



**East Belfast
Community
Development
Agency**

Annual Report

1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

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.



Board of Directors

Cliff Kennedy	Chairperson	Liz Oslon
Janice Cherry	Vice Chairperson	Allison Baxter (<i>Resigned December 2013</i>)
Sammy Douglas	Hon Treasurer	Glenn Jordan
Bernie McConnell	Hon Secretary	Karen Purdy
Des Meredith		Beryl Carson (<i>Resigned December 2013</i>)
Rachael Davison		Bobby Ellison (<i>Co-Option</i>)
Rev Mervyn Gibson		Richard Williamson (<i>Co-Option</i>)
Tommy Sandford		

Staff Members

Michael Briggs	Executive Director	Emma Trueick	Good Relations
Kim Briggs	Resource and Finance Director		Co-Ordinator & Templemore Avenue School, Peoples History Project Co-Ordinator
Jonny Currie	Community Development Director		<i>(Until August 2013)</i>
Clare James	Suicide Prevention Development Officer	Cathy Clarke	Community Support Officer (Ballybeen)
Alan Houston	Health Development Worker	Jean Higginson	Admin Support Officer
Sharon Traynor	Health Development Worker	Marie Anne McMillan	
Trisha McQueen	Receptionist/Administrator	Nicola Morton	Finance Manager
Katy Gaston	Volunteer Development Co-Ordinator	Alison Bryans	Receptionist/Admin Worker (Ballybeen)
			Health Connections Worker <i>(from June 2013)</i>

Full Members

Addiction NI	MACARA Women's Group
African Community Trust	Mountpottinger Methodist Church
Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh	Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
Ardcarn Residents	Newtownards Road Women's Group
Ballybeen Women's Centre	Oak Partnership
Ballymac Friendship Trust	Oasis Caring In Action
Ballymacarrett District LOL No 6 District	Oasis Trading In Action
Ballymacarrett Somme Festival	Open Door Housing Assocn - Inverary House
Belfast East Seniors Forum	PACT
Bloomfield Community Association	Palmerston Residents Association
Boring Wells	Round Tower Community Project
BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Com Enterprise)	Short Strand Community Forum
Braniel Community Association	Short Strand Festival
Carryduff Play Care /Playgroup	Short Strand Partnership
Clonduff Community Association	Silver Liners Group
Connswater Women's Group	Skainos
Conswater Community Group	Solway Stars FC
Cregagh Community Association	Survivors of Suicide Support Group
Cregagh Retired Active Gentlemen	Sydenham Gardening Association
Dundonald Sea Cadets	Tagit Fishing Club
East Belfast Enterprise	The Aslan Association
East Belfast Mission	The Hopefuls
EBIAC - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	The Rivers Community Project
Engage with Age	The Well Project
Friends of Mullan Mews	Titanic School Project
Friends of Victoria Park	Tullycarnet Community Support Services Ltd
Greenway Women's Centre	Walkway Community Association
Inner East Youth Project	Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
Inverary House	Wandsworth Community Association
Knights Men's Group	Willowfield Parish Church
Lagan Village Youth & Community Group	Willowfield Parish Community Association
Links Women's Group	Wise Men of the East Network

Chair & Executive Director

Welcome to our annual report covering April 2013 – March 2014. Despite the promise of changes for the sector over the previous 5-6 years, from many different quarters, the sector has seen very little change in 2013, other than procedures for funding and perhaps slightly reduced pots. Though we do expect to see sweeping changes for the sector over the next 2 years, some of that began to take effect towards the end of this reporting period.

Throughout this report you can get a flavour of the work we have supported and developed through the year as well as providing you with a brief financial picture.

This year we were pleased to see the dream become a reality when in June we moved into our new offices in East Belfast Network Centre. Throughout July and August we also worked with other organisations as they moved into the building.

We continued to manage the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Development and Youth Development programmes funded by BRO, supporting 10 organisations and 20 staff. At the request of BRO we started a process of exploring how youth workers and youth work organisations in the Inner East neighbourhood Renewal Area might work in a more collaborative way throughout the area. This focussed on training, organisational development, youth workers and young people. The University of Ulster's Community Youth Work Department at Jordanstown facilitated a series of meetings for us and we hope to roll out the programme in late 2014.

We also worked closely with Ballybeen Improvement Group (BIG) in finalising and launching their development plan during their final year of DSD Areas At Risk funding. BIG also managed to influence DSD policy by appealing to the DSD Minister to extend their programme for a further year, which was agreed. We supported BIG in helping them develop a programme for their extension year to March 2015.

