

Board of Directors

Cliff Kennedy **Chairperson**
 Janice Cherry **Vice Chairperson**
 Sammy Douglas **Hon Treasurer**
 Bernie McConnell **Hon Secretary**
 Des Meredith
 Rachael Davison
 Rev Mervyn Gibson

Tommy Sandford
 Liz Oslon
 Alison Baxter (from June 2011)
 Glenn Jordan (from June 2011)
 Karen Purdy (from June 2011)
 Beryl Carson (Co-Option)

Staff Members

Michael Briggs **Director**
 Kim Briggs **Resource & Finance Manager**
 Jonny Currie **Community Support Manager**
 Chris Deconink **Health Development Worker**
 Alan Houston **Health Development Worker**
 Sharon Traynor **Health Development Worker**
 Trisha McQueen **Suicide Prevention Information Officer**

Sarah Lorimer **Templemore Avenue School, Peoples History Project Coordinator (Until Feb 2012)**
 Katy Purvis **Volunteer Development Coordinator**

Emma Trueick **Good Relations Coordinator part-time (from Oct 2011) and Templemore Avenue School, Peoples History Project Coordinator part-time (from Mar 2012)**

Cathy Clarke **Community Support Officer (Ballybeen)**
 Jean Higginson **Payroll/Finance Administrator**
 Joanna Loudoun **Receptionist/Admin Worker**

Marie-Anne McMillan **Project Admin Worker**
 Caroline Birch **Receptionist/Admin Worker (Ballybeen) (Until Dec 2011)**

Alison Caldwell **Receptionist/Admin Worker (Ballybeen) (From Feb 2012)**
 Janyne Duncan **Cleaner**
 Alec McAllister **Caretaker**

Associate Members

Alison Wightman
 Avoniel Leisure Centre
 Avoniel Primary School
 Ballymacarrett No 6 District
 Ballymacarrett Parish
 Belfast City Council Youth Forum
 Belfast City Council/Ni Housing
 Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Comm Dev)
 Belfast Interface Project
 Belfast Regeneration Office
 Belmont and District of Churches
 Belvoir & Milltown Action Group
 Belvoir Thursday Night Club
 BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Comm Enterprise)
 Bracken House
 Braniel Primary School
 Carryduff Play Care/Playgroup
 Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
 Charter for Northern Ireland
 Clara Park Tenants & Residents' Association
 Conservation Volunteers
 Contact Youth
 Crosslinks
 Dundonald Green Belt Association
 East Belfast Alternatives
 East Belfast CAB
 East Belfast Neighbourhood Office
 East Belfast Sure Start
 Elmgrove Primary School
 Engage with Age
 Equal Lives Action Group
 Euston Street Primary School
 GEMS Northern Ireland Limited
 Gingerbread NI

Green Action
 Headway Belfast
 Hosford House
 Knocknagoney Community Centre
 Knocknagoney Primary School
 Live by the Word of God Ministries
 Lower Woodstock Community Association
 Newtownbreda Women's Institute
 NI Housing Executive
 Old Belmont School Preservation Trust
 Opportunity Youth
 Playboard
 Probation Board for NI
 PSNI Community Safety Team
 Ravenhill Presbyterian Men's Fellowship
 Ravenscroft Nursery School
 Recon Community Group
 RNIB (Belfast Activity Programme)
 SEELB (Castlereagh Youth Office)
 See-Saw Playgroup
 Short Strand After School Club
 Silver Liners Group
 Sport Taekwondo NI
 St Mark's Evergreens
 Strathearn School
 Sydenham House
 The Junction Club
 Titanic School Project
 Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
 Tullycarnet Presbyterian Church Bowling Club
 Tullycarnet Yarnspinnings
 Ulster People's College
 Willowfield Credit Union
 Youth Action
 Youth Justice Agency - East Belfast

