

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

ISSUE

08

NOVEMBER
2019

NORTH
BELFAST

#notjust
forboys

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LONDONDERRY

Bringing
the Streets
Alive

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TED^x Stormont

x = independently organized TED event



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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: Tegan Nesbitt with Mark Browne from the Executive Office following the 'Talk like TED' event at Parliament Buildings.

Welcome

Siobhan Broderick, Programme Director
Urban Villages Initiative, The Executive Office



Welcome to this jam packed edition of FOCUS magazine, with so much about all of the great work going on across the Urban Village areas in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry, over a very productive few months.

In this edition, I am delighted to see some of the data that has been gathered to reflect, not just how much has been done to date, but importantly the measure of outcomes that are being delivered and the impact that projects and programmes are having on people's lives and the places where they live, and ultimately contributing to living better together (pages 4 & 25).

The partnership with the Education Authority, Schools of Sanctuary and the Arts Council across all of the Urban Village areas continues to successfully support innovative approaches to improve learning and create inclusive and well connected environments across schools, and between parents and community.

Many capital build projects are now completed or nearly there (pages 22-25)! All of these projects that have provided new or much improved facilities, have quickly become well used and shared spaces, supporting connected communities and contributing to thriving places.

We can see how a number of the community led projects are using the new facilities now. At the Orchard Café @ the Foundry we are supporting hospitality training for marginalised young people from across the EastSide Urban Village area.

Members have already moved into the recently opened Destined renovation project, which has provided accessible accommodation in the old Foyle Valley Railway Museum. This project has also provided opportunity for Destined members to train as visitor hosts in the station, establishing a social enterprise.

Following a very successful TEDxStormont Youth programme earlier this year, we are currently supporting women of all ages across Urban Village areas to have the opportunity of training with the professional TED team, with the possibility, if they so choose, to pitch for a chance to present on the TEDxStormont Women's stage in the Great Hall, Stormont on the 12th December this year.

I welcome your comments and feedback on FOCUS magazine and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Enjoy,

Best regards,

**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.**

We're Making a Difference

'How much we do' is important but we are most interested in the outcomes, what difference does it make to people's lives. We capture good relations outcomes in order to demonstrate the impact of the programme and projects on people's lives and the places where they live.

Fostering Positive Community Identities



559
groups working collaboratively



80%
participants feel more favourable towards people from a different background



88%
participants feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different backgrounds adds to the richness and diversity



92%
participants fostered relationships between and within communities

Building Community Capacity



22,061
project participants



98,816
event attendees

How Well Did We Do It?



91%
participants completed projects

Is Anyone Better off?



79%
participants felt increased confidence in their ability to succeed in life



96%
participants increased knowledge / skills



96%
participants improved sense of community belonging



87%
participants reporting the project helped them

'The Arts Help Change our Way of Thinking'



St Colm's High School in Colin recently took part in the Creative Schools Partnership, giving young people access to quality arts experiences and fostering creativity while supporting the educational and personal needs of pupils.

The Art and English departments worked with year 8 pupils and their parents to promote positive mental well-being. The focus of the project was to produce a public art piece in the form of an exterior ceramic dove mural, to be placed on the front of the school building.

Supported by celebrated artist Annemarie Robinson, the pupils, parents and staff fired and glazed their own dove and then inscribed it with phrases of hope that had been taken from the poetry produced in School.

The English department also facilitated an information session and coffee morning for parents, out of which arose the need for parental support around the issue of young people's mental health.

Gina McDonald, a senior Education Authority (EA) youth worker, met with parents and a

support programme was set up to explore issues, such as self-harm, how to have the difficult conversations with young people and signposting of services.

The compilation of poetry on the issue of mental health will be integrated into the work of the English Department, and there are plans to publish an anthology at the end of this current school year. Extracts of the poetry are on the hoarding at the new park in Colin site along with photography by year 11 pupils.

The project has left an important legacy in the artwork and the monthly coffee mornings continue to support the parents.

This project is supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Education Authority (EA) and the Urban Villages Initiative and involves thirteen post-primary schools across Urban Village areas.

14 more schools celebrate becoming 'Schools of Sanctuary'

During Good Relations Week in September this year, 14 more schools from across Urban Village areas have been recognised as Schools of Sanctuary. Pupils, teachers and communities have worked together to inspire and bring about change in their local areas.

The school community has shown its commitment to making their schools' welcoming and inclusive spaces for everyone. Pupils have developed cultural awareness across the curriculum, and strengthened connections with the wider community.

Caoimhín Mac Uilliam, Principal, Scoil na Fuiseoige commented, *'The Schools of Sanctuary programme helps the children to become more culturally aware. It helps them*

to understand others and themselves and helps them to become happy and more contented learners. This is only the beginning. A seed has been planted and we are looking forward to continuing our School of Sanctuary journey.'

There are now a total of 28 Schools of Sanctuary serving Urban Village areas. The Education Authority's Intercultural Education Service (IES) works in partnership with the Urban Villages Initiative and collaboratively with the City of Sanctuary, providing training and support to help the schools achieve the award.

Israel Eguagie, Chair of Belfast City of Sanctuary said *"Our teams of monitors have been most impressed by the great work that is being done in*



schools to welcome and adapt to the growing diversity of our city and promote the positive inclusion of all including newcomer communities."

NEW BUDDY UP PROJECT

Urban Villages is partnering with the Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) Buddy Up programme, building on the School of Sanctuary approach bringing pupils and families together to build new friendships and help local communities better understand each other's culture and the everyday things that connect them.