In 2013 we asked our members to renew their 3-year membership with us for the period June 2013 – May 2016. Being a member based organisation is an important governance process for EBCDA. We are one of only a handful of organisations in Northern Ireland who still act as a members' based organisation. Our membership is wide and varied. From organisations who have 2 volunteers to organisations who have 70+ employees. We have lunch clubs that meet once a week, bowling clubs that meet once a month, childcare organisations, after-schools, older people's organisations, community development and youth groups and everything in between. Our membership very much reflects the rich fabric which makes up the wider East Belfast community.

The past year has defined further EBCDA's 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. Advocacy and information are important elements of our work. Within this report you get a brief flavour of the extent of our work. Our staff and Board members have attended nearly 1,000 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. The culmination of various pieces reported on within this Annual Report has resulted in EBCDA having contact with over 4,300 people within the year.

We are grateful to our staff team and Board of Directors for their time, effort and commitment to the Agency. Thanks also to our core funders Belfast Regeneration Office, Voluntary & Community Unit, Belfast City Council and the Public Health Agency.

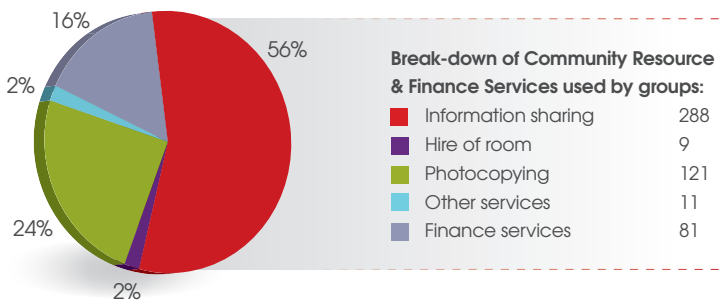
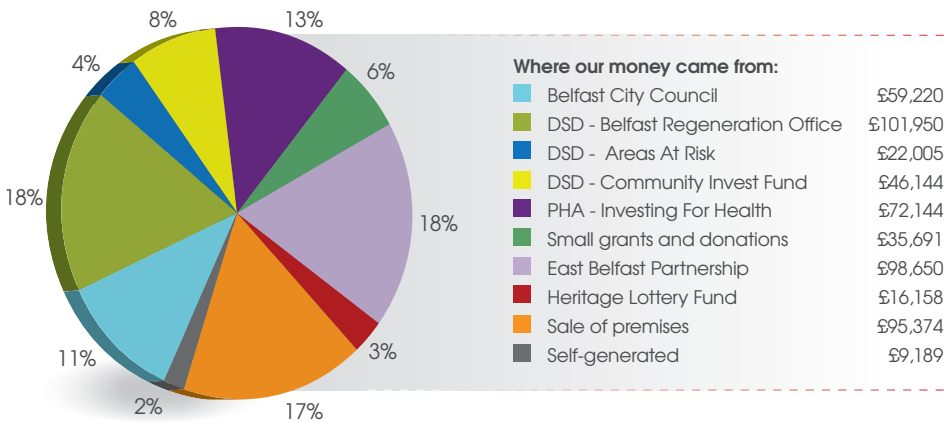


Community Resource & Finance

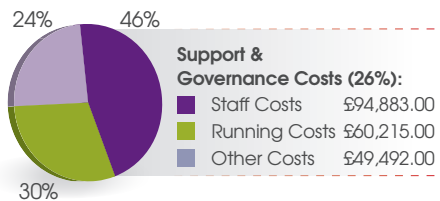
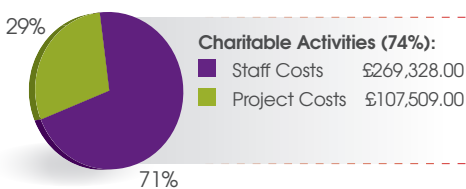
EBCDA continue year on year to provide the services of photocopying, typing, collating, binding, laminating and room hire to community groups, particularly to small and newly emerging groups.

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 continue to carry 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.

We also manage all the finances for EBCDA, the Neighbourhood Renewal funding for youth and community programmes in Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Ballybeen Areas at Risk funding in conjunction with Ballybeen Improvement Group (BIG). During this year we also managed the finances for Templemore Avenue School Trust as they developed East Belfast Network Centre.



How we spent our money:





Community Support

The work of EBCDA's community support unit continued to adapt to the changing needs of the community sector in East Belfast in 2013-2014.

