish Ian and his family every success in their new venture in Birmingham. In September 2010 Trisha McQueen joined us as a part-time Suicide Prevention & Information Officer for East Belfast and she is a very welcome addition to the team. Also in September, we welcomed Sarah Lorimer to the team as part of the Templemore Avenue School development. As has been mentioned in previous Annual Reports, EBCDA have 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 our Board of Directors give to the agency is very much appreciated and I thank them for their support. As ever, we are extremely grateful to our funders BRO/DSD, VCU/DSD, Public Health Agency, Belfast City Council, CFNI, Belfast Health Trust, East Belfast Partnership, Strategic Investment Board (SIB) and the Princes Regeneration Trust without whom we could not do our work.

Director’s Report

The conclusion of the first year of our 5 year strategy 2010-2015 has presented some opportunities and challenges for us as an Agency. Whilst we have secured funding for all aspects of the work of the Agency until March 2012, we realise we are about to move into a whole new world and funding environment and we will have to cut our cloth accordingly, but as always, we are confident about meeting this challenge.

During this period, we concluded the neighbourhood research in 4 areas and the working groups have moved onto developing and managing their action plans for these areas. We were also pleased to have been invited to work with Ballybeen Improvement Group and Connswater Community Centre to help them develop their role within their specific areas.

East Belfast Network Centre/Templemore Avenue School continues to be the biggest piece of work for us in terms of physically at 25,000 sq ft and financially - £4m. During this period we established Templemore Avenue School Trust to take on and manage the process for us. We are grateful to Mike Smith CEO of Titanic Quarter for agreeing to Chair the Trust on our behalf.

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 3450 people in the year. Our email bulletin goes out on a fortnightly basis to over 300 organisations and individuals and our “E-mail” Newsletter is distributed to over 200 organisations.

Advocacy and information are also important elements of our work. Within this report you can only get a brief flavour of the extent of our work. Our staff have attended nearly 1000 meetings, seminars, information events and conferences representing a view from the sector in East Belfast to the wider Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and other parts of the UK. We also developed and maintained contact with MLAs, Councillors, MP, Belfast City Council, Inner East Forum, East Belfast Partnership, Strategic Investment Board (SIB), Castlereagh Council, NICVA, Community Development Networks Forum, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, Community Places, CORE Project, DSD, VCU and BRO and we are grateful to them all for both financial and practical support in our work.

Community Support Unit

Over the course of the year the unit responded to a range of community groups in relation to fundraising and charitable status, as well as providing direct good governance support to a number of organisations. Support and signposting was also provided for new organisations, ensuring that community development work in East Belfast continues to remain cohesive and aware of partnership opportunities. A funding information fair just before Christmas attracted over 30 different groups to meet with 16 grant-giving organisations.

We completed research in 4 areas of weak community infrastructure in East Belfast: Ardcar, Bloomfield, Clarawood and Knocknagoney. This process included facilitating public meetings and supporting local working groups to implement action plans based on the research.

The Community Workers Forum continues to provide an important networking opportunity, meeting monthly with an average attendance of 25 people. Developments this year included a quarterly health and wellbeing focus for the forum. Our “E-Mail” newsletter, remaining widely-read, with three editions produced this year.

We facilitated a consultation event on the Department of Justice’s Community Safety Strategy 2011-15, and also responded to the consultation on the Department for Social Development’s draft budget. The Community Support Manager continues to sit on a range of local and regional partnerships and forums relevant to community development in East Belfast.

We delivered a range of training sessions on community fundraising, first aid, and child protection. As part of the CORE programme and in partnership with the electoral office we arranged a voter registration programme in preparation for the 2011 elections.

Health Development & Social Connections Programme

It has been a very busy year for staff and volunteers promoting, encouraging, facilitating and supporting groups and individuals all over East Belfast to take action to improve their own health and well-being and building the capacity of local people.

Some of the highlights of this years work include very innovative work with local men. 14 men’s clinics were supported by Holywood Arches Health Centre. 70 men in total presented to the clinic, all with varying concerns including obesity, mental health, hypertension, prostate and testicular problems. The evidence from the clinics helped to establish 3 healthy exercise programmes involving gardening, walking and cycling for the men involved.

