

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

ISSUE

11

SEPTEMBER
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COLIN

**Creating,
Connecting,
Adapting**

DERRY~
LONDONDERRY

**Enabling
Employment
Progression**

Seeds of Hope

EASTSIDE

NORTH
BELFAST

**Healthy Me
& Provoking
Thought**

SOUTH
BELFAST

**Dads
Day Out**



Thriving Places

IMPROVING AREAS | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

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A note of thanks to community groups that have helped by providing photos for this edition at a time when, due to the pandemic, we have been limited in our ability to visit projects to capture images. **Please note that some photos in this edition are not socially distanced because they were taken before the COVID-19 crisis emerged.**

About Us



The Urban Villages Initiative is a headline action of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. It is designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places.

The Urban Villages Initiative is shaped and delivered in partnership with local communities and has three core aims:

- To foster positive community identities
- To build community capacity
- To improve the physical environment

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in the five areas by supporting organisations in the development of projects aimed at improving the lives of people in these areas.

For more information contact: info@urbanvillagesni.org

Front Cover: Kirsty Hill, Foyle Search and Rescue volunteer, photographed as part of an exhibition celebrating 'Local Heroines' on International Women's Day for a Streets Alive project. With thanks to Lisa Byrne of Wrapped in Plastic for the photo.

Welcome

We would like to thank First Minister Paul Givan and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill for opening our latest edition of FOCUS Magazine with their joint message.



Welcome to the latest edition of FOCUS Magazine.

In this edition there are stories that capture the amazing efforts by groups and individuals during the challenges of the last year. You can read about how people have genuinely looked after each other, really going the extra mile.

Stories of creativity and connection, resilience and relationships and much more, it makes us very proud to be supporting this programme.

We have learnt that digital connectivity does not recognise barriers or interfaces, and many stronger bonds have been developed across communities; as technology has really taken a lead in bringing people together, though remotely.

This issue has a new one-off Capital Supplement dedicated to the projects completed to date and to what's coming soon. The Urban Villages capital build programme has grown significantly, and this gives it a bit more space to showcase the great work that has been achieved.

We continue to be inspired by the incredible ongoing commitment across Urban Village communities to support those most in need.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about the programme in the Urban Villages FOCUS Capital Supplement along with this latest edition of FOCUS Magazine.

PAUL GIVAN MLA
FIRST MINISTER

MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

**URBAN VILLAGE AREAS - Derry-Londonderry: Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street.
South Belfast: Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & The Markets. North Belfast: Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan.
East Belfast: Newtownards Road, Grampian Avenue to Bridge End. West Belfast: Colin Area.**



Schools ‘Buddy Up!’ during pandemic

The Buddy Up! online programmes have been developed for use in the classroom or at home.

Through the programmes, young pupils from Urban Village areas explore their identity and future through engaging video lessons and other activities.

Primary schools have found innovative ways to connect their pupils even when they cannot physically come

together, such as catch-ups on Zoom or a cinema day!

Pupils also share their work, focusing on identity and good relations throughout the programme.

Some of the connectivity problems between the schools were due to the lack of technology and proper equipment during the pandemic. Additional funding by the Urban Villages Initiative helped schools

access essential equipment through a digital bursary.

Jennifer Fulton, Vice Principal, Carr’s Glen PS, North Belfast commented: *“We are very thankful for our digital bursary which will help enhance our partnership with our friends at Our Lady’s. The boys and girls are looking forward to using Seesaw* to communicate with each other and share what we are doing.”*

Community Academy - building organisational capacity

The Community Academy is delivered by Resurgam and Fermanagh Trusts, who have developed a programme of one-to-one support for groups involved in Urban Villages capital projects.

Support has focused on effective community development; organisational structure, governance, and effective management of capital facilities.

The Community Academy began as a Department for Communities supported project which was being piloted in Urban Village areas.

It has recently been working with a range of groups in Urban Village areas, including, Donegal Pass Community Enterprises, Prokick Community Gym, Marrowbone Community Association, Ionad na Fuisseoge,



New Gate Arts & Culture Centre, Sunningdale Community Centre and Grace Family Centre.



New devices enabled pupils from different schools to connect and build relationships virtually, while they completed 'Buddy Up!'. The new equipment also increased the wider school communities' ability to access home-learning content.

Lisa Dietrich, CRIS NI said: *"CRIS is delighted that schools have been able to continue their shared work through the Buddy Up! online programme."*

"At a time when we have had to stay apart, it's been more important than ever to find other ways of connecting and learning together, and the digital bursary has empowered that. Our school partners continue to inspire us every day with their commitment to their pupils and peacebuilding."

*Seesaw is an online technology platform for primary schools



Keeping Healthy Staying Safe

A partnership approach to supporting those most vulnerable and isolated.

During lockdown the collaboration between the Urban Villages Initiative and Business in the Community (BITC) funded local community groups to support some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in Urban Village areas, though the Keeping Healthy Staying Safe programme.

Community led the way in delivering the programme across all five Urban Villages areas, as groups worked together well.

The collaborative approach helped build relationships between residents and community organisations across the wider Urban Village

area, while providing essential resources and protective PPE to those in most need.

Groups in some areas spoke of a surge in volunteering as an unexpected outcome with many wanting to *'pay it forward'* having received help themselves.

John Healy, MD Allstate, Chair BITC Place Leadership Team - *"Business has a responsibility to support local people and local communities, at any time, but even more so during a global pandemic. We were delighted to have the opportunity to support this important initiative and to work in collaboration with Urban Villages and the local communities."*

Joan Totten, Chairperson Sunningdale Community Centre said *"We are working to secure a new community hub through an Urban Villages capital project and with that came the responsibility of preparing business plans and various strategies, all of which was very daunting for a voluntary committee."*

"The Community Academy made it so much easier for us. They instilled confidence in us and introduced us to others who could help. We are now in the final stages of the business plan and the Community Academy have really given us the support that we needed."



Sally Smyth, Project Coordinator at Grace Family Centre said *"Each time I have a mentoring session with the Community Academy, I leave with new ideas to move our organisation forward. The support that we have received through the Community Academy has been invaluable. As a result of this support, we also feel more connected, informed and inspired to deliver change."*





Tackling mental health issues for children and young people



Our Generation is a consortium of delivery partners providing a programme to support children, young people and their carers to tackle issues around mental health and well-being. Here's how some of those partners are making an impact in Urban Village areas.