Alongside the monthly Community Workers Forum, a number of other networking opportunities are now firmly established in the calendar. East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum meets monthly to share information, improve youth provision, offer learning opportunities and provide mutual support for youth workers. Chaired by East Belfast Alternatives, this year the Forum sought to increase joint working through the development of a youth issues response plan.

A new Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum met on a regular basis, bringing together service providers, community organisations and other relevant agencies, to oversee a new drug and alcohol action plan for East Belfast. This work is now ongoing, with FASA (Forum Against Substance Abuse) and Inner East Youth Project jointly chairing proceedings.

EBCDA has continued to support organisations directly involved in the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly diverse East Belfast. This year East Belfast Ethnic Minority Support Network organised a series of training events around migration awareness and ending hate crime.

Now that the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has begun the charity registration, EBCDA registered as a "helper organisation" with the Commission to support community organisations in East Belfast through the new process. We anticipate that there will be an increase in demand for this support over the coming years.

With social media becoming an increasingly effective tool for information-sharing, this year saw the discontinuing of EBCDA's quarterly printed "E-Mail" newsletter. However the development of a revamped website and a new interactive eBulletin have provided new opportunities for EBCDA and the sector in East Belfast to highlight community news, events, and policy developments.

We facilitated the training of a new group of community coaches with University of Ulster at Jordanstown and we now actively promote the East Belfast Coaching Programme, which offers coaching and mentoring support to youth and community workers in East Belfast.

The Community Support Unit responded directly to over 100 queries relating to governance, funding or networking. We are always keen for the sector in East Belfast to influence policy developments in society and this year we responded to a number of Government consultations, with each response encompassing a range of diverse views from East Belfast groups.

EBCDA is represented on a range of local and regional partnerships and forums relevant to community development in East Belfast, such as the George Best Belfast City Airport Forum, NICVA, Joint Forum Voluntary and Community Sector Group, East Belfast SIF Steering Group, Inner East Forum, East Belfast Partnership and Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership.



Health Development and Connections Programme

The Health Development and Connections Programme has been working under the umbrella of the East Belfast Health Framework's five themes: Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Relationships and Healthy Neighbourhoods.

We continued to coordinate the East Belfast Community Response plan for Suicide which aims to support families and communities following a death by suicide. Members of the Community Response Plan Steering Group continued to build links with these key agencies. The steering group also participated in a series of mental health promotion events at venues including Connswater Shopping Centre, ASDA Dundonald and a Glentoran football match.

Our suicide prevention work focused on raising awareness of key services for those in crisis through the development of the "Message of Hope" suicide prevention booklet which was launched by Lynda Bryans at East Belfast Network Centre in August. Thanks to funding from BT and the Police and Community Safety Partnership, 36,000 booklets were distributed to homes across East Belfast between August and October. To complement this awareness raising work, we also sourced funding to support the delivery of two ASIST training programmes, PIPS Mind your Mate training for young people, Barnardo's Child Bereavement Training and a Living Life to the Full programme with Aware Defeat Depression.

10 suicide awareness sessions were delivered to local groups in the community; and events took place to mark World Suicide Prevention Day and World Mental Health Day. EBCDA continued to support the East Belfast Survivors of Suicide Group (SOS) to deliver its programmes and events.

In 2013 EBCDA welcomed our new Health Connections Worker Alison Bryans, to the team. The Health Hub, a place where you can find out about local health programmes and services as well as information on the Health Framework's five themes, was completed in March 2014 and is open for business.

Groups, individuals and organisations are welcome to visit the Health Hub. A calendar of health observances occurring throughout the year was collated and distributed throughout East Belfast. EBCDA organised over 12 events to highlight a range of observances. EBCDA developed the capacity of the local community to influence their health and wellbeing through the facilitation of six workshops for health and wellbeing-related policy consultations.

We continue to support the Wise Men of the East Network to develop health initiatives. Sixty men met on a quarterly basis for networking and

information sharing at the Royal British Legion Cregagh and Wandsworth Club. The Men's Sheds project received support from the International Fund for Ireland to take forward joint plans with Sligo Men's Shed and was supported to develop work around social history, arts and crafts and physical activities. An evening men's clinic is supported by volunteers and was attended by a total of 55 men through 15 clinics which provided reassurance and information about the importance of making healthier lifestyle choices.

East Belfast Physical Activity Forum was developed to improve coordination of programmes, encourage participation in physical activity opportunities and promote the benefits of being active. We facilitated the Bikeway East Club to arrange weekly cycle outings and well-attended skills and safety events during the year.

