

Colin
**WEST
BELFAST**

ISSUE
02
FEBRUARY
2018

URBAN VILLAGES **FOCUS** MAGAZINE



**Lagmore
Community
Forum**

**Removing
barriers
to learning
in Colin**

**Win
prizes!**

Take part in
our Survey!

**Find out what's
happening in your
local community**

**URBAN
VILLAGES**
Thriving Places

IMPROVING YOUR AREA | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

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COMMUNITY
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What's Next for FOCUS Magazine?

This is the second edition of the Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine and the plan is to circulate them **3 times a year**. So far, you have received a version of the magazine focusing on the great projects happening in your area along with a section of shared news about activity relevant to all of the 5 Urban Village areas.

In future we intend to produce

- Single editions that will cover stories of impact across all of the 5 Urban Villages areas, and everyone will get the same news in **May & September 2018** editions.
- Then we will produce 5 types like this magazine that you have in your hands, with a focus on your local area stories in **January 2019**.



May 2018
1 single
magazine



September 2018
1 single
magazine



January 2019
5 separate
magazines

Let us know what you think about the Urban Villages FOCUS magazine and you'll be in with a chance to win prizes!

See Page 9 for details.



Welcome

Linsey Farrell Programme Director,
Urban Villages Initiative, The Executive Office



Welcome to the second edition of FOCUS Magazine.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to those of you who got in touch to give us feedback about the first magazine. We were delighted with the positive response and have now spent some time thinking through how we roll out the magazine from here; you can read more about our plans opposite.

We would like to hear what you think, not only about the Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine but also the programmes and projects happening in your area. To help with this, we have included a short questionnaire on page 9, and if you take just a few minutes to complete it, you will be entered for great prizes!

Our first two Shared Learning Events for community groups and residents across all five Urban Village areas brought people together to build connections and share learning on ways to make a difference, read more on page 4.

Two further Shared Learning events are planned soon, the first in South Belfast has a digital focus, and at the end of March 'Community Approaches to Tourism' will be held in East Belfast.

This will be an opportunity to meet like-minded people and to support each other in developing ideas and plans. There is still time to sign up if you're interested in attending.

We have received nearly 100 nominations for the Urban Villages Community awards, the 30 finalists have been notified, and we are looking forward to celebrating with them at the community engagement events locally and then all together at the Awards finale night at Parliament Buildings on the 21st March. You can find out more about both of these events on page 10.

It is great to read stories about the impact projects are having on people's lives, so do please keep sharing them with us. We would love to meet you in person at the wider community engagement event happening soon near you, make sure you register for that on page 10.

Best Regards,

Shared Learning Programme



Community groups across Belfast and Derry-Londonderry are very experienced in developing innovative approaches to social challenges. The Urban Villages Initiative helps local groups and residents across all five Urban Village areas to build connections and share learning on ways to make a difference.

The Colin Allotments and Healthy Living Centre in West Belfast hosted a Shared Learning event in November. This is one of the region's biggest allotments projects and includes a community facility constructed from repurposed shipping containers.

Presentations highlighted ways the Allotments are used to support educational and health outcomes. This includes cooking and horticultural courses for residents and school children. The Public Health Agency and Colin Men's Shed showcased community initiatives promoting mental health.

First time visitors to Colin came away with new contacts and sources of advice to advance similar initiatives in their own areas.

New Year resolutions were very topical at a Health and Wellbeing event in Derry-Londonderry in January. The Shared Learning event at Bishop Street Community Centre highlighted community based approaches to promoting healthy lifestyles.

The work of the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum showcased school, family-based and workplace approaches to good health. The Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group demonstrated the power of committed people and volunteers to support others. Dove House Community Trust highlighted the importance of financial support and advice services to help people at times of crisis. People also left the event in Derry-Londonderry with a better understanding

of creative techniques to support wellbeing and the delivery of health based approaches.

To find out more about these Shared Learning events, get in touch at: info@urbanvillageni.org

WHAT'S COMING UP

South Belfast Shared Learning event: Community Approaches to Digital Skills, 27 February 2018

Venue: **Queen's University Belfast**
To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

EastSide Shared Learning event: Community led Approaches to Tourism, 28 March 2018

Venue: **Skainos Centre, East Belfast**
To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

Lagmore Community Forum

Colin

**WEST
BELFAST**

The building is already experiencing high demand and is providing a safe space for community groups to deliver vital services.



The new premises for Lagmore Community Forum was officially opened in November last year. Working closely with the local community, the new purpose built £400,000 community facility was made possible by funding from the Urban Villages Initiative and working in partnership with Belfast City Council.