Dealing with lockdown has created extra pressures for everyone, and what has been highlighted is the increase of anxiety and mental health issues impacting the lives of children and young people.

Where's Your Head At?

During Children's Mental Health Week, which was all about children and young people 'expressing yourself', Action Mental Health (AMH) asked a number of schools serving Urban Village areas, to take part in the 'Where's Your Head At?' campaign.

Children were asked by teachers to design or wear a hat, write down how they were feeling and then take a picture and send it into their school.

This had a big response with children and young people taking part and sending in

photos of their fantastic hat creations from lots of different schools across the Urban Village areas, and teachers got involved too.

Feelings ranged from positive emotions like happy and excited, right through to more challenging ones such as frustrated and bored.

Two children and their Principal, Claire Robinson from Holy Evangelists' PS, were interviewed on Radio Ulster's John Toal show. They talked about what a difference it made for them to express how they were feeling.

 Listen here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0967pnp>

Let's Circus Together

Co-operation Ireland supported 'Circus Together', as part of the OUR Generation project, which was delivered by In Your Space Circus.

They matched the development of circus skills with a good relations narrative and dialogue. As participants learned circus skills, such as, juggling, balance activities and plate spinning they also explored issues of self, difference, community and identity.

Children aged 7 - 11 years from Marrowbone Youth Group in North Belfast were paired with siblings of children with additional needs from the Solas project in South Belfast to take part in this online programme.

Liz Carton from Solas group commented, *"We really enjoyed the programme, it was nice for the zoom to be so interactive and getting the children up and moving was brilliant. The children really enjoyed the session"*.



Supporting Parents & Carers of Anxious Teenagers

This is an online series led by Bronagh Starrs, renowned adolescent development specialist and Action Mental Health. It focuses on supporting parents and carers to help them understand adolescent anxiety and how best to support teenagers during these challenging times.

Thirty parents took part on a cross community and cross border basis, ranging from Ashfield Boys in East Belfast and St Colm's High School in Colin, West Belfast across to Sligo.

The workshops provided awareness of the impact of trauma on our wellbeing and the importance of self-care for parents and carers. It offered many practical and healthy coping strategies. Resources will be shared and a sign-posting service offered.

Innovative ways to engage with young people

A training webinar, set up by Co-operation Ireland and led by adolescent development specialist, Bronagh Starrs was delivered for professionals on a cross border basis from Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area and Donegal.

The training focused on adolescent development and how life experience influences the adolescent's self-view and interaction with their world.

Useful skills were presented to extend participants' range of interventions to support struggling teenagers.

Feedback was extremely positive so a follow-up session was organised with the group to focus on trauma in adolescence.

Participant, Kayleigh Carlin commented *"As a family support worker I am constantly looking for new and innovative ways to engage with young people. This training provided that and more."*

Bronagh's informal, practical and fun approach provided me with plenty of resourceful techniques."

More details can be found on @OURGenCYP Twitter and @OURGenerationCYP Facebook.

The OUR Generation project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the SEUPB. It includes a focus on Urban Village areas and is co-funded by the Executive Office and the Department of Rural and Community Development Ireland.



Ardoyne &
Greater Ballysillan

NORTH BELFAST

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VILLAGES**
INITIATIVE
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Community Training Covid-19 style

When a pandemic comes you go back to the drawing board, as Kevin McGarry, coordinator of Connected Futures, found out.

Connected Futures is a joint programme with Ballysillan Community Forum and Ardoyne Association, planned to start last year as face-to-face training, personal and professional development.

Due to Covid-19 the programme had to adapt to the digital world, using different methods and additional support for participants. Some courses transferred better than others.

The Advice NI Level 4 Certificate, adapted well and participants are due to complete this soon. But the Carers Training, which relied on practical hands-on sessions, had to be postponed.

The woodwork skills project, to create cultural work linking communities, was redesigned as a DIY online course, and the response has been encouraging.

“The pandemic has impacted on the good relations element of the programme as participants are unable to get to know each other properly.” Kevin said, “On the other hand, online courses have enabled wider participation.”

Together with the relationships developed through foodbanks, Connected Futures has helped build new partnerships in the wider Urban Village area of influence.

Young leaders persevere through the challenges

This programme began when teenagers from Ardoyne and Ballysillan started a joint youth leadership programme between Ardoyne Youth Club and North Belfast Alternatives, in the challenging setting of a pandemic.

This three-year programme is a journey for these young people. It includes joint outdoor activities, leadership training, social action projects and community events, with good relations throughout.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the groups had to start sessions in their separate bubbles and put the cross-community element on hold.

Then the last lockdown brought new challenges as meet-ups had to move to Zoom. The structured sessions were then alternated between leadership

skills with chill-out nights, pizza parties and quizzes led by the young people. So, the two groups finally connected, although on Zoom.

Youth worker, Liam Davey, was impressed with participants high motivation in difficult circumstances. *‘They’re all keen to engage on their first OCN in Youth Leadership. Fingers crossed the two groups can catch up properly with each other at the joint fun activities and trips in the summer.’*



Healthy Me & Provoking Thought

Recently, the Action Mental Health team have been busy building relationships and delivering its OUR Generation, 'Healthy Me' and 'Provoking Thought' programmes in the North Belfast Urban Village area, through a mix of physical (when allowed) and online sessions.

Healthy Me is a lively engaging mental health programme aimed at children. It explores emotional and mental health, healthy lifestyle choices and pathways to effective support through imaginative and interactive play and song.

Provoking Thought supports young people and their key contacts with mental and emotional wellbeing programmes. They have a range of activities that are tailored to suit group needs. The workshops are friendly, positive, interactive and informative.

A P4 teacher commented on the 'Healthy Me' programme *"The children's sessions were amazing, parents got in touch to tell us their children loved it! I also got ideas and the language was so child friendly and appropriate for children to understand."*

'Healthy Me' was successfully piloted to P1 children. A teacher at Mercy PS commented, *"I thought that it was going to be like all other courses that we had done before. This programme is beautiful and so fitting for these times. I love how it approached emotions and children's mental health."*

For more information contact Action Mental Health
 T: 028 9182 8494 or
 E: ogteam@amh.org.uk





Building community leadership

The North and West Belfast Scouts and Girl Guides have come together to start a Skills Building and Community Development programme for young people who aspire to leadership roles. A strong foundation has been laid for speedy progress to be made when restrictions are eased.