Full Members

African Community Trust
 Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh
 Archway Youth Club
 Ardcarne Residents
 Ardcarne Womens Group
 Ashfield Boys' High School
 Aslan Association
 Ballybeen Women's Centre
 Ballymac Friendship Trust
 Ballymacarret Self Help Support Group
 Belfast East Seniors' Forum
 Belfast Evergreens
 Bloomfield Community Association
 Boring Wells
 Braniel Community Association
 CEHT
 Clanmil Tenant Forum
 Clarawood 50+ Club
 Clarawood Community Association
 Clonduff Community Association
 Connswater Womens Group
 Connswater Community Group
 Covenant Love Church
 Cregagh Community Association
 Crossroads Project Ltd
 Crown Project
 Dundonald Community Concert Band
 East Belfast Area Youth Project
 East Belfast Churches Forum
 East Belfast Enterprise
 East Belfast Historical & Cultural Society
 East Belfast Mission
 East Belfast Survivors of Suicide Support Group
 EBIAC - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
 Glenluce Quality Caring Centre
 Greenway Women's Group
 Helping Hands Autism Support Group
 Home-Start South and East Belfast
 Inner East Youth Project
 Knights Men's Group
 Links Women's Group
 MACARA Womens Group

Mountpottinger Methodist Church
 Nettlefield Primary School
 Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
 Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
 NICAS
 Oak Partnership
 Oasis Caring in Action
 Oasis Trading
 Old Mill Bowling Club
 Open Door Housing Assocn - Inverary House
 Palmerston Residents Association
 Round Tower Community Project
 Short Strand After School Club
 Short Strand Play Group
 Short Strand Community Forum
 Short Strand Resident Group
 Short Strand Festival
 Short Strand Work Matters
 Short Strand Womens Group
 Short Strand Mens Group
 Short Strand Partnership
 Skainos Project
 Solway Stars FC
 TAGIT
 The Bridge Community Association
 The Bridge Youth Project
 The Bytes Project
 The Centre
 The Forward Group
 The Hopefuls
 The Rivers Community Project
 Tullycarnet Community Support Services Ltd
 Victoria PACT
 Walkway Community Association
 Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
 Wandsworth Community Association
 Wilgar Community Forum Association
 Willowfield Parish Church
 Willowfield Parish Community Association
 Wise Men of the East Network
 Women 2 Gather
 Youth Initiatives

Thanks

We are very conscious that the success and delivery of our work could not be done without the support of our volunteers. We thank our volunteers involved with our community development work and our health development work. We are also grateful to the other organisations within East Belfast and beyond that support the development of all our work.

Thanks also to our funders; Belfast City Council, Strategic Investment Board (SIB), Dept for Social Development, Voluntary Community Unit, Belfast Regeneration Office, Public Health Agency, Belfast Health Trust, Princes Regeneration Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Lloyds Foundation, Paddy & Ethnie Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund, American Ireland Funds, Funeral Services NI.

East Belfast Community Development Agency

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East Belfast Community Development Agency



Community resources groups support
 East Belfast guidance
 advocate catalyst
 partner skilled guidance
 Health
 sustainable development history hope
 finance advice awareness
 Volunteering awareness
 co-operation groups
 Belfast network opportunity
 well being focus health
 environment East
 future

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2011 – 31 March 2012

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 2011 - March 2012. During this 12 month period the Agency has continued to play the 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.

For the past number of years we have used our AGM and Annual Report to inform the sector of how the funding environment is changing. At the end of 2011 we saw these changes begin to take shape through the processes developed within neighbourhood renewal funding. Changes will continue throughout 2012 and 2013, building towards the full implementation of the Review of Public Administration processes by April 2015.

Templemore Avenue School has made great developments within this period, under the auspices of Templemore Avenue School Trust, guided by their Chair Mike Smith.

In February we said goodbye to Sarah Lorimer, Templemore Avenue School - Peoples History Coordinator after being with us for 18 months. In October 2011 Emma Trueick joined us as a part-time Good Relations Coordinator and in March also took on the part-time role of Templemore Avenue School - Peoples History Coordinator.

2011/2012 also saw us developing a greater working relationship with East Belfast Partnership sharing ideas, resources and the joint development of programmes and projects.

As Chair of EBCDA, I am pleased to know that we 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.

Director's Report

The conclusion of the second year of our 5 year strategy 2010-2015 has presented some great opportunities and challenges for us as an Agency. As always funding is probably the biggest challenge, we have talked for the past 3-4 years about the changing funding environment and this year we have seen these changes beginning to take place, with changes still to come. The changes to the neighbourhood renewal funding resulted in some hard work towards the end of 2011 so that the new programme could commence in April 2012.