The new building has a high spec fit out and is well equipped to service the local community and provides a welcoming shared space for others booking the venue. Located in the grounds of Christ The Redeemer Church it will be home to the Lagmore Community Forum and will be the organisation's first purpose-built premises since it was founded in 2000.

The building is already experiencing high demand and is providing a safe space for community groups to deliver vital services including Sure Start Parent and Toddler group, Blue Butterfly Stage School, Youth Services and Slimming World to name but a few.



For more information about activities take a look at: <https://www.facebook.com/lagmorecommunityforum>

Éamonn Scott, the founding Chairperson of Lagmore Community Forum, said

“Today is a good day for the people of Lagmore, as this building provides a long awaited and much needed facility for our community. As well as providing a base for Lagmore Community Forum, it also creates a safe place for local groups to meet.”

Colin Thriving Youth Project

Colin Glen Trust has had huge numbers of young people accessing the service with as many as 119 young people attending on some evenings. They have taken part in weekly programmes of music, sport and events away from Colin. These sessions have presented opportunities for outreach providers to refer young people off the streets into warm welcoming and engaging programmes.

On average 50-60 young people, mostly between 13-18yrs, attend activities every Friday evening, and very large numbers of younger people attend the alternative youth zone delivery sessions.

Colin Glen Trust has hosted three significant events since the launch of the Thriving Youth Programme, starting with the opening of the Skytrek and Archery evening activity during the Summer months, which proved very popular.

An impressive teen-focused Spooktacular Halloween event especially targeting those in post-primary education was very popular with locals and a group of nearly 60 young people were invited from the EastSide Urban Village area to enjoy the event. The third event was the Urban Villages Winterfest, held over a 3-day period it offered young people from the area activities throughout the holiday period.

The extended opening hours of the Saints Youth Centre has proved to be very successful. The youth centre has been opened an extra hour on a Friday evening (until 11 pm) and a Sunday afternoon (4-7pm). Both these sessions have given the young people a real alternative to hanging around the streets. During the opening times, there has been a visible reduction in the numbers of young people taking part in anti-social behaviour.

Colin Youth Development Centre - The “2 cities 2 walls” Programme is currently being delivered with the Belfast Education visits happening in January 2018, and the Colin Youth Forum set for Berlin in March 2018.

A busy and an exciting few months ahead for our youths in Colin!

“Without this funding support, our building is lying dormant, therefore, using the building and the skills of the staff team we have been able to help meet the needs of our young people better. Our interim evaluations with the young people have helped shape the programme in the months moving forward. This type of feedback ensures that the project continues to be a success.”

Cuan O’Neill,
Saints Youth Club



From the inception of the Thriving Youth Project, there has been a significant increase in positive engagement with young people in the Colin area.

Youth Initiatives are engaging young people in a range of ways, such as detached street work, after-schools football and rugby, drop-in's, good relations and personal and social development sessions.

In recent months young people have been engaged on the streets and, incredibly, they have then made the journey to the youth work centre where they are now participating in youth programmes and on accredited courses.

So far, 436 young people have been engaged through detached youth work, and the plan is to connect and engage with many more through to March 2018.

This project has real impact. Young people have said they are more engaged in their communities, they feel safer, and there is an increase in the use of community services, and overall, they feel their voices are being heard.



If you are interested in getting involved or would like to find out more about youth provision in the Colin area contact: **Colm Fanning, Social Enterprise Development Manager, Colin Glen Trust, Tel: 028 9061 4115, Email: colm@colinglen.org | Cuan O'Neill at Saints Youth Club Tel: 028 9030 1037 Tony Silcock, CEO, Youth Initiatives, Tel: 028 9030 1174**

Update on the Colin Town Centre Transport Hub

Work is progressing well on the development of the Colin Town Centre Transport Hub and Civic Square with the contractor on target to complete in August for the **opening in September 2018**.

The new facility will include an integrated community space and a civic square that will have public events alongside a coffee dock, waiting area and public toilets.

The new Transport Hub, which forms a vital part of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) project will be a state of the art facility and will provide a significant economic boost to the local area.



Removing barriers to learning in Colin

Around 50 primary school children in the Colin area of West Belfast will access vital counselling support this school year thanks to a partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Barnardo's and local schools.



Carrie Lindsay, one of the Time4Me counsellors, pictured at Scoil na Fuiseoige in Colin

The Colin Time4Me service, which was commissioned by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) and has been delivered since 2013, provides play therapy-based support to children from 6-10 years of age, facing a range of challenges such as family issues, bereavement and anxiety. Nearly 80% of children referred to the service are assessed at the start of counselling as being within the clinical range of stress and demonstrating problem behaviours.