From the outset, Covid restrictions prevented face-to-face meetings and volunteering was very restricted. But the scheme got off the ground during one of the windows of easement with an induction evening facilitated by the

Belfast Activity Centre and hosted by UTV's Pamela Ballantine.

Since then, meetings have been via Zoom and Google Classroom where young people learned about issues in youth and community leadership.

Outdoor activities are planned and the young people will be introduced to Belfast Hills and other local community groups, once restrictions are lifted.

The young people will progress towards a community leadership

award while developing skills through Open College Network units and volunteering opportunities. Belfast Activity Centre, a Duke of Ed Award Centre, is a delivery partner. The programme has recruited several volunteer role models including Trevor Ringland, Pamela Ballantine, Jenny McConnell and David Robinson.

This is based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award - volunteering, physical development, skills development and an expedition, a programme for all youth uniformed organisations.



Preparing local groups to reopen safely

Ballysillan Community Forum (BCF) have led on the Keeping Healthy Staying Safe (KHSS) programme in the North Belfast Urban Village area.

Older people not forgotten in North Belfast

The North Belfast Care Zone has organised an event to bring hope and recognition to older people in the Ballysillan, Old Park and Cliftonville areas.

Community groups, primary schools, local residents and local councillors have worked together to help tackle issues of loneliness and isolation experienced by older people due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through reaching out to older people, Cecilia McCloskey, a member of the Care Zone Steering Group and Sacred Heart Parish, became only too aware of the heightened sense of loneliness due to the restrictions of shielding, lack of direct services and with no access to technology, churches or social groups.

The Care Zone group which includes Youth Education Health Advice (YEHA), Belfast Healthy Cities, TAMHI, and Local Community/Parish reps and Community champions have teamed up with Sacred Heart Boys PS and Carrs Glen PS, North Belfast Alternatives and local councillors for this event.

The project is jointly funded by a partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative and Business in the Community, to support those most vulnerable and isolated, across all of the Urban Village areas.

BCF have purchased and distributed essential PPE to groups from Ballysillan and Ardoyne, helping them to prepare for the re-opening of community facilities across the areas.



The project has sent postcards from primary school pupils to residents in care homes across Ardoyne & Ballysillan. It has erected signs with encouraging messages for older people in the area, and distributing information packs.

The Office for the Commissioner for Older People NI has also added its support and welcomed this event.

Sean Devlin, YEHA said *“We have recognised that our older people have become isolated through shielding at these difficult times, it is the responsibility of the entire community to look after each other. People often need reminded that our older people make a vital contribution to our local community, we need to listen to them more. This initiative was a great way to show older people that they are valued”*



BCF partnered with and supported 19 groups from across the Urban Village area.

This initiative led to building stronger relationships and to invaluable information sharing to support the wider community.

Ballysillan Community Forum Manager Dale Harrison said; *“This project was invaluable to help local groups, sports*

teams and centres to get prepared for the events they have been longing to fulfil for the communities we all represent.”

“It was great having groups across the community visit Ballysillan Community Forum to collect their PPE. New contacts were made, and the groups were able to share experiences of what has been happening in their local areas.”



Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST



Seeds of Hope in Short Strand

The spring of 2021 was most definitely a time when we all wanted to plant the seeds of hope, and the Short Strand 'Shared Green Space project', supported by the Urban Villages Initiative aims to do just that.

An academic studying the benefits of horticulture recently stated, "There appears to be a relationship between gardening and hope. The very action of planting a seed in the soil requires hope; by encouraging and in some senses almost imposing a sense of hope on to someone, a personal journey may begin".

As local CRJI coordinator Michael George explained; *"I started working on this project in late 2019 and there was great enthusiasm for a grower's space in the area. Working with the Short Strand Environment Committee we have identified a large Green area, which is underdeveloped and perfect for the projects long term aims, creating a shared green space, welcoming to all."*

Meantime, St Matthews Parish committee have given permission to revamp and develop their little garden, formally used by their Special Needs Group.

Michael added, *"The plan is to have this garden in use and welcoming to all, as we come out of this very tough year. With luck, the Harvest planted this year will signal new hope and resilience for our community"*.

Newtownards Road Heritage Trail



EastSide Partnership received funding from the Urban Villages Initiative to research the Newtownards Road with the aim of creating a heritage trail. Match funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund has enabled this research to be published as a printed resource.

The trail will start at the Hollywood Arches and go to Bridge End towards the Sirocco Works, telling those industrial heritage stories as

well as political, social and religious stories as you walk along the one mile stretch. The same route taken by the romantic poet John Keats visiting Ballymacarrett in 1818.

Among other things, this trail will highlight the community of artists now based on or near the Newtownards Road that might have appealed to Keats' bohemian sensibilities had he visited the area's studios and galleries some 200 years later.

Bringing our cultural past to life



Turas, the East Belfast Mission's Irish language and cultural project has brought a fascinating piece of Castlereagh history out of the Ulster Museum and onto the street for all to see and experience.

The Clondeboye Stone is an ancient rude stone chair upon which the local Irish chieftain was inaugurated. It was last used in 1602 when Con O'Neill sat in the Castlereagh Hills and surveyed his lands, and it is now housed in the Ulster Museum.

Con was the last Gaelic ruler of a huge part of North Down and Ards but when he died in 1619 he had lost nearly all of his land.

Turas have contracted a local craft company to make a robust, lightweight, copy of the stone. At future cultural events and exhibitions everyone will have the opportunity to be enthroned like a Gaelic Lord.

Linda Ervine, Turas said;
"With the support of the Urban Villages Initiative, Turas are introducing the local community to the forgotten Gaelic history and heritage of east Belfast."



Lisa Rea Currie, Heritage Officer for the Eastside Partnership, said:
"Funding from Urban Villages allowed us the time to peel back layers to the history of the Newtownards Road and to identify commonly told stories of the area and to research some lesser-known histories. The trail will aim to increase local community pride and share the area's rich and diverse history with visitors."



Keeping Healthy Staying Safe supports the Scaffolding Project @ The Larder

As part of the Keeping Healthy Staying Safe (KHSS) Programme, the Scaffolding Project partnered with community organisations to support delivery of bespoke food projects for people most in need in the EastSide Urban Village area.

Louise Ferguson from The Larder commented; *“Food parcels appear in all sorts of ways, from neighbours, friends or strangers.*

“At The Larder we’ve been working to draw together all that’s best about receiving a food parcel. With support from the Scaffolding Project and a lovely bunch of delivery volunteers, we introduced the ‘Dinner’s Done Club’ for 20 families who were relying on emergency food for some time.”

