

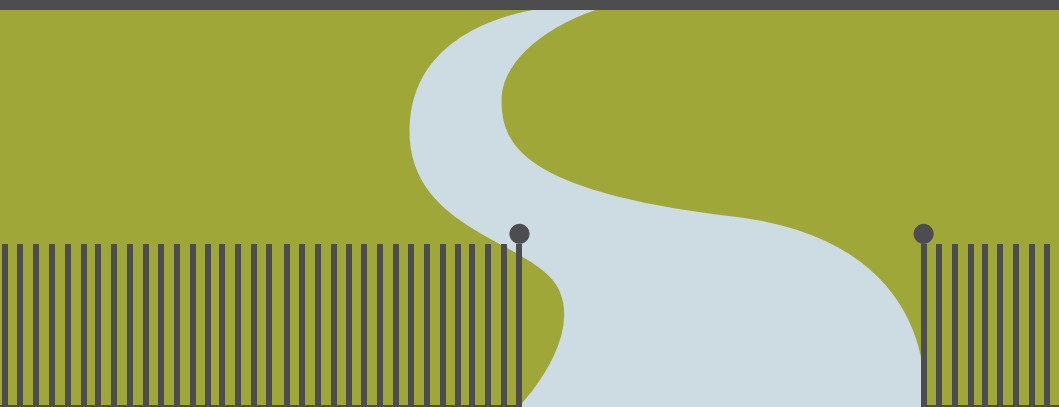
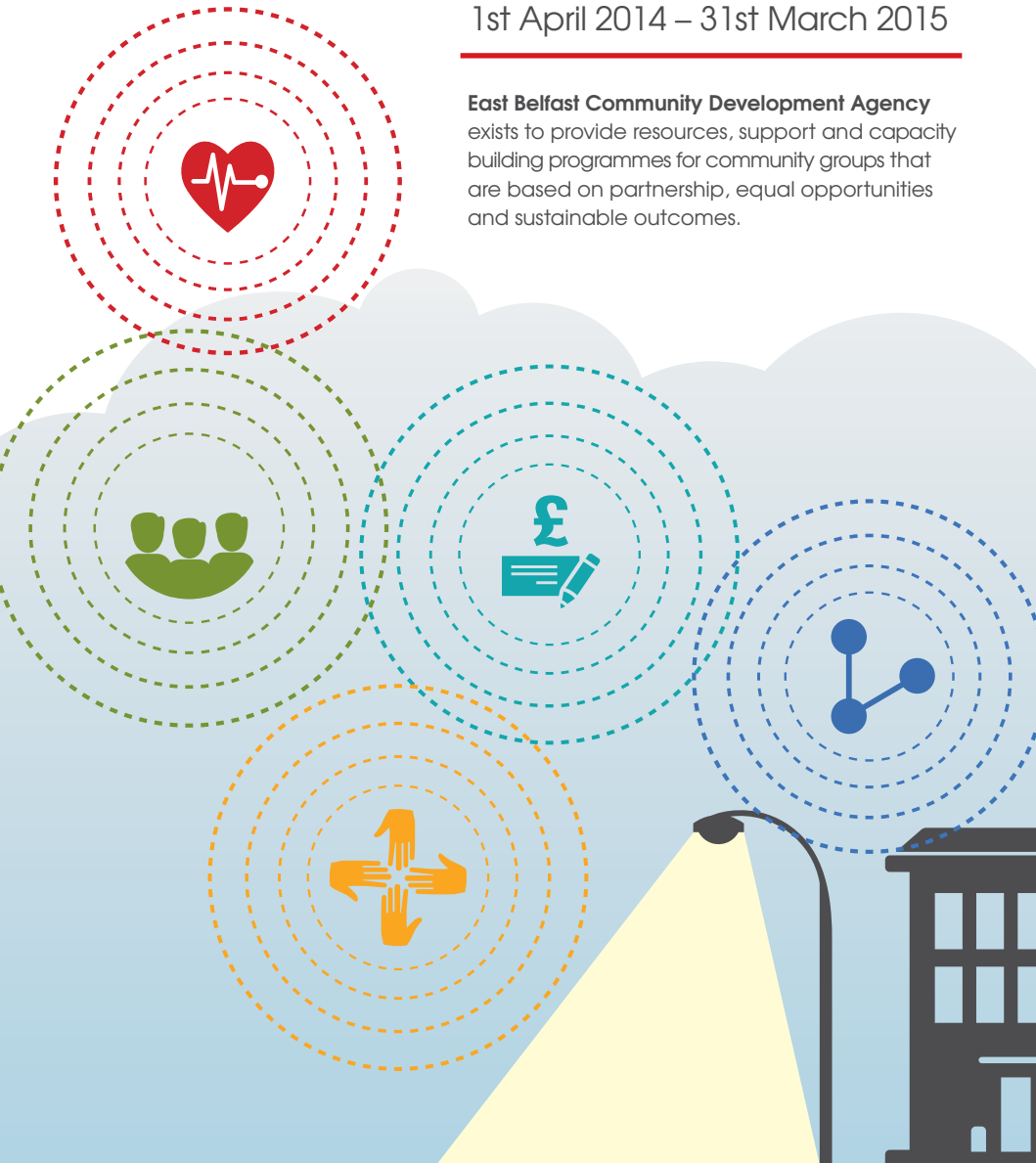