The service is delivered weekly across six Colin primary schools; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Holy Evangelists, Scoil na Fuiseoige, Christ the Redeemer, St. Kieran's and Good Shepherd. Each child receives on average 10 counselling support sessions and there is a significant waiting list. Recently the service was under threat until the Urban Villages Initiative stepped in to provide funding for this project.

One local school Principal said: **"I couldn't possibly say enough about the value of the Time4Me programme in this school. Our counsellor provides a service - working with many of our most troubled children and helping them remove barriers to learning - that I don't believe we could do without."**

Another Principal said: **"I've been teaching in Colin for 34 years, and the greatest initiative in all that time has been bringing counselling into primary schools. Counselling works!"**

FOCUS Magazine Survey

Closing date:
16th March 2018



1 Did you know about the Urban Villages initiative before reading the newsletter?

Yes

No

2 Did you find the articles interesting?

Yes

No

Anything in particular you found interesting?

3 Did you find the information useful?

Yes

No

4 Overall, how would you rate the Newsletter? (On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent) Please circle.

1 2 3 4 5

5 Do you think Urban Villages is a worthwhile initiative?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Return form to:

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The Urban Villages Initiative

Or complete form online FOR FREE:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FocusUV>

In case we need to contact you - Tell us your name, and contact details

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel/mobile:

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PRIZES

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One4all Gift Card to the value of £100 - can be spent in over 21,000 outlets nationwide & online



The Urban Villages Community Awards Update

Nearly 100 nominations were received from a wide range of incredible people, organisations, projects and places from across the five Urban Village areas. This highlights the extent of inspirational work and fantastic community spirit across these areas.

In total there are 30 finalists, one from each Urban Village area in each of the six categories - so six finalists will be representing each area!

The finalists represent exceptional people, places, organisations and projects that are making a real difference to their community.

We are delighted to feature the finalists here and we look forward to the Urban Villages Awards Ceremony at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Wednesday 21st March 2018.

Congratulations to all and good luck!



Join us at Community Engagement Events in your Urban Village area:



**Colin
Venue:
Lagmore
Community Centre**

The Urban Villages Initiative will be holding a series of community engagement events across Urban Village areas during February and March 2018. We invite you to come and find out what's happening in your local community, and be part of continuing to shape the future of your area.

Hear about the great projects that have been rolling out in your area, and tell us what you think about the Urban Villages Initiative!



























Help us to inform programmes that will meet the needs of all of the Urban Village areas.

Meet the finalists that will be representing your local area at the Urban Villages Awards

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

To register your attendance please contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org or call **028 9037 8068**

The Urban Villages Community Awards 2018 Finalists

CATEGORY	North Belfast	South Belfast	East Belfast	West Belfast	Derry ~Londonderry
Youth Achievement	 YEHA Aspire Project	 St Malachy's YC Our Future Project	 AR Story project	 Uniting Communities Project 2017	 Megan McKinney
Education and Learning	 Retail and Care Training	 South Belfast Alternatives START Project	 EastSide Learning Community Education	 Holy Evangelists' Community Hub	 Margaret Cunningham
Sport & Physical Activity	 Point to Point Outdoor Challenge	 Réalta na Cromóige	 Street Soccer NI	 Colin Valley FC	 BBHF Resilience Programme
Celebrating Diversity	 North Belfast Friendship Club	 South Belfast Alternatives Dine with Me	 Prokick Community Gym	 Colin Men's Shed	 Kyle Thompson
Creativity & Innovation	 Belfast Boys' Model/Restorative School Project	 Belfast South Community Resources	 Ballymac Friendship Trust	 Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project	 Festival of Fire
Thriving Places	 Oasis Garden Project	 Donegall Pass Community Garden	 EastSide Visitor Centre/CS Lewis Square	 Lagmore Community Forum	 Gasyard Centre and Parkland

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU...

URBAN VILLAGES FOCUS MAGAZINE will tell you what's happening and what the Executive is supporting across the Urban Village Areas in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry.

The local stories you have read have come from community groups and individuals in Urban Village areas. We want this magazine to reflect the great things that are happening where you live and welcome your comments and ideas!

If you would like to receive future editions of FOCUS Magazine, sign up at info@urbanvillagesni.org or contact us at The Urban Villages Initiative, Room E4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SR



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Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

T:buc
Changing for the better, together



Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org