“While providing slow cookers and weekly recipe bags of fresh ingredients, our friendly volunteers have had great doorstep chats with the families. Our hope is this combination of community, convenience and fresh food, restores some dignity for them, and is the beginning of something new for us here at The Larder.”



The Larder designed this creative new ‘Dinner’s Done Club’, to provide a bespoke quality experience for some of the most vulnerable families, to improve their wellbeing and restore dignity.

KHSS is supported by a funding partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative and Business in the Community (BITC).



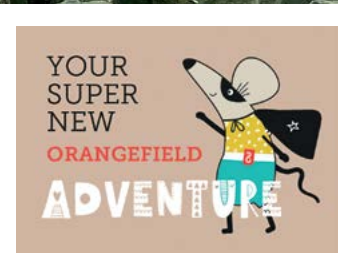
Hosford’s support for the homeless

The Hosford Health and Wellbeing Hub has had a busy year even with Covid restrictions, they have still met with clients, supporting their needs and preventing homelessness.

The Keeping Healthy Staying Safe project enabled Hosford to supply an extra 20 hampers per month to their clients, providing both PPE and food. Many clients described these hampers “a life saver.”

Hosford have also been focusing on rebuilding their Community Garden at East Belfast Mission with work on the garden recently completed.

The Hosford clients are excited about the new garden and after inputting their ideas, everyone is looking forward to revisiting this rejuvenated outdoor shared space. The garden will help clients with their physical and mental health, as well as promoting better overall wellbeing. The garden will also benefit the local community. The garden will also benefit the



Supporting Early Years

The Carew Family Centre in the heart of EastSide Urban Village area has been transformed as a hub for the EastSide Early Years Network and local children and families, thanks to support from the Urban Villages Initiative.

EastSide Learning has been facilitating an Early Learning Project since 2017 to support training, events and resources for early years settings in the area. Last year, due to the pandemic, plans had to be changed to offer support in a different way.

They were able to create interactive online materials that connected parents with Nursery and Pre-school settings across the EastSide Urban Village area and provide easy access to important information needed for the pre-school admissions process.

Even though families could not visit settings this year, the resources including transitions booklets, virtual tour videos and the interactive map helped to ensure that they had the information needed to make informed choices about their child's transition onto the next stage of their learning journey.

Maggie Andrews from EastSide Partnership said, *"The production of an Interactive Map of all Early Years settings has been a great tool that the Early Years Network will continue to use as a resource post pandemic."*

Some additional capital funding support was used to repurpose internal and external places in the Centre to provide a fabulous new parent's room, an updated drop-in, kitchen area and develop an area outside for outdoor learning. We even managed to have two new Forest School leaders trained to ensure it is used to the max!

For more information contact maggie@eastsidepartnership.com

local community, creating a welcoming space to meet others, reducing social isolation, which is much needed now and post COVID.

The Keeping Healthy Staying Safe programme is supported through a partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative and Business in the Community (BITC).





Colin
WEST BELFAST



Image of Cloona House painted by Michael Murray.

Colin Men's Shed try something new

Though the pandemic has caused isolation and challenged mental health and wellbeing, the Colin Men's Shed recently decided to give themselves a lift and try out a new skill, Rattan Weaving.

The programme was hosted by Michael Murray, a member of the group who was able to transfer his skills to others.

Although numbers were restricted due to COVID, ten men participated in the programme and social distancing was always maintained.

Michael commented *"I really enjoyed teaching the men how to make trays out of Rattan. It was a really fun programme and there were lots of laughs along the way."*

Umberto (Scap) Scappaticci, who manages the Men's Shed added *"It's very important the men pass on their skills to other men in the group. This was a great activity and we would like thank the Urban Villages Initiative for their support."*

Schools were shut but the healthy eating messages kept going

Hard to believe, but it has been over a year since the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership Allotments has been able to host a school visit.

The Growing Spaces programme adapted more than once as a result of Covid-19 and moved online to support local primary school children, who enjoyed these classes being delivered live on screen.



The videos were distributed to the school online platforms allowing the children to download the videos at home when they were doing their school work.

These videos are educational and fun, children have learned a lot of healthy recipes. Growing Spaces has done everything it can to get the message of healthy eating across, even during the lockdown.



30 Years supporting women and still going strong

Footprints Women's Centre is celebrating 30 years of providing essential services to women and children in Colin.

Isobel Loughran, Director of the Centre, said, *"Our truly inclusive services continue to thrive and grow, providing childcare, respite, women and family support, crisis intervention, training, food services and outreach. I am proud to say, over the past year, through Footprints social supermarket, we have diverted 23 tonnes of quality food from landfill, which has provided for local families, to support them with over 55,000 meals."*

The Keeping Healthy Staying Safe joint programme between Urban Villages Initiative, Business in the Community and local organisations, has provided food and support outreach through the delivery of afternoon teas and family meals to local families and organisations including Pineview Manor, Cloverhill Hostel and Laburnum Hostel.

Local Syrian families continue to access English classes and food support through the social supermarket. Participants have continued to access support during this pandemic, which has created increased need for Footprints services.

Contact us for more information on **02890923444**

Strengthening resilience in Colin's classrooms

In addition to the one-to-one 'Time 4 Me' counselling support for primary school children, extra funding from the Urban Villages Initiative has enabled Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) to commission a Barnardo's Resilience Programme called BOUNCE for children aged 8-11yrs.

The BOUNCE resilience training has been delivered to nearly 1,200 children across all schools in the Colin area, as well as resilience workshops and resources to support parents and teachers.

BOUNCE is a programme that helps children and parents to cope with the ups and downs of life, with an emphasis on emotional health and well-being, which has been particularly important during the past year of lockdowns and restrictions.

In the interactive BOUNCE workshops, children discover what it means to be resilient and how to 'bounce back' from tough situations.

The programme also provides short videos to inform parents on the important role they play in helping their children to develop resilience.

A pupil participant said: "It's really good, it helps people to be able to cope more when life is hard like it was for me. If you're sad you can learn ways to feel happier, and get over bumps and never give up."

I like that I am unique. Also, that others can help and I am not on my own. When I felt like I had a rock on my back, it was like getting it lifted off. Altogether BOUNCE is a brilliant idea."

