

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

ISSUE

12

JUNE
2022

COLIN

**Reflecting on
life in lockdown**

DERRY~
LONDONDERRY

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EASTSIDE

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Community
Tourism**



Thriving Places

Welcome



Carol Morrow, Director, Urban Villages Initiative and Communities in Transition

Welcome to another packed issue of FOCUS Magazine.

I joined the Urban Villages Initiative as Director late last year and I'm so impressed by all the work that is going on. It has been great to get to know about the work being rolled out across capital, community led and cross cutting projects and programmes, in the five Urban Villages.

FOCUS Magazine brings together the story of this work into one integrated package with good relations at its core. Reading these stories, I have been heartened by the motivation, commitment and creativity of the community organisations leading this work with their groups and participants.

The collaborative work with our partners on both building projects and community programmes is delivering really positive outcomes. This shows time and again that the hard work is having that real impact where it is needed, in the heart of our communities.

This is an initiative that impacts people of all ages and all cultures and the places where they live in the Urban Villages areas.

Thank you to the many contributors for sharing your stories. I'm really looking forward to getting out and about across the five Urban Village areas in the next few months to meet you and see the impact you are making on the ground.

Front Cover: Children took part in the OUR Generation Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme delivered by Playboard at Ligoniel Primary School.

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What's happening across Urban Village areas



Brighter Days Ahead with Schools of Sanctuary

Eight more Belfast schools serving Urban Village areas have been awarded Schools of Sanctuary status.

The award supports schools to develop welcoming spaces for pupils and their families, where every child feels safe and fully accepted. These schools will become beacons in the community as places where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.

The schools gathered for a ceremony at Belfast City Hall during Good Relations Week. The theme of the week was 'Brighter Days Ahead' and the efforts of these schools will ensure brighter days ahead for many children, young people and families.

There are now a total of 50 Schools of Sanctuary serving communities in Urban Village areas. These are areas with some of the highest levels of deprivation and historical social tension.

An exciting next step for the programme was announced by Tiffy Allen, National Coordinator of Places of Sanctuary Ireland, speaking at the celebration event. The 'Schools of Sanctuary across the Border project', will 'twin' 10 Schools of Sanctuary serving Urban Village areas in Northern Ireland with Schools of Sanctuary in the Republic of Ireland for a joint one-year project.

The Education Authority's Intercultural Education Service, with funding from Urban Villages Initiative and working collaboratively with the City of Sanctuary, has provided training and support to help the schools become places of sanctuary.

Education Authority (EA) Chair, Mr Barry Mulholland, said:

"Every child needs to feel safe and accepted. Over the past five years, numbers of refugees and asylum seekers reaching our shores have increased, and these children and young people and their families have been welcomed into our schools and communities."

"With the additional support from The Executive Office, the Urban Villages' Schools of Sanctuary programme helps schools to re-think and re-develop how their whole school provides a culture of welcome and inclusion for all. This is an excellent example of school development which involves staff, pupils and their families in re-shaping how children are valued and supported."

<https://youtu.be/3PufP7sqPfw>



Funding Awarded for Schools Arts Projects



Eleven post-primary schools in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry have been awarded grants to develop landmark arts projects over the next two years.

Recognising the importance of bringing more arts into the classroom, the funding will enable schools to work with professional artists to teach students new skills and to build self-esteem, which will enhance their learning across key subjects. The funding has been awarded by the Creative Schools Partnership, a cross-departmental approach, between the Urban Villages Initiative, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Education Authority.

The schools are located across the Urban Village areas in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry and each one has developed their own project proposals.

They will take part in a range of activities including screenwriting, dance, journalism, photography, film-making, music composition and visual arts. All of the projects will have a strong community focus, building connections with local community groups, care homes as well as families and many will focus on mental health themes, building self-confidence, motivation and resilience.



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<https://youtu.be/FkrN5462qZo>

Future Innovators Programme Goes Live



The Future Innovators programme will target areas suffering disproportionately from the legacy of the conflict. A new project led by Co-operation Ireland, it seeks to boost the social economy through targeted funding.

The programme aims to further peace-building and reconciliation and will be based in the five Urban Village areas namely North Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, West Belfast (Colin area), East Belfast, South Belfast and the border areas.

Social innovation means using new and creative approaches to develop practical solutions for addressing social, political, economic and environmental challenges such as poverty, employability or climate change, among others.

Projects can range from social supermarkets that provide employment and services in the areas they are based, to digital democracy tools that empower people to have a greater say on local decision-making. An online toolkit is also being developed.

Speaking about the strategic importance of the project for the EU's PEACE IV Programme, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: *"The Future Innovators project offers a tremendous opportunity to assist communities within the five Urban Village areas to develop the skills they need to create innovative solutions that will address issues of local concern."*

Co-operation Ireland CEO Peter Sheridan said: *"Tackling generational problems stemming from the conflict remains a very live issue and projects like Future Innovators will not only foster cross-community interaction, but also build the social economy in deprived areas."*

A number of the Urban Villages programmes have used social innovation as a key part of their approach, now the Future Innovators programme will offer support to embed this approach across the Urban Villages areas.

For more information contact: Kevin Brassell, Project Manager, Future Innovators, Co-operation Ireland, **+44 (0) 7717493801**

Facebook:
[@futureinnovators21](https://www.facebook.com/futureinnovators21)

Instagram:
[@futureinnovators_https://](https://www.instagram.com/futureinnovators_https://)

cooperationireland.org/projects/future-innovators/

Expanding the Conversation

On the 15 December 2021, The OUR Generation programme successfully launched the first ever Transgenerational Trauma Awareness Day (TTAD21) aimed at raising awareness and to help break the cycle of Troubles associated trauma in generations of children and young people.

Research carried out over the last decade is now recognising how the impact of violence from the troubles, lives on in families having been transmitted to younger generations.

TTAD21 launched a social media campaign alongside a live online event, featuring significant expert speakers and attended by people from all over the UK, Ireland, and other parts of the world.

The TTAD21 theme was 'Expand the Conversation' - chosen because OUR Generation wanted to raise awareness of Transgenerational Trauma with those in relevant sectors where greater understanding is required.

OUR Generation is a partnership through the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, and match funded by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Schools Good Relations Action Plans

CRIS are working with 15 school partnerships to develop Good Relations action plans. These action plans will detail the work schools are already doing around good relations as well as identify areas where they would like further support.

The planning days provided the opportunity for schools to think about how they can use the new capital builds in the areas to enhance partnership work. As part of the action plan all schools are asked to use the 'Buddy Up!' Online programme at KS1 & KS2

For more information contact: Néidín Hendron at neidin.hendron@crisni.org
T: 0792 185 1601



Spaces to Be

Carol Morrow, Director, Urban Villages Initiative and Communities in Transition joined a celebration PlayBoard session at St. Vincent De Paul PS.