**East Belfast
Community
Development
Agency**

Annual Report

1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015

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.



Full Members

Addiction NI
 African Community Trust
 Age Concern East Belfast & Castlereagh
 Ardcarne Residents
 Ballybeen Women's Centre
 Ballymac Friendship Trust
 Ballymacarrett District LOL No 6 District
 Ballymacarrett Somme Festival
 Belfast East Seniors Forum
 Bloomfield Community Association
 Boring Wells
 BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Community Enterprise)
 Braniel Community Association
 Carryduff Play Care /Playgroup
 Clonduff Community Association
 Connswater Women's Group
 Conswater Community Group
 Cregagh Community Association
 Cregagh Retired Active Gentlemen
 Dundonald Sea Cadets
 East Belfast Enterprise
 East Belfast Mission
 EBAC - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
 Engage with Age
 Friends of Mullan Mews
 Friends of Victoria Park
 Friends of Edgcumbe
 Greenway Women's Centre
 Inner East Youth Project
 Inverary House
 Knights Men's Group
 Lagan Village Youth & Community Group

Links Women's Group
 MACARA Women's Group
 Mountpottinger Methodist Church
 Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
 Newtownards Road Women's Group
 Oak Partnership
 Oasis Caring In Action
 Oasis Trading In Action
 Open Door Housing Assocn - Inverary House
 PACT
 Palmerston Residents Association
 Round Tower Community Project
 Short Strand Community Forum
 Short Strand Festival
 Short Strand Partnership
 Silver Liners Group
 Solway Stars FC
 Survivors of Suicide Support Group
 Sydenham Gardening Association
 Sydenham United FC
 Tagit Fishing Club
 The Aslan Association
 The Hopefuls
 The Rivers Community Project
 The Well Project
 Titanic School Project
 Tullycarnet Community Support Services Ltd
 Walkway Community Association
 Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
 Wandsworth Community Association
 Willowfield Parish Church
 Willowfield Parish Community Association
 Wise Men of the East Network

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
 Bracken Beacon Day Support
 Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
 Charter for Northern Ireland
 Chung Do Kwan NI
 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)
 The Junction Club
 The National Trust NI
 The Ullans Academy
 The Ultra Rare Diseases Disorders & Disabilities Foundation
 Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
 Tullycarnet Yarnspinnners
 Wilgar Community Forum Association
 Willowfield Credit Union
 Youth Action
 Youth Initiatives

Chair & Executive Director

Welcome to our annual report covering April 2014 – March 2015.

The promise of sweeping changes, over the past number of years, for the Community & Voluntary Sector in Northern Ireland, began to bite at the start of this year with swingeing cuts from Government Departments and arms length funding bodies. For some organisations in Northern Ireland this meant complete closure, for others it was a drastic reduction in their service delivery. EBCDA and indeed east Belfast managed to avoid deep cuts, but there were some and we will no doubt see more cuts over the next few years.

Whilst the idea of financial cuts for the sector in East is a threat, EBCDA felt it important to show leadership and adopt a very positive and forthright attitude in our work. Whilst not ignoring the threat, we marked time with it and got on with the work. As an organisation we continued to deliver a series of support mechanisms, programmes and development opportunities for the sector throughout East Belfast.