Colin
**WEST
BELFAST**



Creating, connecting and adapting

As a result of lockdown, people became housebound more than ever, and so at Ionad Na Faiseoige we looked at how we could best continue to connect with our usual participants and the wider community.

Some services were easily transferred online, such as Irish language classes. The traditional music class was more difficult, as the young people found it difficult to engage using only their parent's phones!

So, we recorded the tunes for students to practise, and we recorded Irish language songs for children, to ensure they

could still hear the language while off school. These have been used successfully with Naiscoils and Bunscoils children.

We then decided to record other classes so that more people could choose a convenient time to engage in the activities at home. For example, we recorded;

- a workshop for making St Brigid's crosses - providing the rushes for collection.
- bi-lingual personal trainer sessions, to help people stay healthy in mind and body.
- hula hooping with Triona, a great success! (Hoops are for sale in the centre).

- Sewing and arts & crafts activities with resources available for collection.

All these services have proved very popular both in the Colin Urban Village area and further afield.

We also partnered with groups to support vulnerable families locally, providing fruit and vegetable packs, clothes for children and selfcare packages.

We continued to serve the whole community and support them to develop their skills, stay healthy both physically and mentally, keep connected and have fun through online classes and activities during this difficult time.



Promoting physical and mental health

Colin Gaels GAC delivered 100 well-being packs to its members during lockdown, including, fresh fruit, a Gaelic football, mind-skills books for the older players and colouring in books for younger children.

The packs also contained information to encourage exercise and advice on how



Caitlin's Story

The Colin Safer Streets initiative has delivered OCN accredited courses on Community Safety and the effects of Anti-Social Behaviour. One recent participant, Caitlin McCotter, gave her assessment of the course.

"I got involved with the Safer Streets initiative through cross-community projects with Dunmurry and Suffolk estate, meeting and forming relationships with people I probably would never have had the opportunity to meet, and many now very good friends.

Through this project I was offered the opportunity to take part in an accredited OCN Community Safety course.

As I'm hoping to do youth work in the future, this was ideal for me. I was able to gain new skills like critical reasoning and analytical skills, and I saw how anti-social behaviour impacts on all sections of our community, particularly elderly residents.

I am also better able to conduct research, which will help me massively when completing coursework for my university degree. The training was informal, interactive and very interesting. I would definitely recommend it, particularly if you want to positively contribute to the future of your community".

Caitlin McCotter is now studying Social Policy at University of Ulster.

Safer Streets, providing support and advice

Throughout the Pandemic, the Safer Streets initiative maintained a focus on keeping local residents safe by monitoring all our usual meeting places, supporting and engaging with youth outreach, Translink, CNP and all our community safety partners, to ensure all necessary Covid 19 response measures are adhered to.

Safer Neighbourhood Volunteers along with CRJI support handed out free PPE essentials, including face masks and herbal hand sanitisers, made by Colin CRJI Coordinator Jane Young. The volunteer teams worked in and around the main Stewartstown Rd area.

Michael George, coordinator of the Safer Streets Initiative said; *"Lockdown was an extremely tough period for us all, but particularly our youth, who thrive on outdoor engagement, meeting with friends and catching up with groups from across Belfast. While we cannot yet fully let down our guard, increased vaccination numbers, an increase in outdoor activities as we head into summer, will hopefully significantly reduce the numbers needing medical treatment and ease the pressure on our NHS. The summer will be all the better if we stick to the guidelines."*

to look after your mental health and wellbeing.

David Barry, Chairperson of Colin Gaels commented *"After what was an incredibly challenging time for everybody we were delighted to get the kids back on to the pitch.*

With a 35% increase in participation since we got back it's clear that sport has such a role to play in society's recovery.

I'm extremely proud of all our members and volunteers who worked with the children throughout lockdown, keeping them active and involved and I am delighted to see so many black and yellow clad gaels around the Colin area as we continue to grow"

For further information on Colin Gaels email: joincolingaels@gmail.com



Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST



Dads Day Out

Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR) teamed up with Sandy Row Football Club to run a range of practical activities for the Dads of the team as part of the Parents Connect programme.

The Dad's Day Out initiative supports and promotes good mental wellbeing, while having fun and giving the Dads some much needed time to connect with other men from the Urban Villages area.

Due to lockdown and the amateur football season being cancelled, this opportunity

was all the more important to help keep the Dads active. The Dads took part in a range of activities including Footgolf and Go Karting, which helped them to reduce stress.

"There's never too much for men so it's great that we were able to get out and do activities with other men to help support our mental health." Andy, participant.

Jamie-Lee Peden,
BSCR Parent Support Worker;
"Connect All Parents South is a project for mums and dads in South Belfast. I recognise that mums and dads are pillars in the development of their

children's emotional well-being. Studies have shown that when fathers are affectionate and supportive it instils an overall sense of well-being and self confidence in their children.

Working in partnership with Jamesy from the local football team, we were able to identify dads to take part in outdoor activities that give them a chance to off-load, connect, chat and get to know each other, and me. Dads day out gave me a chance to build relationships and explain to the local dads what my role is and how I can help support them and their families."

Families cooking at home

South Belfast Sure Start ran a 'Cooking at Home' programme, connecting with families from across the Urban Village area.

Families received a healthy food box containing all the ingredients needed for 2 meals each week, as well as enough fruit for the whole week.

Alternative ingredients were provided to those families with religious, cultural or other dietary requirements, so everybody could join in.

The family support team then made videos in their own kitchens demonstrating how to make family favourites like stew, soups and roast chicken and vegetables. The videos and recipes were sent to parents on the day of the deliveries, as

well as videos on how to have a healthy balanced diet.

The videos and pictures of our families cooking and eating together says it all. The children really enjoyed coming out to collect the boxes and helping their parents cook the food.

Families chatted online about how they found cooking the recipes and we saw some lovely food from around the world. The programme also



Alternatives Mural Art



The South Belfast Alternatives YAP group have designed and installed a mural opposite their offices in Donegall Pass. The timing of this piece of art couldn't be more appropriate, given the challenges of lockdown.

We hope that the mural can promote a sense of positivity, respect and love for the area.

A big thank you to Glenn from Nozzle & Brush Artists who worked alongside the young artists to make their vision come true.

"Such a simple but very effective programme to deliver a positive good relations message and show our appreciation to local businesses for all their support at the same time."
YAP co-ordinator, Gareth Hughes

The young people saw how important it was that the community in South Belfast come together and supports each other through this difficult period.