Students reviewed all they had done in the previous play sessions and they had a drummer who addressed difference and inclusiveness through the medium of music.

To complete the ceremony the children were given mindfulness bears and discussed what being a play champion looked like, including how to look after your mental wellbeing, standing up for your rights, being inclusive and welcoming difference.

The focus of Playboard is on the critical role of play as a means of supporting both the development of childhood resilience and as a mechanism for positively addressing differences at individual, familial and cross-community level.

You can find out more at <https://www.playboard.org/what-we-do/projects/our-generation-project/>



Colin
WEST BELFAST

Reflecting on Life in Lockdown

St Colm's High School in the Colin Urban Village area hosted a special event to celebrate the launch of a new pupils' poetry and photographic anthology entitled 'The Times That Shape Us.'

others and build their self-confidence. The school's focus from the outset was on improving mental health and wellbeing through poetry, photography and music.

The project was developed as part of the Creative Schools Partnership, supported by the Urban Villages Initiative, the Arts Council and the Education Authority.

Professional creative artists work with young people in the classroom to help them to use creativity to engage with



Adrian Walsh, Principal of St Colm's said that he is extremely proud of the students' achievements. *"It has been wonderful to watch their self-confidence and self-esteem grow as well as engagement with the arts and for them to have the opportunity to meet a variety of people from different backgrounds and cultures."*

The students' publication was warmly welcomed by all attending. It only remains to commend the pupils and staff and the Creative Schools Partnership Programme which started the project.

<https://youtu.be/FkrN5462qZo>

Aisling Awards Nomination

The Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project (CSNP) was delighted to be nominated for the 2021 Urban Villages Rebuilding Aisling Peoples' Choice Awards.

CSNP is a Community Safety Organisation in the Colin Area. It has a Neighbourhood Watch Programme and manages all aspects of anti-social behaviour. Michael George coordinates the partnership between CSNP and Community Restorative Justice and has said *"Although our Safer Streets initiative was pipped at the post in The People's Choice award, a great night was had by all and many thanks to everyone who voted for us. Congrats to all the winners."*

For more information contact: mg@crjireland.org or scap@newcolin.com 028 9062 5020



Bring Glass Art to Life

Always keen to develop new skills, Colin Men's Shed recently completed a stained glass workshop hosted by Roberta Larkin from Larkin Glass Art.

Some great artwork was created during the programme, as the men learnt how to make decorative sun catchers out of glass.

A group from Ionad na Fuisoige also really enjoyed the stained glass windows arts course. The group varied in ages from a young adult, young mums and a couple of seniors. They applied themselves from day one and although they were all producing their own piece of work they found it better to work in pairs and sometimes in groups of four depending on the task.

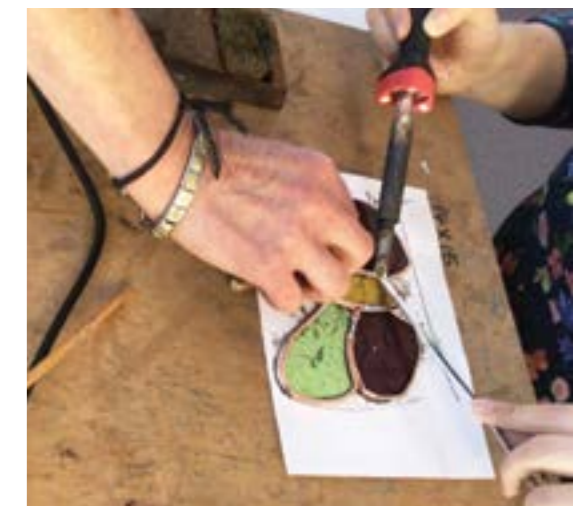
Umberto (Scap) Scappaticci, who manages the Men's Shed commented: *"This was another great project funded by Urban Villages. It was a very enjoyable learning how to make sun catchers out of glass. With these new skills we will be able to do our own glass art sessions."*

For more information contact: scap@newcolin.com 028 9062 3813



They were looking for a course that would take them out of their comfort zone and show that when you apply yourself you can achieve most things in life. When this group came together, they all felt it would be extremely challenging. However, their confidence grew and when asked what they would like to do next they joined together as a team to complete a collective piece. They choose to do a fuisoige - a lark and the symbol of their centre, which is now on display for all to see.

Bronagh a young mum said, *"I loved how useful I felt to other adults when completing the tasks. It was great to be part of a team and not on my own as I usually am."*



For more information contact: Ionad na Fuisoige theresabradly@btinternet.com 028 9062 0373



Colin
WEST BELFAST

It's Good to Walk and Talk

World Suicide Prevention Day was marked in the Colin area again last autumn with a Walk and Talk event to raise awareness about suicide and to promote positive mental health.

Organised by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, the event saw hundreds of people take part. Sticking to Covid-19 guidelines, participants walked from the Colin Town Square to McKinstry roundabout and back.

The event is now in its fourth year and took on extra significance this year as the community looked to raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Umberto Scappaticci from Colin Neighbourhood Partnership said, *“Walking is good for your physical and mental health and talking is good for your mental health, so it’s a good positive thing for people. It was good to see so many people taking part and we’re going to try to do more things around suicide prevention throughout the year.”*

For more information contact: scap@newcolin.com

Head of Civil Service (HOCS) visits Colin area

Jayne Brady, HOCS visited projects in the Colin Urban Village area.

HOCS visited the Páirc Nua Chollann, a park that will transform the landscape and will have something for everyone visiting or living nearby.

And later HOCS also visited Footprints Womens' Centre where she heard about how statutory, voluntary and community organisations work together to make life better for the people of Colin and the newcomer families living locally.



Encouraging Entrepreneurs to Go For It!

The Building your Future project aims to help those who are long-term unemployed or economically inactive, living in the Colin area, to get themselves back into employment. The team get to know each of the participants inside-out so they can build rapport and help them to achieve their goals.

By attending these classes our participants are not only achieving an OCN Level One qualification, but are being given a new lease of life.

Professional speakers are invited to come in to share their knowledge and stories of how they overcame issues such as, anxiety or being put down and what they did to become the successful persons they are today.

The amazing and inspirational entrepreneur, Mr Pat Slattery, spoke to participants about leadership, selling, self-esteem, goals, strategy, creativity, change and success. This helped the potential entrepreneurs take action to finally believe in themselves and to just go for it!