Within this report you get a brief flavour of the extent of our work. We continue to manage **East Belfast Network Centre** on a daily basis on behalf of Templemore Avenue School Trust. We managed the **Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Development** and **Youth Development** programmes funded by BRO, supporting 10 organisations and 20 staff. We continued to work closely with **Ballybeen Improvement Group** (BIG) in further developing their governance and programme as an area at risk project.

We welcomed Linda Armitage to the staff team as Health Development Director. This was the consolidation of the **East Belfast Health Project** which had been operating for a number of years between **East Belfast Partnership** and **EBCDA**.

Advocacy and **information** are important elements of our work. 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 with the right information, interventions and leadership opportunities.

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



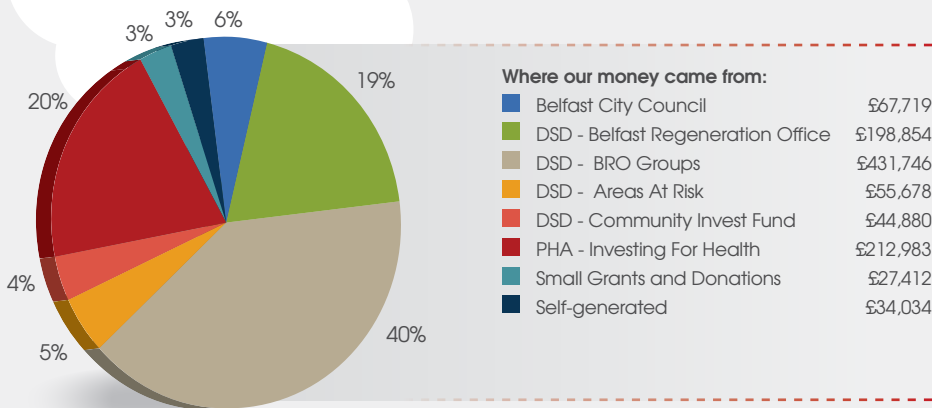
Community Resource & Finance

EBCDA continue year on year to provide the services of photocopying, typing, collating, binding and laminating albeit to lesser extent than in previous years, though all are still in demand. With the development of East Belfast Network Centre we have been able to provide a more comprehensive room hire service to community groups and the wider community and voluntary sector in East.

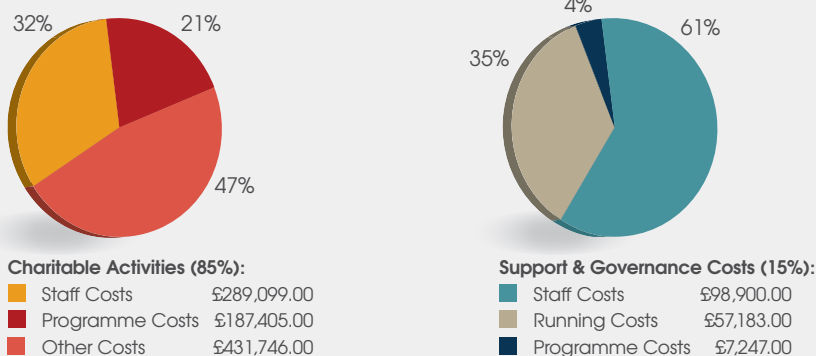
We provided payroll services, independent examinations and finance advice for the sector. We continue to carry out a number of one to one finance training sessions and governance checks with groups, which help the sector understand the processes they need to implement in good financial and governance management, within their own organisation.

We also manage all the finances for EBCDA, Templemore Avenue School Trust, 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).

Where our money came from:



How we spent our money:



Meetings & Conferences

Community Support

2014/15 saw some new developments in how EBCDA delivered its community support work. The **Community Workers Forum** came to an end after 15 years and EBCDA is now looking at other ways of providing relevant, targeted information-sharing opportunities. A number of regular themed forums are now supported which focus on: **youth practitioners, drug and alcohol issues, and ethnic minorities.**

Youth practitioners were further supported through a major collaboration project with opportunities for shared learning, and the development of a youth training toolkit. EBCDA facilitated two major conferences on racism in East Belfast in partnership with the Round Tower Project and developed a local support plan for communities affected by hate crime.