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 at £4m. The building is on schedule to be open in March/April 2013. We have also been recording stories of past pupils and past teachers of the school and will be publishing a book containing these in early 2013. We have gathered a lot of photos and documents to collate into a permanent display when the Network Centre is opened.

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 3575 people within the year.

The conference at the end of March "East Belfast-The Future" which we organised with East Belfast Partnership, was a great success. This provided wonderful examples of the things that are happening on a daily basis in East Belfast communities, as well as providing presentations and information on what is in store for East Belfast in the future.

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.

In my capacity as Director I represent EBCDA and East Belfast on a number of local and regional forums, partnerships and organisations. As part of our representation role we have continued to develop and maintain contact with MLAs, Councillors, MP, Belfast City Council, Inner East Forum, East Belfast Partnership, Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO), Castlereagh Council, NICVA, Community Development Networks Forum, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, Community Places, DSD, Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Trust.

Community Support Unit

This year has seen the development of new support opportunities, as the unit has adapted to the changing needs of the community sector in East Belfast. We responded to over 70 direct requests for governance support, funding support and general networking support during the year. A significant development has been an increased demand from groups for support with good governance and strategic planning.

East Belfast Community Workers Forum met in venues as diverse as Titanic Quarter, RSPB Belfast Lough reserve and The Dock Café as well as the usual community venues, with average attendances of 25 people. "E-Mail," the newsletter for East Belfast's community sector, got a make-over as it reached its 30th edition. We also fully embraced the information-sharing potential of social media through twitter and facebook, alongside our twice-monthly ebuletin which goes out to over 250 groups and individuals. Our publication "East Belfast's Community Development Framework" was re-printed with more groups agreeing to the framework as the basis for delivery of their work.

We are keen to develop local leaders and have facilitated emerging community structures in the Knocknagoney and Lower Castlereagh areas, and continue to support local action plans developed in areas of weaker community infrastructure in East Belfast. Most significantly we have been working closely with Ballybeen Improvement Group assisting them in managing their DSD funded Areas at Risk Programme. With the development of future leaders in mind, EBCDA successfully piloted a mentoring programme in East Belfast during the year. It is our intention to offer this support to emerging leaders on an ongoing basis.

In response to the local concerns on the impact of welfare reform we arranged a successful information session. A notable outcome has been the development of quarterly briefing sessions in partnership with East Belfast Independent Advice Centre and East Belfast Partnership. We facilitated consultation sessions and submitted responses relating to the Programme for Government, Social Investment Fund, the implementation of new Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and the Public Health Agency's Community Development Strategy.

Training programmes this year focussed on lobbying and policy development and First-Aid. A fundraising clinic was also arranged in Ballybeen. The Community Support Manager continues to sit on a range of local and regional partnerships and forums relevant to community development in East Belfast.

Health Development & Social Connections Programme

Once again we delivered the popular programmes of "Cook-It" and Mental Health First Aid Training to community groups and this year also saw the introduction of a new health advocacy training programme. Four Relationship and Sexuality Education Programmes were delivered to local young people.

We supported health development programmes in Cregagh, Knocknagoney, Ardcar, Bloomfield, Clarawood and Sydenham. We teamed up with Boots Pharmacy to deliver an extensive Community Pharmacy Project to 70 participants and over 350 people through their social networks. We engaged with a wide range of community groups, parent and toddler groups, nursery parents, older men and a cross-community women's group.