The participants benefited from this project by improving their confidence, gaining qualifications and some moving into employment. Their families have enjoyed their new outlook on life and some are following in their footsteps.

A lot of the people have moved into entrepreneurship. The wider community has now also benefited through everything from reiki, baking cakes and buns, making candles and wax melts, to selling perfumes and creating arts and crafts and jewellery, to name just a few!

“Before I started the confidence course with Sally Gardens, my confidence was low with being in lockdown and not interacting with other people. Joining the course was the best thing for me – learning new skills and meeting like-minded people. It was amazing and informative.”

Lisa Lawless, Lagmore

For more information contact: roisin@sallygardens.org
028 9062 7250



Tour explores 1000 years of History

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership recently hosted an historical coach tour of the area, led by renowned historian Dr Éamon Phoenix.

The tour spanned a thousand years in Irish history and included visits to sites namely Teeling’s Mill, Derriaghly Chapel, Castle Robin, Tullyrusk ancient graveyard, Drumbeg church yard and Hannahstown, which has links to Penal times and the 1798 Rebellion.

The development of this Tourism and Heritage product in the Colin area not only promotes a better understanding of the history and identity of the area, but it will also be a great draw for people from across the region and further afield to visit the Colin area and to explore the history.

The tour concluded at Cloona House, the childhood home of writer and explorer Beatrice Grimshaw.

Annie Armstrong, Manager of Colin Neighbourhood Partnership said, *“This tour happened during Good Relations Week and was part of an exciting new History and Tourism initiative.”*

“We have such a rich and diverse heritage in Colin, which we’re keen to conserve and showcase. A series of history trails are currently being developed alongside a Colin Heritage website and a series of podcasts.”

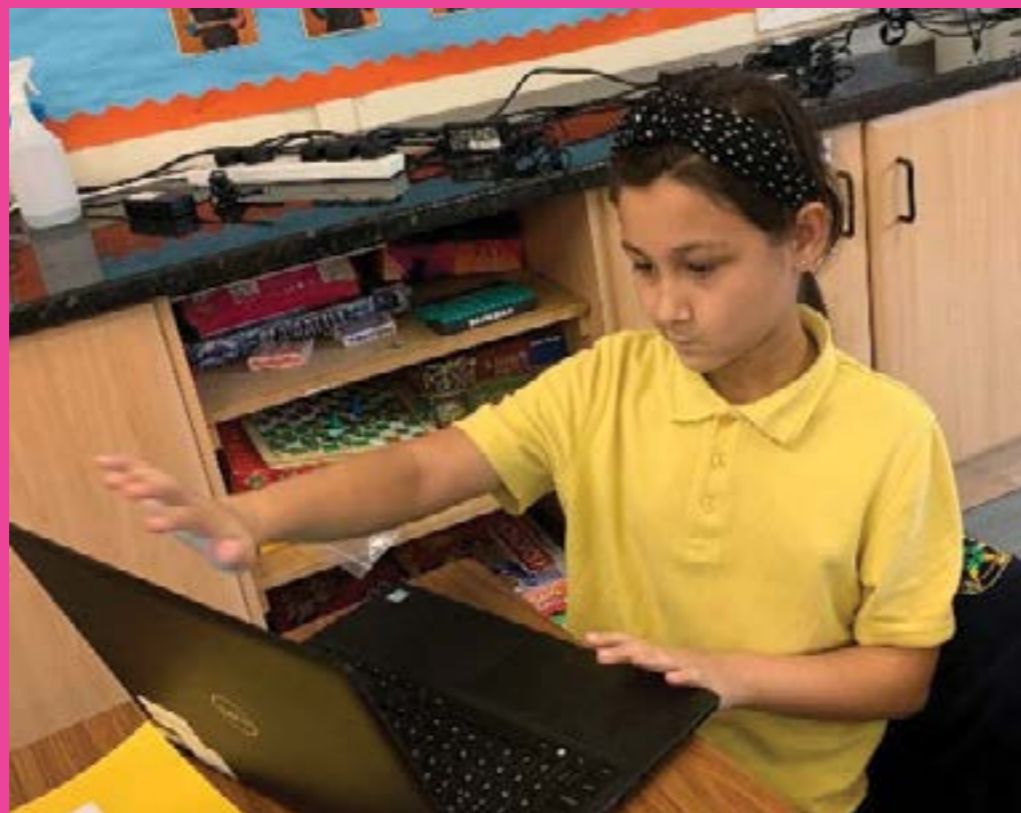
The Colin Heritage Project with Ulster University is funded by the Urban Villages Initiative and the Department for Communities.

The Resilience Programme

Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street

**DERRY~
LONDONDERRY**

The Resilience Programme supported and funded by the Urban Villages Programme has continued to grow. The Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum (BBHF) has been key in providing support to people within the local community and schools, showing that through the relationships they have nurtured they have been able to bridge the gap that has existed for so long between community and statutory organisations on education.



SUPPORTING PUPILS AND THEIR FAMILIES

BBHF has delivered 11 Resilience Programmes across the Urban Villages area and is offering additional Maths and English support within the youth clubs.

Throughout the year BBHF has continued to develop effective programmes and services in partnership with teachers and classroom assistants.

The feedback from our partner Youth Clubs has been fantastic,

“The sessions went well, I had the same students each week. Everyone attended the sessions and the engagement and feedback was all good and positive.”

Georgina, Cathedral Youth Club

“Things are going great. Pupils are still attending weekly and are motivated.”

Kellie, Long Tower Youth Club

In the past three years Resilience programme has supported young people to have:

1,108

Improved Literacy & Numeracy

1,374

Improved wellbeing

1,428

Showing improved resilience

New Partnership Funding from Fair Start

The Urban Villages Initiative has collaborated with the Department of Education Fair Start programme to enhance delivery and support in local schools and youth clubs. The Resilience project consulted with schools and youth clubs and found projects such as these are needed in the local area to promote inclusivity, health and wellbeing with educational support.

This has resulted in the greater happiness of young people, who now understand their emotions better and why they feel a certain way and how

to deal with their feelings in a manner that is positive for them and those around them.



This programme addresses the educational and health inequalities that exist within the Urban Village area. BBHF understands that it can work to address these inequalities and provide the young people with the best opportunity to improve their life outcomes.

BBHF continually engages and supports people in the Urban Villages area by designing programmes based on community feedback.

Through partner meetings with local schools and youth clubs, BBHF has identified the increasing need to address educational anxiety in young people.

The Resilience Programme continues its partnership with Youth Clubs and Schools to enable BBHF to provide KS2, 3 and 4 in a range of environments, offering support for GCSE Maths and English.

It was identified the need for this programme was outweighing what could be provided. The additional funding has allowed BBHF to tackle this quickly to get that much needed support into the community and to the young people.