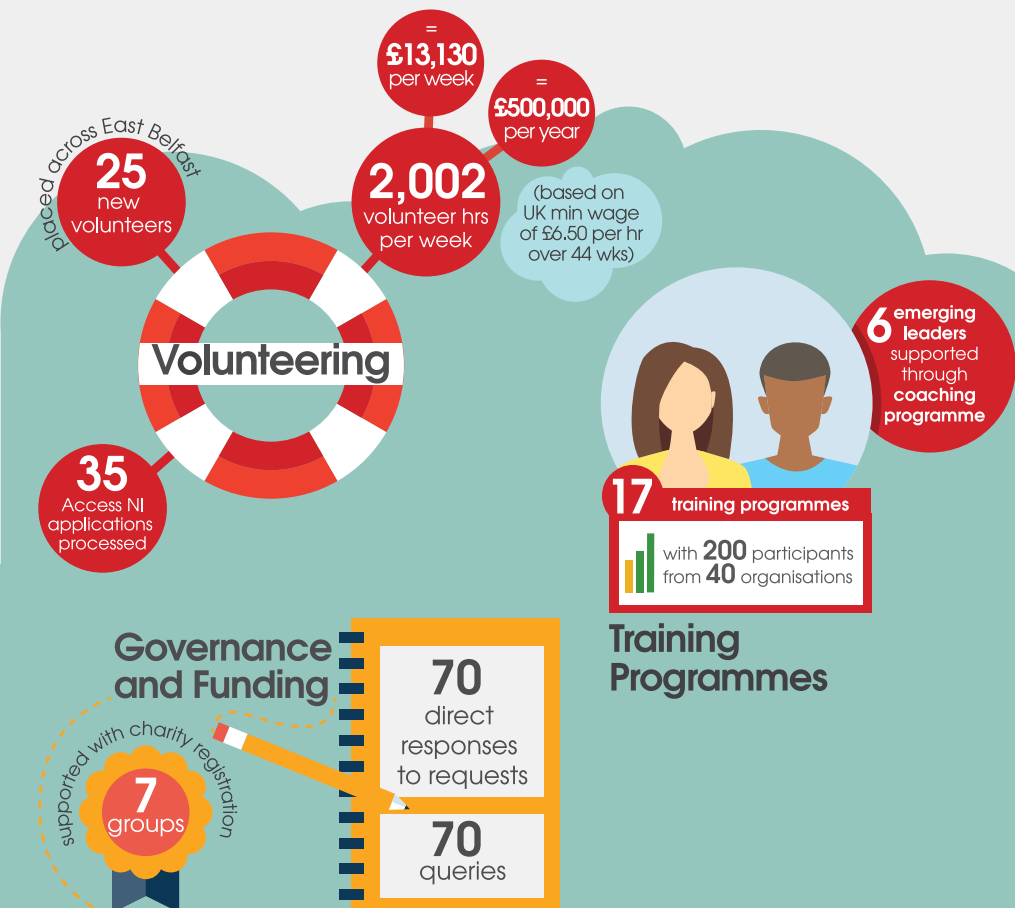
As a 'helper organisation' for the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, EBCDA has been busy informing and supporting groups with the registration process, which can be a daunting experience for some. This has been a useful opportunity for EBCDA to re-connect with a number of community organisations again.

The eBulletin briefing continued to be sent via email with up to date community and funding news. Community groups can now submit their own content for the eBulletin through a new online portal.

The Community Support Unit responded directly to queries relating to governance and funding. EBCDA responded to a number of Government consultations, with each response encompassing a range of diverse views from East Belfast groups.

The volunteer development programme placed new volunteers across East Belfast. A comprehensive survey conducted during 2014/15 revealed that volunteers in East Belfast provide a substantial amount of their time each week.

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, Community Development Networks Forum, East Belfast SIF Steering Group, Inner East Forum, East Belfast Partnership and Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership.