EBCDA worked in partnership with Boots Pharmacy again this year to deliver an extensive "Building Community Pharmacy" programme to 64 direct participants and a wider range of individuals and community groups. Three additional groups were supported to apply for and manage their own Level One community pharmacy programmes. Four Relationship and Sexuality Education Programmes targeting young people were delivered to local youths, raising awareness and providing information to make better informed choices and reduce risk taking behaviour.

Using the five key themes of the East Belfast Health Framework, over 300 people participated in our annual health week in January 2014 with a range of activities at various venues across East Belfast.

We also delivered a 12 week women's health programme, culminating in a health awareness evening 'Women into Health' which was attended by over seventy local women. Other programmes included a twelve-week 'Walking off the Blues' programme which emphasised the links between local walking groups and positive mental wellbeing.

EBCDA coordinated a number of themed health days and events in partnership with a wide range of organisations and groups in East Belfast. Themes included men's health, women's health, mental health, family support, young people and older peoples health – with over 700 attending in total.



Volunteer Development Project

The Volunteer Development Project enables EBCDA to work towards supporting volunteering in East Belfast for both individuals and community groups.

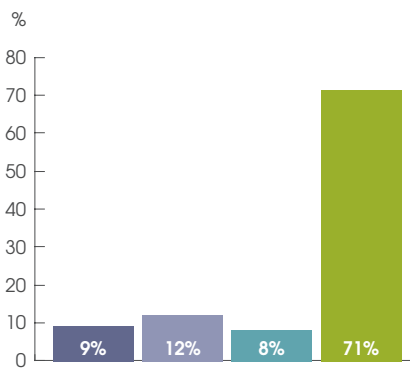
In addition we also promote and raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering as well as promoting good practice in volunteer management. We have built links between groups who involve volunteers, encouraging cooperation through a network of local organisations.

We have continued to help groups in East Belfast recruit volunteers through the advertisement of volunteer vacancies both online and through the quarterly production of "Volunteer News."

East Belfast Men's Health Clinic benefited from the promotion of a dedicated volunteer role to assist with the fortnightly service. A bank of "Event Volunteers" was also established to provide additional "hands-on" assistance at EBCDA-related events.

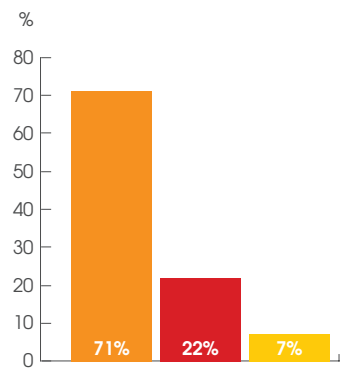
Links were facilitated with outside volunteering support schemes through National Volunteer Week, Queen's University Freshers Fair and work with Volunteer Now to implement a "Timebanking" pilot project in East Belfast.

Below is an analysis of our volunteer enquiries and volunteer placement during 2013-2014.



Volunteer Enquiry Analysis

- BT4
- BT5
- BT6
- Other



Volunteer Placement Analysis

- Local Groups
- Individual Events
- Outside East Belfast



Associate Members

Alison Wightman
 Ashfield Boys' High School
 Avoniel Leisure Centre
 Avoniel Primary School
 Belfast City Council Youth Forum
 Belfast City Council/NI Housing
 Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Com
 Dev)
 Belfast Interface Project
 Belfast Regeneration Office
 Belmont Tower
 Bracken Beacon Day Support
 Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
 Charter for Northern Ireland
 Citizens Advice Belfast
 Clara Park Tenants & Residents' Association
 Connswater Homes Ltd
 Contact NI
 Creative Exchange Artist Studios
 Dundonald Green Belt Association
 East Belfast Alternatives
 East Belfast Area Youth Project
 East Belfast CAB
 East Belfast Learning Disability Services
 GEMS Northern Ireland Limited

Green Action
 Hosford House
 Inner East Forum
 Inverary Community Centre
 Knocknagoney Primary School
 Live by the Word of God Ministries
 Newtownbreda Women's Institute
 NI Housing Executive
 Opportunity Youth
 Ravenhill Presbyterian Men's Fellowship
 Ravenscroft Nursery School
 RNIB (Belfast Activity Programme)
 Sport Taekwondo NI
 The Junction Club
 The National Trust NI
 The Ullans Academy
 The Ultra Rare Diseases Disorders &
 Disabilities Foundation
 Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
 Tullycarnet Yarnspinners
 Wilgar Community Forum Association
 Willowfield Credit Union
 Youth Action
 Youth Initiatives

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