Aileen Mc Guinness, Director of the Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum commented on the project's impact saying, *“We are supporting one young person who now has the confidence to go into their math's class and not feel lost. They now have the confidence to give back to their community and they are not defined by their limitations or where they are from and this counts for so much in their young life.”*

BBHF is excited to be looking forward in the programme planning to develop and evolve this excellent service.



For more information contact Sinead Murphy: Sinead@bbhealthforum.org 028 7126 2812

Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street

DERRY- LONDONDERRY



Know it Change it Live it - KCL

The KCL Project supports low-income families by offering Debt and Budgeting and better living Advice, leading to better financial confidence and capacity. It also offer sessions on the psychology of shopping, providing useful information booklets and resources to households.

Benefit support became more critical during the pandemic when families lost income and support strands. Dove House offered a 24 hour helpline to ensure quick responses and support was available to the community. The project is well used and established throughout the Urban Villages area with outreach clinics taking place in all areas.

KCL has delivered cooking sessions via zoom to clients from the Bogside, Bishops Street and the Fountain estate.

Ingredients were provided and using zoom, the participants had the option to mute their volume and keep their camera on so they still had privacy. They were well attended and lots of fun was had.

Participants met new people from different backgrounds to them. They were surprised at how much they had in common, like facing the same issues such as the cost of food and how to make your money stretch. This project proved that people could cook a nutritious meal on a low budget.

The clients have been talking to friends and family about it and a list of people from across the Urban Village area are looking to participate in the upcoming sessions.

For more information:
KCL Coordinator:
Majella Stewart, Dove House,
028 7126 9327, Email: reception@dovehousecommunitytrust.org

The Pink Ladies launch the Green Mile Project

The Pink Ladies, a cancer support group and Triax, an Environmental community group has launched the "Green Mile Project" as part of its wider Pesticide Free Derry campaign.

Jacque Loughrey, Education and Prevention officer said, *"Some chemicals can be a danger to our environment and our health. "We teamed up with the team at Triax to consider this from a health and environmental perspective."*

Donna Mc Closkey, Manager at Triax, said: *"We are also trying to educate people that there is a very simple solution and we can rescue spaces that are being sprayed, replacing them with bulbs and flowers. We told Pilots Row Youth Club about the dangers of some chemicals and they assisted us in planting out the bulbs."*

Cathedral Youth Club Ribbon Cutting Event



The official opening of the newly renovated Cathedral Youth Club was attended by local residents, centre-users of all ages and representatives from across the Urban Village area.

Centre Manager and host of the event, Jeanette Warke is delighted with the renovations and new equipment and said the centre is already reaching more people and serving all ages. It is a welcoming centre for people from across the whole Urban Village area and wider area.

The Streets are Alive

A year in numbers 2021 - 2022

- 55** events and workshops
- 15** sporting and health and well-being events
- 2** Festival of Fire events
- 6** older people's events
- 7** exhibitions and installations
- 3,645** participants engaged in community activity
- 25,000+** audiences
- 34** partner organisations engaged in delivering the programme

Reflecting on what has been a very busy year for the Streets Alive Project, the programme continues to bring a vibrant range of arts and culture to the streets, venues and spaces of the Urban Villages area.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic the programme has innovated and adapted, continuing to promote the Bogside, Bishop Street and Fountain Urban Village's reputation as a great place to live, work, play, socialise and visit.

Community Engagement and New Spaces

Streets Alive has not shied away from using areas that are perceived as contested spaces, as well as reimagining new and under-utilised shared spaces and buildings within the Urban Villages areas and communities.

This has included a more creative use of outdoor spaces. 42% of all Streets Alive activity is taking place outside this year, which has allowed them to be presented in a new light, as exhibition spaces, performance spaces and social spaces.

Activity has included outdoor exhibitions (Equal Spaces and Keep Her Knit Exhibitions), Ice Cream Carnival, Sounds of the City on the City Walls, Halloween Installations in The Fountain, Peace Gardens and Free Derry Corner and the use of Gasyard Park (Féile Picnic in the Park) and Bull Park (Christmas Family Party).

The Streets Alive Project continues to plan activity across the area, having success in recent activities for International Women's Day, the return of the 5k dash and The Spring Carnival.

Click here to watch the Streets Alive - Equal Spaces video: <https://youtu.be/5pG5RvVjVcO>



Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST

Neighbourhoods Central to Tourism Recovery Plans

Belfast's local neighbourhoods have been recognised as one of three 'catalyst' projects which Belfast City Council believes have the potential to embody the vision, principles and themes set out in its new 'Make Yourself at Home' ten-year tourism strategy.

The draft strategic plan repeatedly highlights the significant tourism potential offered by the city's neighbourhoods.

EastSide Tourism is managed by EastSide Partnership and has been championing the city-wide integration of community led tourism since 2017. It has strategically positioned EastSide as one of Belfast's most welcoming, attractive and vibrant local neighbourhoods.

EastSide Tourism has also been working with Visit Belfast on the development of a 'Love Local' initiative, as well as a new Neighbourhood Tourism Partnership model to ensure



local neighbourhoods across the city are highlighted as a unique selling point for Belfast in 2022 and beyond.

For more information contact: chris@eastsidepartnership.com 028 9046 3820

East Belfast's Hidden Gaelic Heritage Revealed

The Gaelic East Belfast Bus Tour and the Con O'Neill Bus Tour are on the road again! New guides have been trained in preparation for the relaunch, and we're very excited to be back.

The Journey East ('Turas Soir') bus will travel from High Street, across the river and up the Newtownards Road, with visitors experiencing the hidden history and heritage of east Belfast.

You will be surprised by what you find out on the Gaelic Bus Tour. Following in the footsteps of Con O'Neill as you travel back over four hundred years. The storyteller will bring to life the sad tale of the last Gaelic

Lord at the places he would have known. You may even be installed as the new Lord of Upper Clondeboye!

Both tours are rich in imagery, music and experience, bringing new delights to visitors and locals alike.

Contact East Belfast Mission on **028 9045 8560** for bookings.

We welcome enquiries from groups.



The Scaffolding Project The Impact of Poverty




In the winter of 2020, the Scaffolding Project – supported by the Urban Villages Initiative – carried out a community engagement exercise to gain a greater understanding of poverty and its impact in the East Belfast Urban Village area. As a result of that exercise, a report has now been developed.

Key findings include:

- existing poverty has been compounded by COVID-19;
- loss of employment resulted in lower income leading to increased financial insecurity;
- food poverty is increasing, creating a greater reliance on food banks;
- navigating the benefits system can be difficult and often means people are not receiving the appropriate levels of support;
- poor mental health often affected people's ability to respond to their circumstances.