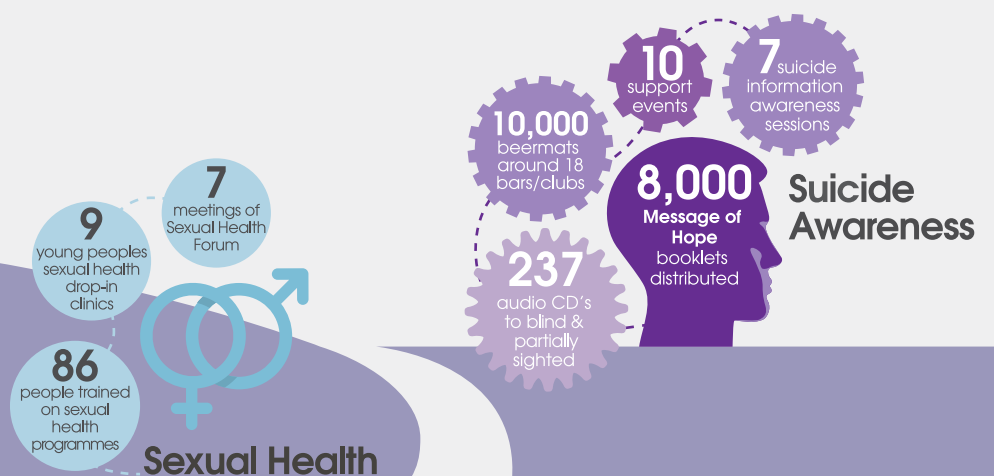
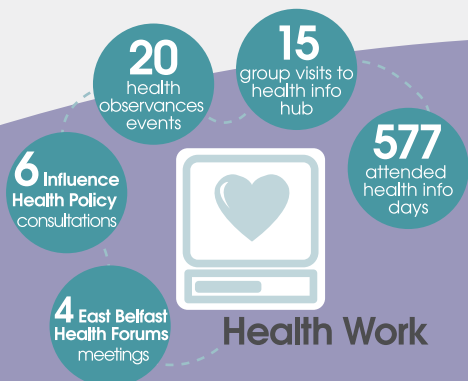
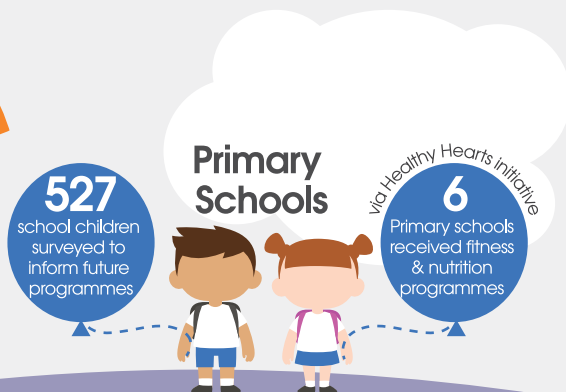
Health Development and Connections Programme

EBCDA Health Development and Connections Programme has been developing work under the **East Belfast Health Framework's** five themes: **Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Relationships** and **Healthy Neighbourhoods**, working in partnership with many organisations across all the sectors to lead, facilitate, develop, enable, provide and organise with local communities. Working across East Belfast provides opportunities to do specific work in smaller communities to bring health messages to local people.

Staying active and looking after your body is important and EBCDA worked in partnership with a series of organisations to promote, develop and support projects and programmes. During the year EBCDA promoted good health and well-being and facilitated suicide information and prevention work. Representatives from 35 local community, voluntary, statutory and private sector organisations are signed up to deliver the Community Response Plan to Suicide in East Belfast. The group delivered a workshop to colleagues in North Belfast on the learning gained from developing an East Belfast Plan. We continued to support the work of the SOS group to deliver their programme of support to families bereaved by suicide.

Working in partnership with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, EBCDA supported the development of East Belfast Mental Health hub, which became operational in December 2014.

As a result of the Mental Health Hub we have been able to develop East Belfast Mental Health Consortium, which includes 13 groups who provide mental health and well being services.



Board of Directors

Cliff Kennedy
Janice Cherry
Bernie McConnell
Rev Mervyn Gibson
Sammy Douglas MLA
Des Meredith
Rachael Davison

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer

Tommy Sandford
Liz Oslon
Glenn Jordan
Karen Purdy
Bobby Ellison (*Co-Option*)
Richard Williamson (*Co-Option*)
Margaret Ferguson (*from October 2014*)

Staff Members

Michael Briggs
Kim Briggs

Executive Director
Resource and Finance
Director

Alison Bryans

Health Connections
Worker

Jonny Currie

Community
Development Director

Katy Gaston

Volunteer Development
Co-Ordinator

Linda Armitage

Health Development
Director

Trisha McQueen

Receptionist & Admin
Support Officer

Clare Flynn

Suicide Prevention
Development Officer

Jean Higginson

Admin Support Officer

Alan Houston

Health Development
Worker

Marie Anne
McMillan

Finance Manager

Sharon Traynor

Health Development
Worker

Lynn Heatley

Community Support
Worker (Ballybeen)

Diane Allison

Admin Officer
(Ballybeen)



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East Belfast Community Development Agency



Belfast
City Council