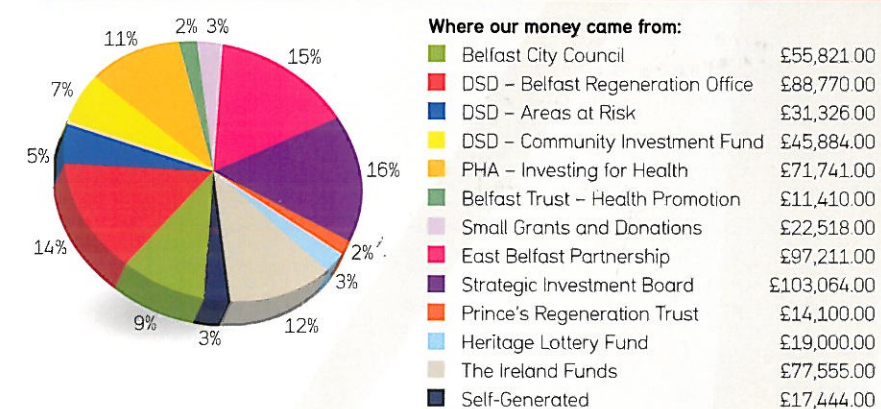
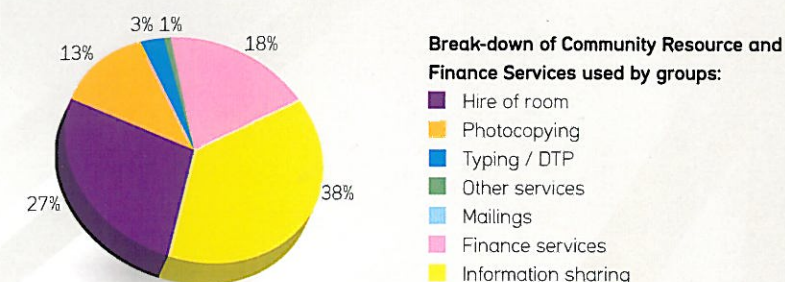
East Belfast was represented at the Annual suicide awareness "Walk of Light" event culminating at the City Hall. Survivors of Suicide (SOS) "Celebration of Life" event in McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church, was a successful and emotional event for those involved as it sought to remind us all of those who have taken their own lives but also provided hope and support for those bereaved and highlighted the work going on around suicide prevention and information. The provision of counselling services and complementary therapies also continued to offer support to people bereaved through suicide. Programme staff also played a representative role on various East Belfast and city-wide strategic health alliances.

Men's health continues to be a focus of our work. A volunteer-driven fortnightly evening men's clinic was attended by a total of 190 men and proved an innovative way of engaging hard to reach men on their specific health issues. A men's physical activity group has provided opportunities for cycling, fishing and gardening, with support established for the development of a local community garden. We continue to support and develop local men's groups through the Wise Men of the East Network and linking with new Belfast-wide initiatives.

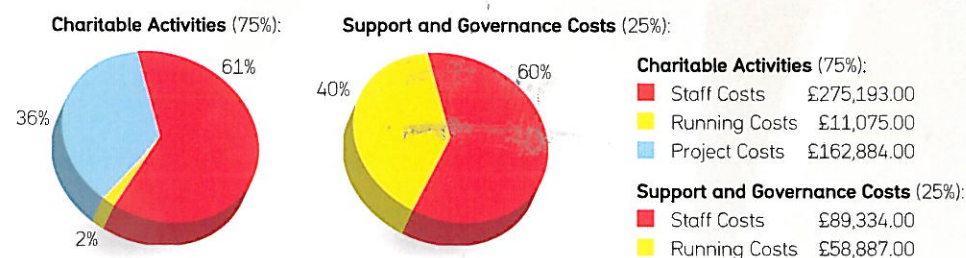
What has now become our annual Health and Well Being Week, in January 2012, was a huge success with over 160 people participating in a range of activities at venues across East Belfast.

Community Resource & Finance

Forty two years ago when EBCDA first opened its doors the basis of the work was providing the services of photocopying, typing, collating binding, laminating and room hire to community groups, particularly to small and newly emerging groups and today this is still an essential service for the sector. In addition to this we provide 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 help the sector understand the processes they need to implement good financial and governance management.



How we spent our money



Volunteer Project

Within our Volunteer Development Project we aim to promote and raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering and promote Good Practice. We work with community groups to look at what they do with volunteers when they get them and look after them well within their organisation. We build links between groups that use volunteers and encourage co-operation between those groups so that we have a strong network within the East Belfast Area regarding all things volunteering.

This year we have had a total of 77 enquires for volunteering opportunities and placed 44 with organisations. We have also built a solid 'bank' of volunteers to support groups in East Belfast so that if larger one off tasks happen such as environmental clean ups, then there are lots of volunteers we can contact who would be willing to help with that particular job. We facilitated courses for volunteers in emergency first aid and life coaching and held 2 training sessions on volunteer management for volunteer managers and coordinators. We were also pleased to work with Ulster Bank regional managers who took part in a one day ESV Scheme (Employment Supported Volunteering) in a local community garden in East Belfast. We have also facilitated links with outside volunteering/support schemes so that East Belfast doesn't become isolated from the rest of the volunteering happening in the greater Belfast area and beyond.