The briefing document is a valuable tool to support future work of people in East Belfast who want to advocate for change. It will also help inform our response to the government's Anti-Poverty Consultation. The document was produced by the Scaffolding Project, along with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), and was funded by the Communities in Transition Programme.

For more information contact: barbarasmith@eastsidepartnership.com 028 9046 7924

 To watch a video about the Scaffolding Project Briefing Document, click here: <https://bit.ly/3JbEh25>



For more information contact: linda.ervine@ebm.org.uk 028 9045 8560



Growing Relationships between Eastside Communities

With the support of the Urban Villages Initiative, CRJI South and East have been working with a dedicated group of local women through the Páirc An Glas outreach initiative.

Michael George, project coordinator said, *“The project’s long-term objective is to create a dedicated shared growing space at Páirc an Glas between the Mountpottinger and Albert Bridge Road areas, with the aim of allowing locals and those from surrounding areas to grow their own produce, share ideas and supply local community partners with fresh organic produce.”*

One of the initiative’s volunteers, Clare McGuckin was at the forefront of starting up the group’s feeder project at the rear of St Matthew’s Primary School in the Short Strand area and has now taken on the challenge of helping others to learn.

Clare’s passion for growing was rewarded with acceptance into Greenmount Agricultural College in Antrim, where she will study a degree in horticulture.



“I’ve always been mad keen about growing and when CRJI put out the call for enthusiasts, I think I was first on the list,” said Clare.

“Working with the other women allowed me to pass on ideas and handy tips, while learning from them and Mickey who ran the workshops. It’s been amazing and now I want to soak in what I learn at Greenmount and share this as widely as possible.”

If you would like to join the Páirc an Glas growers group, contact Michael or Roisin on **028 9045 6889** or email mg@crjireland.org



Eastside Early Years Network Launch Good Relations Charter

Eastside Early Years Network consists of early years settings from across East Belfast. It has been building relationships, capacity and sharing good practice since 2017 through its Early Learning Project, facilitated by Eastside Learning.

Following on from previous work to promote inclusion and diversity in the early years, the Network has now developed a Good Relations Charter and Action Plan through consultation with service providers and families.

The Charter is designed to assist early years settings in identifying actions they can take to acknowledge, value, improve and celebrate the increasing diversity within the community.

It also aims to help guide organisations that strive for excellence in regards to Good Relations. With 15 early-year settings adopting the Charter, the Early Years Network is



playing an important role in creating a fairer, safer, accessible and inclusive community where everyone has equal opportunities to succeed – and thrive.

For more information contact: rachelskillen@eastsidepartnership.com
028 9046 7906

Hosford’s Hub Welcomes New Mental Health Worker

Hosford’s Health and Wellbeing Hub recently welcomed Jenny Hyland as its new Mental Health Worker – a much-needed support to promote wellbeing and help clients tackle mental health concerns.

Jenny works with clients in the Hub and the Community Garden, which has been transformed with funding from the Urban Villages Initiative.

One client said that *“Jenny’s support helps them to see life can be good.”*

The large TV funded by the Urban Villages Initiative was essential as it was used for Zoom sessions. Facilitators can now visit in person and use the TV for presentations.

Hosford’s group participant David Morrow took the lead presenting a local history session and clients greatly enjoyed this trip down memory lane.

After another busy year, Hosford continues to supply hampers to 30-plus clients a month. The hub plans to continue giving much-needed support during 2022 and beyond, helping alleviate social isolation, poor mental health, food poverty and indeed any issues people need help with.

For more information contact: mary.campbell@ebm.org.uk
028 9045 8560





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NORTH BELFAST

Wheatfield PS Celebrates Schools of Sanctuary

A cultural celebration with pupils, staff and parents at Wheatfield Primary School marked its new status as a School of Sanctuary, where there is a safe and inclusive culture of welcome for all, regardless of background.

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, every school in the North Belfast area is now a designated School of Sanctuary – a fantastic and important achievement.

At Wheatfield PS, almost one in five pupils is from a family that has settled here from elsewhere. Principal David Lister said,

“We are extremely proud to be the 50th School of Sanctuary in Northern Ireland. We’re a welcoming school and we strive to ensure all of our pupils are happy while learning at school and build strong relationships.”



<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2021-11-25/north-belfast-primary-school-celebrating-diversity-as-school-of-sanctuary>



Schools of Sanctuary serving the North Belfast Urban Village area:

- Ballysillan Primary School
- Belfast Boys' Model
- Belfast Model School for Girls
- Blessed Trinity College
- Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin
- Carr's Glen Primary School
- Cliftonville Integrated Primary School
- Glenwood Primary School
- Holy Cross Boys' Primary School
- Holy Cross Girls' Primary School
- Ligoniel Primary School
- Mercy College
- Mercy Primary School
- Our Lady's Primary School
- Sacred Heart Boys' Primary School
- St Vincent de Paul Primary School
- Wheatfield Primary School



L-R: Joe Hinds, Urban Villages co-ordinator; Danielle Loughlin, participant; Marian Kane, Chair, Ardoyne Association

Connecting Futures

Connected Futures is a training package offered by Ardoyne Association and Ballysillan Community Forum, supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

Many people are skilled family carers who simply lack formal qualifications. These courses match care theory to trainees' experience and help them progress towards a career in nursing or social care.

Across North Belfast, there are many people whose work as carers is unseen and unrecognised - family carers committed to ensuring family members or neighbours are safe, comfortable and cared for with love and understanding.

The Ardoyne Association recognised that every carer's situation and requirement is different and builds its training around the specific needs and experience of each carer. Connected Futures enables carers to take small steps to turn their life experience into a professional qualification and job opportunity.

Beginning with the Basic Care Assistance Training, followed by the Enhanced Learning Disability training, which in turn opens up the opportunity to enter into the Open University Access Training.

Learners have come from Ballysillan and Ardoyne Urban Village areas.

Danielle Loughlin – Connected Futures trainee

Danielle Loughlin is a single Mum of two who cares for several neighbours in the North Belfast Urban Village area. She wanted professional qualifications but lacked confidence in her academic abilities.

She joined the Connected Futures Care Assistant course with the Ardoyne Association and qualified last summer with 12 others.

“The course gave me a thirst for education that I never experienced before,” said Danielle, who completed the Enhanced Learning Disability Care training in Ballysillan. “I was starting to believe that I could be ‘book smart’ as well as ‘street smart’. This was my first experience of training with people from other communities and I really enjoyed it.”