"Great craic designing the mural and working with the artist. We did it as a BIG THANKS to local businesses who have supported YAP from the very beginning and continue to do so. I learned new skills and feel really proud too because it looks wicked!!"
YAP young person from Donegall Pass.

"The artwork looks fantastic and really brightens up the area. I was delighted to partner with the YAP project and young people who have all been outstanding in giving back to their community especially during this pandemic. I look forward to working together with YAP again in the future."
Local Business Proprietor

The concept behind the artwork came from young people in the community working together from different backgrounds.

provided the blenders and slow cookers necessary for families to make some of the recipes successfully.

"Such a great programme, it has really lifted the spirits of the families after a difficult lockdown."

It is hoped to run the programme again across the South Belfast Urban Village area in the near future.



Positivity & Creativity

BSCR has organised a range of different initiatives to help support people from across the South Belfast Urban Village area throughout lockdown.

The aim of the initiatives was to connect with people during this difficult time and help create a sense of positivity across the community.

Tackle the Stigma

Over 100 young people from South Belfast have come together to design their own Mental Health & Wellbeing posters. These designs have been digitally printed and posted around South Belfast as part of our 'Tackle the Stigma' campaign. The designs are by young people for young people, and the aim is to help them understand that they are not alone, and it's okay to talk about how you're feeling.

For more information on this project or to find out who you can talk to, contact Jonny Simms, Jonny@bscr.co.uk
028 9024 4449

Digital & STEAM Packs

Children from school years P4-P7 across the South Belfast Urban Village area, have taken part in a range of digital and STEAM activities. Participants received a pack with lots of practical ideas to help promote and upskill children's digital and STEAM skills. Activities included, building your own Rocket ship T-shirt design and making an electric circuit using a lemon.



"It's really fun and it is a better use of my time. I have been able to learn how to look after plants and create different experiments." Hannah age 9

Lunar Project

The Lunar Project is an initiative to tackle period poverty in South Belfast and has been endorsed by local MLAs and councillors in the area.

The project aims to overcome what is often referred to as

the 'toxic trio': the cost of sanitary products; a lack of education about periods; and the shame, stigma and taboo surrounding menstruation.

The Lunar Project has donated a range of sanitary products to schools, youth groups and organisations within South Belfast.

The Urban Villages Initiative have funded a banner that is being erected in the community to help challenge the taboo around the topic.



Eco-engineers

Eco-engineers teaches young people about the importance of looking after the environment, and assists them with the opportunity to tackle local and international environmental issues within their communities.

By blending a range of digital, practical and educational activities together young people not only learn practical and important digital skills, it also helps to create a sense of civic pride within their communities.

Eco-engineers is a young person led project that allows the participants to learn, explore, think about problems and relate to others locally and globally.

Young people from St Malachy's PS & Blythfield PS have been tackling local issues including dog fouling within their communities, by designing their own posters tackling the issue.

St Malachy's PS P7 class recorded their own Podcast show and looked at the impact the proposed skyscrapers would have on their community.

Mrs McGuigan, Teacher St Malachy's PS said ***"It has been a fantastic project to be involved in and the children have loved it. It was over and above expectation."***

In addition young people have laser cut and designed their own bug hotels, looked

at the importance of protecting animals through 3D printing, developed sustainable cities through Minecraft, coded robots and taken part in mindfulness within nature sessions.

Jonny Simms, BSCR Project Coordinator said: ***"We have had a lot of fun creating the signs and t-shirts for the campaigns. The term Eco-engineer comes from the fact that we are learning about ways to help the environment, while also using machines such as the 3D Printers and laser cutters, that is where the engineering comes in."***

"It is a great way for young people to learn about helping their local environment while also developing new skills that can help them throughout their lives. We are always on the lookout for different groups to take part in the project."



Bogside, Fountain
& Bishop Street

**DERRY~
LONDONDERRY**

Supporting school children and their families



During the COVID 19 pandemic the Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum (BBHF) maintained their partnership with the five Primary Schools within the Urban Village area; they identified young people and their families that were most in need of support from the Resilience Programme.

They recognised the wider impact that COVID 19 has had on families, and there has been continued engagement with the pupils and their families throughout the school year.

BBHF developed bespoke health and educational packs in partnership with the teachers and classroom assistants. A lot went into creating fun and interactive ways of encouraging the young people and their families to engage and learn new skills, while including the key resilience message.

The activities encourage nurturing and caring for yourself and others, providing young people and their families with creative things to do together to promote family time and improve their wellbeing and feel-good factor.

There were also online and DVD resources encouraging the young people to engage in activities that included yoga, mindfulness and games. These would have been part of their resilience programme if they were at school.

Over 220 Resilience packs went out to the five primary schools. The feedback from the teachers has been fantastic and BBHF are working hard on the next Quarter packs, with some very exciting resources.

"Thank you so much for the art packs for our children. The packs were vitally important for allowing our pupils to express themselves through art, thus helping our pupils' mental health and wellbeing, during a time when life is very difficult due to the Covid Pandemic. We are very grateful."

Joyce Logue, Longtower Primary School

"The packs ensured parents had creative and practical ideas of things they could do at home. The idea of nurturing was promoted and the children responded well to this. They recognised the positive role that they can play in society. We look forward to our next packages arriving!"

Mary Nic Ailín,
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir



▶ Watch Bogside Brandywell YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ISimPZM7o3fzAzy8tWamQ/videos>



Increasing confidence for a brighter future

The Know it Change it Live it (KCL) Project has been supporting low-income families by offering debt and budgeting advice for clients who find themselves in hardship; and this has led to better financial confidence and capacity.

The debt advice was particularly busy during lockdown. KCL have dealt with several clients who have found themselves struggling to meet their agreed payments to Debtors. This has been incredibly stressful and although the team are working from home, they are still inundated with clients like this, looking for support.

It has been great to see the increase in family interaction through KCL online cooking & money management classes that have included participation from all communities. They have provided good nutritious meals and tips on cooking within budgets.

Group sessions have also provided a means to stay in touch and opportunity to share hints and tips about how to provide for families whilst remaining within their financial means. They have helped to break down the barriers between communities and created an understanding of a shared approach to living through the pandemic, while increasing confidence for a brighter future.