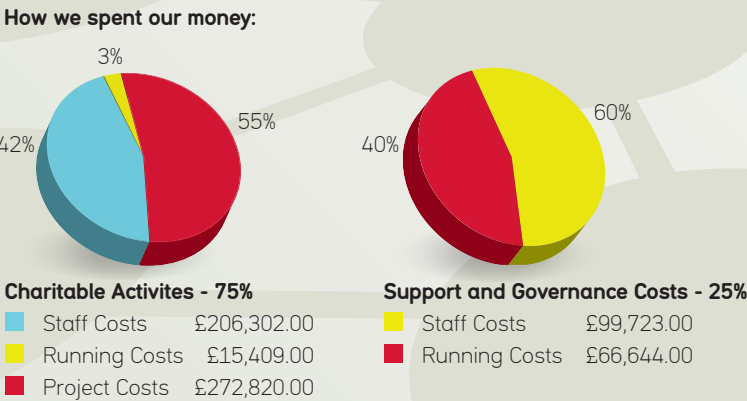
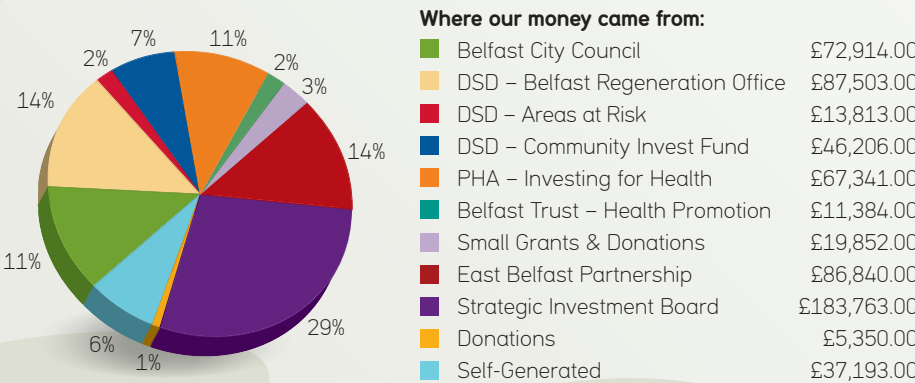
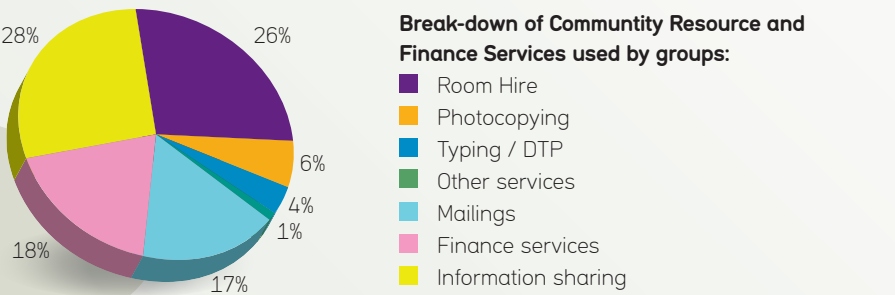
Mental Health was a major priority of this years work, with several notable events and training programmes delivered. Two Mental Health First Aid Courses were delivered as well as ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) with 26 successful graduates in March 2011.

The annual “Walk of Light” suicide awareness event from Stormont to City Hall in September 2010 was a resounding success with 650+ people from all across Northern Ireland in attendance. The annual Survivors of Suicide Respite Care residential for local families bereaved through suicide was excellent at the Killyhevin Hotel and the popular “World Suicide Awareness” and “Celebration of Light” events in October and December 2010 respectively were very well attended

The launch of the East Belfast welcome pack for Ethnic Minorities at Connswater Shopping Centre had a great impact and was attended by 250+ individuals from all backgrounds. Our 6 health fairs in Knocknagoney, Clarawood, Ardcar, Bloomfield, Inverary and Short Strand were a resounding success during the “Health and Well Being Month” Also worthy of note were two well-attended tea dance events during the Health and Well Being Month which targeted senior citizens.

Community Resource & Finance

An important element of our work is providing the services of photocopying, typing, collating 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 and governance checks with groups which helps the sector understand the processes they need to implement good financial and governance management.



Volunteer Project