Danielle has now joined the programmes Open University access course and plans to study for a nursing degree. She has high praise for the trainers.

“The support has been outstanding. They have welcomed me like a family member.”



Learners from Ballysillan, Ardoyne, Tigers Bay and Ballygomartin.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 1x working with the Health and Social Care Trust
- 2x working in Nursing Homes
- 1x working as a tutor in Banbridge Tech College
- 1x graduate increased her confidence and confirmed her interest in the medical profession and is now studying to be a doctor.

Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan

NORTH BELFAST

Champions of Change: Good Relations and Wellbeing Through Football

Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI) has teamed up with Shamrock FC and 22nd Old Boys and Ladies FC to run a wellbeing-focused good relations football programme supported by Urban Villages Initiative.

Last year, the teams built strong friendships despite the lockdowns. Now they train together twice a week - on Tuesdays at Clarendon Sports Complex and on Thursdays at the Marrowbone pitch.

They have exciting plans, as Joe Donnelly of TAMHI explained. *"The teams are engaged in joint training sessions, joint personal development, co-hosting the Urban Villages Ladies' Cup and starting the Road to Foyle initiative, at which the teams will create a North Belfast Select Team to play Foyle Belles in the Maiden City."*

The Champions of Change between 22nd Old Boys FC and TAMHI invited a few larger than life characters to their homework club. Fortunately, there wasn't much homework - which meant more time for penalty shootouts against Olaf and Minion!



Woodvale Afterschools Club

22nd Old Boys FC and TAMHI are supporting an afterschools club in the Woodvale area, where qualified teachers and teaching assistants help young people to complete their homework.

This builds on a successful venture in 2020 when young people were supported online. With restrictions lifted, the football element has been introduced and the session also entails Mental Wealth Games, which promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

For more information, visit www.tamhi.org



Together Towards a Fairer Tomorrow

Young people at Ardoyne and Ballysillan Youth Leadership Project were delighted to be chosen to represent North Belfast in the Urban Villages Rebuilding Aisling People's Choice Award 2021.

The 14-16 year olds - 10 from North Belfast Alternatives and 12 from Ardoyne Youth Club - started with an OCNNI Level 1 in Personal Motivation last year. They are now working together on the theme of society and how to make it fairer for all.

They learnt about refugees and asylum seekers in a talk with South Belfast Alternatives and a Small Worlds workshop with Belfast Friendship Club.

Youth worker Liam Davey reports that working on a common theme has brought them closer: *"They speak highly of 'the group', as opposed to two distinct youth groups from two communities working with one another."*

Plans for this year include awareness sessions on sexual harassment and consent and work towards an OCCN Level 2.



Ardoyne and Ballysillan Youth Leadership Project is a partnership between Ardoyne Youth Club and North Belfast Alternatives, funded by the Urban Villages Initiative.

The Small Worlds workshop was provided by Ardoyne

Youth Enterprise under the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

To find out more about Small Worlds workshops, visit the website: <https://bit.ly/3sLJhD>

Gardening Together in North Belfast

NBWISP's Let it Grow project held two exciting events. Wheatfield and Holy Cross learning together.

The neighbouring primary schools had a shared learning session with NBWISP at Holy Cross Girls school, a welcome

return of cross-community classes after Covid-19 restrictions had forced schools to operate in bubbles. The P6 pupils from both schools gardened, prepared and enjoyed pizza together.

Community Gardens Day Community gardeners had a networking session at Deanby Gardens, organised by NBWISP with Social Farms and Gardens.

Watch the event here: <http://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=702239704091368>
www.facebook.com/watch/?v=702239704091368



SOUTH BELFAST

Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & the Markets

Up the Lagan in a Bubble!

The Up the Lagan in a Bubble programme continues and training was intensive during Q3, to build up skill level and get ready for assessment.

Due to the intensity of the programme, it took time to build up to the level of paddle sport instructor and the young people were supported in learning new skills on the water, leadership skills and building lasting relationships.

The group have completed two weekend Residentials, focusing on completing knowledge-based workshops towards paddle sport instructor and skill building, which included leading peer sessions on the water.

In Q4 they are completing their qualification and some challenging outdoor assessments.

Most participants will qualify as paddle sport instructors, and a small number will achieve a paddle sport development award and hopefully by next

year they will be able to complete the full qualification too.

The work put into this course has been massive for each and every young person involved and they should be so proud of their achievement.

The young people from LORAG and SB Alternatives, have really bonded through this programme. They now have their own WhatsApp friendship group and are in regular contact outside of the programme, doing things together in their own time.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: The young people were finalists in the Aisling Awards. The entire group got to attend the ceremony in the Europa Hotel. It was an experience these young people had never had before and the feedback from judges and groups on the night was fantastic for them to hear.

For more information contact: **Natasha Brennan** nbrennan@lorag.org

This was a great opportunity for young people to get out together on the water, learn about the equipment used and the kit needed and to spend time together.

Strong relationships were built as the young people worked to overcome the challenges set for them.



BSCR Geek Week

The Geek Week event is always very popular for young people. Facilitated by BSCR (Belfast South Community Resources) the event exists to foster much needed digital skills in a fun and engaging environment. It also helps to break the stigma that technology is only for 'geeks'.

Spaces were limited to 20 young people in two different age groups. Activities included 3D design using 3D pens and printers; T-shirt design; laser-cutting; a photography scavenger hunt; DJ-ing;

MC-ing; creating street art and STEAM experiments. This builds their skills base for jobs in the IT industry, and helps these young people see that there is a place for them in the digital industry of the future.

"The highlight for me was the increase in confidence that the

Student Creativity Finds a Way in Lockdown



The Creative Schools Partnership programme has been flourishing in Malone College. When faced with a second lockdown, students, teachers and visual artist Anushiya Sundaralingam continued to work virtually with participants tuning in to weekly sessions from home.

The virtual learning approach continued when the students returned to school. Working in a non-art room without a sink and at times a very dodgy sound system, was a testament to the good humour and resilience of everyone involved.

The students spoke to the artist directly from the classroom and Head of Art, Brian Pendleton connected with everyone and managed to teach print making with Anu directing remotely from her studio.

For more information contact: marie.o'donoghue@eani.org.uk

Colleen Watters, arts educationalist from the Ulster Museum also Zoomed in to the classroom, presenting with a selection of paintings for the students to see and appreciate. We all finally met each other at the end of 2021 at the brilliant exhibition in Malone College entitled 'The Built Environment'. This was the first time that the artist had actually met the students in real life!

The project was created as part of the Creative Schools Partnership made up of the Executive's Urban Villages Initiative, the Arts Council NI and the Education Authority. The funding enables schools to work with professional artists to develop new skills and build their self-esteem in the classroom.

young people showed throughout the week and how they worked together to support each other," said Jonny Simms, BSCR Digital Coordinator.