One case that approached KCL was concerning a family that had been coerced into a guarantor scenario:

“I came to Majella to see if I could get my debts in order, as I had become a guarantor and my family were unaware of the situation. Majella contacted the debtor on my behalf, and she fought to get the name removed from being guarantor. They accepted the information and I am now free from that debt. I am forever indebted to her for what she has done for me.”

For more information contact Dove House **T: 028 7126 9327** or **E: contact@dovehousecommunitytrust.org**

Streets Alive adapting and reaching more people

This past year the 'Streets Alive' programme in the Derry~Londonderry Urban Village area has had to adapt to the new circumstances created by the pandemic, and it became 'Online Alive'.

It was an extremely difficult year for events type programmes, but with the development of Féile TV, for the first time, it became possible to broadcast local cultural and arts event directly to the community, using YouTube and social media channels.

Along with its partners, Streets Alive developed the usual packed programme of events, including, music, art workshops, short film productions and premieres.

The online events received a great reception from the community across the Urban Village area and beyond. There were many highlights, creating a strong sense of community spirit, celebrating local talent.

This approach took entertainment, education and interaction directly into people's homes, whether that be in a care home or family home.

The online programme was packed with events for all the family, health and wellbeing workshops, arts and crafts workshops, bedtime stories, cooking workshops and local musicians entertaining people in their own homes.



Celebrating International Women's Day

The theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 was 'Choose To Challenge'. As part of the Streets Alive programme, a number of groups across the Urban Village area came together to produce a packed programme of events for the day.

Women from Dove House Community Trust, North West Youth Service, Pink Ladies, Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum, Old Library Trust, SureStart Edenballymore, Bishop Street Youth Club, Triax NMT were all involved in the day's events.

Dove House hosted an online discussion with three local women who spoke of the challenges they have overcome in their lives, including mental health issues and speech impediments.

Another highlight was 'Local Heroines', an outdoor portrait exhibition celebrating women in their many roles, who make our neighbourhoods so great.


A new version of the feminist anthem Bread & Roses was filmed and produced with young women from across the Urban Village area as they walked through the Bogside and Fountain (see link opposite).



Images from the 'Local Heroines' Portrait Exhibition - photos by acclaimed photographer, Lisa Byrne of Wrapped In Plastic Photography.

Derry's historic walls was the venue for concerts from a selection of the finest female voices from the area, and the programme also featured a series of relaxing workshops that were delivered online via Féile TV across its online platforms.

The programme was hugely successful with over 20,000 people tuning in for the various films.

 [Click here to watch the Bread & Roses Film](#)



Enabling Employment Progression

The Skills North West, Urban Villages Initiative Progression Programme is a partnership approach to provide opportunity for current or former Skills North West or Skills 2020 participants to access further higher-level training and skills.

It is a pipeline strategy to facilitate people if they need higher level or different qualifications, or to gain skills training, to enable them to improve their employment opportunities or to become self-employed.

One participant, Sinead McGilloway told us how she had benefitted:

"I was registering as a childminder, and so I was keen to complete the Level 3 First Aid Course.

This course was brilliant, it covered so much.

I now work as a childminder and I feel confident that should a medical emergency arise I have learned how to efficiently deal with the situation and how to ensure my workplace is safe."



Damien O Hagan - Case study

My name is Damien O Hagan I got involved with the Urban Villages Skills Initiative last year as I wanted to re-skill in a different industry. Having been working in hospitality for many years I felt it was time for a change.

I have a young family and my goal was to find a career more suited to their needs and also something that was more financially secure. When I saw the NEBOSH course advertised I thought this could be the way for me to meet my goals.

The NEBOSH Training in itself was quite difficult but with the support of the tutors and skills staff, I successfully completed the course. I was elated and felt a real sense of pride.

Given that I had little to no experience in the industry, I set out to gain real life working experiences. Since completing the training, I have been given the opportunity to work alongside MK Safety Consultants and more recently McCallions Group Ltd.

The pandemic has impacted the number of available job opportunities in this field, but I am hopeful that in the future I will be able to make the move full time to working in the Health and Safety Industry, all thanks to the Urban Villages Skills Initiative and Skills NW.

NEBOSH - National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health

Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine Capital Supplement Issue 1

Find out more:

With this issue of FOCUS Magazine you will receive a copy of our first ever Capital Supplement, developed to capture the story of one of the Urban Villages core aims, **'improving the physical environment'** across the Urban Village areas.

The transformation is not only physical. Find out more about the way these projects create inclusive, welcoming and diverse spaces; connecting people and places positively.

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in local communities, connecting people and places and helping to create #ThrivingPlaces in Urban Village areas.



Covid-19 Don't let your guard down

There has been a big increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19. This puts pressure on our hospitals and health services.

Vaccination protects. It helps our health service cope, by pushing down infection numbers and hospital admissions.

It will also help us all get back to normality – mixing with friends, nights out, holidays and all the other things we may have taken for granted before.

WHERE TO GET YOUR VACCINE

FIRST DOSE

First dose vaccinations are available from either one of the many walk-in centres or community pharmacies.

Mobile vaccination clinics

You can get your first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at any mobile vaccination clinic without an appointment. These clinics are in multiple locations and you can find the one closest to you [here](#).

Vaccination at a community pharmacy

Most pharmacies only supply the AstraZeneca vaccine at present, which is recommended for those aged 40 and over.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is also available at a number of pharmacies. This vaccine can be administered to anyone aged 18 years and over.

Details of which pharmacies are offering the Moderna vaccine are available [here](#).

SECOND DOSE

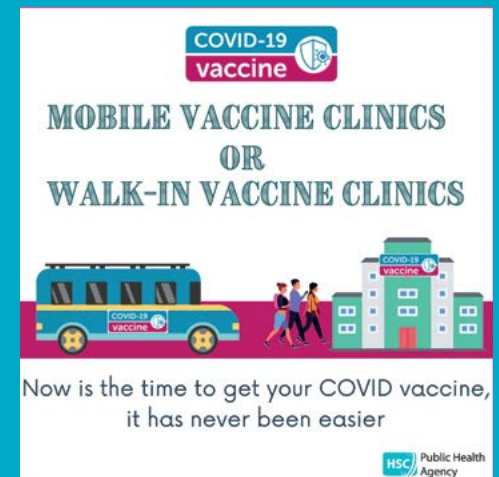
You can get your second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at any regional vaccination centre.