"This was further highlighted when the teenage boys worked on recording their own music track with 5th Element NI and how they celebrated each other. I also loved to see how the younger group would give everything a go and how excited they got when making their own designs!"



Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST

Collaborative Community-led Tourism Initiative Takes Shape



The South Belfast Urban Villages Tourism and Heritage Subgroup has led on the delivery of a five-strand tourism and heritage project, bringing together the three areas of - the Markets, Sandy Row and Donegall Pass.

While there had previously been some work around tourism and heritage within individual areas, there had been little joined-up partnership work across the South Belfast Urban Village Initiative area on tourism and heritage.

Ulster University's collaboration with the Urban Villages Initiative long predates this work, stretching back to 2017.

One of the plans for this project is that it will establish homegrown community-led tourism, which will improve local entrepreneurship, management and leadership skills. It will empower communities to narrate, interpret and market these historically rich areas.

The photographic exhibition of the industrial history of the South Belfast Urban Village area, collated by Redhead Exhibition and Copius Consulting, is very impressive. In all, the project received more than 200 photos, 14 videos and other materials from across the South Belfast Urban Villages Initiative Area.

Our thanks go to: Belfast South Community Resources; Donegall Pass Community Enterprises; Donegall Pass Community Forum; Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee; Donegall Pass Social History Group; Forward South Partnership; Accidental Theatre; Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group; Market Development Association; South Belfast Alternatives and South Belfast ACT. Special thanks go to Ulster University for its work on this project.



<https://youtu.be/aPVt4DrpOAAQ>



Results achieved so far include:

- A 'community mapping' resource which contains details of all tourism and heritage related work and materials produced across the South Belfast Urban Village Initiative area to date;
- 'Pop-up' exhibition materials in terms of a large two metre by two metre exhibition cube, smaller cubes and A1 and A2 sized information panels for permanent indoor display for Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Market (produced by Redhead Exhibition and Copius Consulting);
- A baseline catalogue of digital and video images and drone footage of the South Belfast Urban Village Initiative area to be used to help develop digital tourism resources moving forward;
- Online facilitated tours of the New York Tenement Museum which highlighted the potential of harnessing digital and online tourism methods.

And that's not all...

A key outcome from the work of the subgroup has been the relationships built between community representatives, Urban Villages and Ulster University staff - in keeping with the good relations focus of the Urban Villages Initiative.



Kids' Den Gets a Team of QUB Student Volunteers

Kids' Den, a programme run through the Solás charity based on the Ormeau Road, operates from Apsley Hall four days a week and supports local primary age children in an after school homework club.

In partnership with Queen's University, Kids Den has been fortunate to have a group of volunteers who come to the club to support children attending.

The volunteers ensure that the children receive a quality experience and we're so grateful for their input.

Programme Coordinator Kate Diamond said, "It's true what they say, teamwork makes the dream work! The children definitely keep us young at heart and they're such a joy to be around. They say it like it is and we love their honesty."

They make us laugh so much!"

The volunteers are very committed to the Den since and many of them plan to continue. "I come to the club to assist in Kids' Den but, it has also given me a welcome break from my studies," said Ellie McIlroy, one of the volunteers. "I really get such a buzz from working with the children."

For more information contact: Joan Henderson at Solas, joan@solasbt7.com 028 90 247600

Capital Projects Updates

EASTSIDE



ProKick Gym

Contractors are on site and work is nearly completed at the new ProKick Gym in the EastSide Urban Village area. This is a significant transformation of a formerly disused storage building.

“We at ProKick are delighted with the progress of our future Fit-for-Purpose Gym. I’ve loved it and I’ve learnt so much through this whole process.

Exciting times ahead for our sport and all of the community of East Belfast. This wouldn’t have been possible without the great support from the Urban Villages Initiative team and our delivery partners in council. We are truly blown away with your commitment and vision.”

Billy Murray,
ProKick Head Coach.



Pitt Park

The new Park will be an attractive, safe and accessible area where families, children, and people of all ages can get active, have fun and enjoy the rich heritage of the area. Community consultation is complete and a planning submission will be made in the coming months. It is hoped that the newly designed park project will be on site early next year.



<https://youtu.be/EKXn-EkSy5w>

SOUTH BELFAST



The Lockhouse Gateway to the River & Walkway

Redevelopment of former Lockhouse and outdoor space has been to create a community café/coffee shop, training, exhibition event space, community garden and men’s shed. The project provides recreational access to the river Lagan for community and wider public use. A planning application has recently been submitted. A period of community consultation will follow with a view to work starting on site early next year.



ABC Trust

NORTH BELFAST

The Centre on the former St Gemma’s High School site in the North Belfast Urban Village area will address health and economic deprivation, through the development of a modern, purpose-built health and leisure facility designed for the needs of local residents and groups. Planning is in place with the contractor appointed and work started on site.

Ballysillan Playing Fields new park development update



After an extensive public consultation and some minor refinements to the final design, a planning application was submitted in January 2022 for this transformational project, representing a significant milestone for the Ballysillan Playing Fields scheme. Currently working towards appointing a contractor early next year.

This successful partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative, Department for Infrastructure and Department for Communities along with delivery partners at Belfast City Council, will transform this playing fields into a new park that will be a welcoming space, catering for everyone, with a wide range of interests.



ON SITE SOON

Marrowbone Millennium Park

Creation of a revitalised, shared and safe public park with new entrances, lighting and safety features. Plans provide for an improved 3G pitch, new Pavilion and Community Hub, event space, MUGA and play area. Planning is in place and contractors will be on site this summer. Completion target date autumn 2023.

Centenary Garden - Ballysillan Park/ Crumlin Road Public Realm

Construction on the environmental improvements at the junction of Ballysillan Park/Crumlin Road was delivered by Department for Communities and was completed on site in May 2022. The Centenary Garden has a fantastic city viewpoint with new pathways and landscaping.

Majority of Urban Villages capital projects in Belfast are being delivered by Belfast City Council, unless otherwise stated.

Capital Projects Updates

COLIN



NEW CLUB HOUSE COMING SOON

Colin Valley Football Club promoting community cohesion

This project will deliver a new Community Club House at Colin Valley Football Club, providing a safe and accessible space for a wide range of community projects and activities, supporting community cohesion and good relations in the area. The contractor is on site with a view to completing the project later this year.



NEW HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE COMING SOON

Colin Healthy Living Centre supporting mental health and wellbeing

The Healthy Living Centre at Poleglass Community Association will provide the Colin community greater access to health and fitness, supporting mental health and wellbeing and further promoting good community relations. Planning is in place and the contractor is expected to be on site by the summer with view to completion in March 2023.

IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

FOSTERING POSITIVE COMMUNITY IDENTITIES

DERRY/LONDONDERRY



New Gate Arts and Cultural Centre

The contractor is on site and recently Junior Minister Gary Middleton and DCSDC Mayor Graham Warke joined Kyle Thompson, community partner from the New Gate Arts and Cultural Centre along with the Construction Company, Architects and others to officially break the ground at a sod cutting event. Work is progressing well and is due for completion in early 2023.

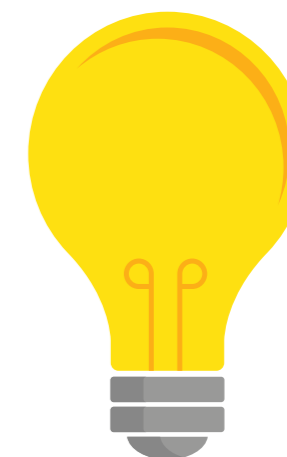


See video of the sod cutting event: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1cthq7gqldj4ro8/Breaking%20the%20Sod%20v1.mp4?dl=0>

Get Involved

Future Innovators programme

The Future Innovators programme offers an opportunity to help local communities in the five Urban Village areas to develop the skills they need to create innovative solutions that will address issues of local concern.



To find out more about a series of Appreciative Inquiry and Training Sessions go to <https://cooperationireland.org/projects/future-innovators/> to view a schedule of events for people living, working or volunteering in Urban Village areas, all are welcome to attend.

A number of the Urban Villages programmes have used social innovation as a key part of their approach, now the Future Innovators programme will offer support to embed this approach across the Urban Villages areas, using social innovation to create projects that invest in people and places where they live.

The Urban Villages areas are vibrant hubs of innovative, creative ideas and activities; the Future Innovators Project wants to involve local people living and working in these areas in shaping the social innovation and social enterprise solutions that Future Innovators will deliver with the community.

The Future Innovators Project has a new social media campaign. Head over to Facebook: @futureinnovators21 and Instagram: @futureinnovators to share your ideas and views on social innovation and supporting the social economy in your area.

Co-operation Ireland are the delivery partner for the Future Innovators programme.



EASTSIDE AWARDS Gala Dinner

Friday 29th April at the Hastings Stormont Hotel, Belfast. Celebrating all that is great about East Belfast.

Award organisers of the sixth EastSide Awards in association with George Best Belfast City Airport received a record number of entries from businesses showing signs of recovery from COVID-19. Teachers who were nominated were acknowledged for their dedication to students and projects which have had a positive impact on the local community.



Get Involved



CASE STUDY - Making the Change - Damien Curran

Damien signed up to our ESF funded Path2Employment programme to get support with finding employment.

He had worked for a long period of time in the care environment but was looking to change his career.

His mentor Marty spoke to him to devise a training pathway and discuss employment options.

Damien was initially signed up during lockdown, he was assured that we would work together to build his confidence and offer him specific industry training to secure work.

Damien was particularly interested in the transport sector so he was delighted to be told about an upcoming Belfast City Council Transport Academy. Damien met the eligibility criteria and is currently working towards his C License. He was also signposted to Driver Hire at Mallusk who were immediately able to find him work as a driver with MacBlair Builders Merchants.

While on the programme Damien also completed a number of sessions around CV building and interview preparation. He also completed the Employability and Personal Development qualifications as well as First Aid and CSR training.

work that I now do. He gave me the belief and courage to push on with my work and he was a great advocate for everything I was involved in. Then when my own Dad got sick I remember thinking how on earth can I complete this triathlon after the year I have had. Well, I got inspiration from my own Dad who continually worked hard and showed real mental toughness during his rehabilitation.

“This year’s target, ‘Brian’s Tri50’ is to break the World Record by competing in 50 half Triathlons! I use my story to motivate the young people I work with in the South Urban Village area and in schools. I want to help young people tackle mental health issues and to set themselves exceptional goals. If I can do it, they can too!”

of my Youth and Community Development degree and somewhere in the midst of all this I agreed to complete my first ever full distance triathlon for ‘Royal Free Amyloidosis Charity’ - the illness that affected Terry.”

“Terry encouraged me in so many ways through volunteering, education and moving into the community

Brian Armstrong – Facing challenges!

“Wow, what a roller coaster of a year I had 2020/21. In December 2020 I lost my father-in-law Terry Watson better known as Big T. In March 2021 my own Father became critically ill, resulting in him losing the lower part of his leg. It was also the final year

News

Wraparound



Well-being and Self-care Top Priorities for Student Mentors

Students in two local schools are working hard on their Wraparound peer mentoring programme.

At Girls’ Model, 14 young mentors trained with Streetbeat Youth Centre, learning to engage through yoga and

mindfulness and completing OCN Level 2 Awards in peer mentoring and mental health awareness. They are now able to guide other pupils in need of mental health and well-being support.

In Mercy College, 12 young mentors focused on self-care with YEHA (Youth Education Health Advice), making a video and sharing positive quotes around the school on Mental Health Day. They designed a GCSE study packs and set up a homework club to alleviate younger students’ exam worry.

Wraparound also offers one-to-one mentoring on issues affecting mental health. Students can refer themselves or be referred by the school.

The programme also involves Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership and is funded by the Urban Villages Initiative.

What one peer mentor said:

“I have gained qualifications which benefit me with helping the younger pupils in school with their mental health and wellbeing.”



Come Sing with Us Choir – South Belfast Sure Start



All the participants were mums from Donegall Pass and the Market.

It was opened up to everyone, though it was mostly mummies with small babies who took part. They were so happy to get out of the house.

On the first week everyone was quite timid, but by the end

of programme in December everyone was belting out tunes or reading poems.

Anna Devlin, South Belfast Sure Start said, “It might be the best programme I’ve been involved in with Sure Start.

It was so good for the mums’ self-esteem and confidence. Everyone has had a hard year or two with Covid.”

The choir ran for five weeks and it really lifted spirits and mood.

It was led by Sheila Smyth from The Right Key, which works with marginalised groups. Their work is all about improving self-esteem and improving mental health outcomes.

Everyone who came along on the first week went on to attend every week.

Everyone chatted away. One of the girls was amazing and performed Adele songs.

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.

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.

Keep in Touch

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU...

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

Focus Magazine - 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

If you would like to receive future editions of FOCUS Magazine, or you would like to contribute to the magazine, sign up at info@urbanvillagesni.org or contact us at The Urban Villages Initiative, Knockview Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SJ