If necessary, you can attend on another date, without having to change your original appointment, as long as the required interval has passed since your first dose. The required interval between first and second doses is:

- eight weeks for Pfizer
- eight weeks for Moderna
- eight weeks for Astra Zeneca

More information on COVID-19 vaccination is available at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/get-covid-19-vaccination-northern-ireland>



Training Opportunities



Belfast Works Programme

Currently all our courses are being delivered on-line and participants need a computer and internet connection to participate. We have a range of non-accredited and Level 1 courses including Business Administration, Personal Development, Employability Skills and Microsoft courses.

If you are interested in joining or for more information, contact us via ashtoncentre.com/contactbelfastworks/

Terms and conditions will apply for entry and classes will only run subject to numbers.



JobWorks+ Programme

Want an opportunity to access training with LTSB (Leadership Through Sport & Business). Apply as an Apprentice at Ulster Bank and potentially earn over £19k.

Join JobWorks+ programme for 1-1 mentoring support, OCN qualifications in Customer Care, Interview Skills and techniques.

This course will support participants to access the LTSB programme in partnership with Ulster Bank.

Contact **John on 02890 315111** or email johnhamilton@springboard-ops.org

Eligibility: 16-24 years old
From areas of disadvantage/Unemployed.



Path 2 Employment Programme

Do you need help finding employment? Do you want to gain some new skills and training that could help lead to exciting employment opportunities?

The Path2Employment team can support you to identify opportunities and develop a career pathway that would help you to find employment.

If you would like to find out more about any of the courses we offer, contact Ciara or Marty from the Workforce Path 2 Employment Team **Ciara T: 075 934 35746**
Marty T: 078 3472 7071



CASE STUDY - Conal Corbett finds his pathway

Conal contacted the Path 2 Employment programme to get support to find an apprenticeship.

He applied using the new remote application system and was contacted by his Employability Mentor, Marty, to discuss options.

While on the programme Conal completed a number of sessions around CV building, career planning and interview preparation, as well as his Level 1 qualifications in Employability, Personal Development and Manual Handling.

After a number of weeks training, Marty was able to secure Conal an on-site interview with a potential employer. This resulted in him being offered an apprenticeship opportunity. As Conal lives in the North Belfast Urban Village area, the employer was able to identify a site in North Belfast that would be suitable to start him on.



Building Your Future

Poleglass Community Association is offering a range of training opportunities aimed at providing you with the skills required to get you on the path to further learning and employment including horticulture, construction, cooking, business administration and online learning.

For more information contact Roisin on **028 9062 7250** or email roisin@sallygardens.org

News



Interface location transformed into Sensory Garden

The Urban Villages Initiative is supporting the development of a sensory garden in North Belfast that will give the community a space to be proud of.

The new sensory Garden at NBWISP* will aid healing for local members of the community, not only for those who need support with their physical and mental health, but

also those who just need five minutes of down time to stop and reflect on their day.

There is a culture of social isolation locally, where barriers between residents are commonplace. The sensory garden will give the community a space which is accessible, social and safe, contributing to a greater sense of belonging and a place where new friendships can be made.

The garden will bring activity into the public area, transforming a derelict, underused and contentious space into a community facility that can be enjoyed by all sections of the local community.

Alex Crossley, NBWISP Co-ordinator said; *“The area in which we are developing the sensory garden is situated against a 60ft peace wall and had been derelict for over 12 years, it had become a dumping ground and was very unattractive.*

“Through participation in the garden, people will start talking to one another. As the plants grow, so will friendships, often forged across cultural barriers, challenging stereotypes and an historical suspicion of strangers.”

NBWISP* North Belfast Womens Initiative & Support Project

For more information
Email: info@nbwisp.com
Telephone: 028 9039 1028
or find us on **Facebook**.

Keep in touch

Stay updated with what’s happening in your Urban Village area.

Focus Magazine - Next issue – Autumn 2021. If you have any local community stories or events that you would like included, just let us know.

Ezines - Ezines will keep you updated throughout the year on what’s happening in your Urban Village area and beyond.

Twitter - Follow us and Keep the conversation going @urbanvillagesni

Youtube Channel - Click here to view videos of the great community projects we support

To join our mailing list send your contact details to info@urbanvillagesni.org





Aisling Awards Covid Hero - Sinead McKinley

Sinead McKinley from North Belfast Advice Partnership was the winner of the 'Urban Villages Covid Hero Virtual Aisling Award' at the 24th Annual Aisling Awards.

Sinead was nominated for the outstanding work she does for the North Belfast Urban Village community.

She went above and beyond to offer support to families and organisations by providing benefits advice, supporting a 'school uniform swap shop', food banks, and meals for families.

Working with volunteers and groups from across Belfast, Sinead was also involved in setting up a distribution centre in the SSE Arena providing Christmas hampers to those most in need.



WOMEN'STEC Drama

This Urban Villages WOMEN'STEC project supported a cross community group of women from North Belfast during the Covid-19 crisis.

The women decided to create, script and perform their own drama entitled 'If I could turn back time' expressing their experiences, humour and togetherness.

The women had never done anything like this before – it was challenging, nerve-wrecking to perform, but such a confidence building experience for them all.

"EAST BELFAST - OUR STORY 2020"

The Eastside Awards has built a reputation for recognising all that is good about East Belfast, and this year, people in the local community were asked to share uplifting stories of how the community pulled together and how businesses innovated, pivoted and diversified to survive.

'East Belfast - Our Story 2020' is a film which showcased contributions made to the economic, social and community development of the area.

Turning the spotlight on those who have made a real difference, inspiring pride, enriching lives for the people of East Belfast. The film of stories recounting how the people of East Belfast responded to the COVID-19 pandemic was broadcast at a virtual premiere at the Strandtown Cinema.



Jonathan McAlpin, Chair of the Eastside Awards Committee, said: *"There are a lot of people in East Belfast who need to be congratulated and commended for playing their part during one of the most challenging years of our lifetime. We have heard powerful and extraordinary stories about community spirit, innovative stories about business survival to bring to life 'East Belfast - Our Story 2020'."*

First Minister Arlene Foster and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill opened the premiere event with a few words, which you can listen to on the link below.



▶ View 'East Belfast - Our Story 2020' on the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/526712010807134/videos/829771277887721>

COVID-19
vaccine



This summer even if you've been vaccinated for COVID-19, you still need to remember:



FRESH AIR

HSC Public Health Agency

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, Knockview Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SJ

 Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

T:buc
Changing for the better, together

**URBAN
VILLAGES**
Thriving Places

Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org