Healthy Summer for children and their families

Supporting community groups across all five Urban Villages areas, a new partnership between local communities, government and businesses has provided a healthier summer for children and their families this year.

Everyone gets excited as the summer holidays approach, but for some it can lead to financial and nutritional challenges during the summer months, particularly when access to Free School Meals stop.

Summer schemes, community events and festivals already provide creative and active approaches to community engagement and staying healthy.

They can also provide opportunities to reach out and include those people most in need and families struggling to provide healthy meals during holiday periods.

Mark Browne, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Executive Office, said *“This programme enables community groups to work collaboratively to provide nutritional support while also helping children and family members of all ages to improve wellbeing, meet new people, learn new skills and have fun.”*

Twelve local Business in the Community (BITC) member companies and the Urban Villages Initiative have funded thousands of meals this summer via a diverse range of community-based initiatives in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.

John Healy, Managing Director and Vice President, Allstate Northern Ireland added: *“The Healthy Summer initiative has provided a great opportunity for business and government to work together to support local communities and particularly our children and young people, who are our future workforce. I look forward to building on this programme and doing more to help address key social issues.”*

Twelve companies supported the programme: Allstate Northern Ireland, Arthur Cox, Belfast Harbour, Coca-Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland, DuPont, George Best Belfast City Airport, Henry Brothers, Learning Pool, Portview Fit-Out, PwC, SHS Group and Spar.

New graduates in Social Enterprise

Ten people from community groups and social enterprises in Urban Village areas have graduated from Ulster University with an Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise.

They were supported on the TRANSFORM Social Enterprise Development Programme with funding from Flax Trust and the Urban Villages Initiative. The collaboration includes Ulster University Business School and the School for Social Enterprises in Ireland.

The innovative programme enables individuals to gain the knowledge and skills to start or grow a social enterprise – these deliver goods and services like any other business but are driven by a social purpose and reinvest profits to support these goals.

The course content includes master-classes from business leaders and social innovators and best practice study visits. The qualification, insight and networks gained by the graduates will help local groups achieve their goals and support the communities they serve.

A new programme begins in January 2020 and more information can be found at www.ssei.tv



Colin

WEST BELFAST

Growing Spaces - Encourages Children to Lead a Healthier Lifestyle



Hundreds of local school children have successfully completed The Growing Spaces Programme at Colin Glen Allotments in Poleglass.

Now in its 4th year the programme enables school children to learn about how food is grown, understand where the fruit and vegetables they eat come from and provide them with the confidence to make healthy eating decisions.

During the programme school children are taught how to plant and care for a variety of vegetables and they are encouraged to lead a healthier lifestyle. The children also use the horticultural produce to make a range of dishes including potato and tomato salads, coleslaw, kale chips and guacamole.

Matthew McKinley, Colin Allotments Healthy Living Manager, commented *“Health experts have warned that*

children in the UK exceed the maximum recommended sugar intake for an 18-year-old by the time they are 10. Half of the sugar is coming from sugary drinks, sweets, biscuits, cakes, puddings, sugary breakfast cereals and higher-sugar yoghurts and puddings.”

“It is vital to teach children at a young age to make healthier eating choices. This programme focuses on increasing intake of fruit and vegetables and discouraging intake of food high in sugar to help guide children on a path to long term health in adulthood.”

The Growing Space Programme is supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

To find out more about programmes at Colin Allotments Healthy Living Centre please contact **Matthew McKinley on 028 9061 2317 or email matthew@newcolin.com**

Sean Kennedy, Good Shepherd Primary School added *“We are delighted that our school children can avail of the excellent facilities at Colin Allotments. This programme provides children with the opportunity to learn about the nutritional benefits of a healthy diet and develop good eating habits at an early age.”*



Hundreds Flock to Colin Carnival Parade and Fun Day



The Colin Festival Parade is one of the highlights of the Colin Summer Festival. This year saw hundreds of revellers from across Colin and wider Belfast make their way up the Stewartstown Road towards the new Colin Town Square for a free Family Fun Day.

Here they enjoyed bouncy castles, live music, a reptile petting zoo, multi-cultural dance displays, arts and crafts and a host of free entertainment. At the Fun Day the Colin's Got Talent Competition hosted a number of local residents performing in front of a live audience.

John Paul Russell, Arts and Cultural Officer at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, commented on the success of this year's carnival and fun day:

"This was our biggest turnout to date and we were delighted to see so many people get dressed up and take part in this year's Festival Parade. The effort people went to in making their costumes was clear and everyone looked fantastic."



"The carnival and fun day is extremely well received in the Colin area and it's something that everyone in the community looks forward to. It is now a much more inclusive event attracting visitors from across the city, often arriving by Glider!"

For info on future events in Colin check out Colin Neighbourhood Partnership's website www.newcolin.com or phone 028 9062 3813



Historical and Tourism Forum for Colin to be Formed

The Ulster University supported by the Urban Villages Initiative is working with communities in Urban Village areas to explore tourism and heritage projects.

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership will be establishing a historical and tourism forum for the Colin Area.

Are you interested in preserving our local history in your area? If you are interested in developing historical and tourist trails for the Colin area please contact John Paul email: johnpaul@newcolin.com or Brendan email: brendan@newcolin.com Tel: 028 9062 3813. This is supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.



Colin Community Walk and Talk to Support Suicide Prevention

The Colin Community took to the streets on World Suicide Prevention Day to raise awareness about suicide and its prevention in the wider community.

The "Walk & Talk" event organised by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership was routed from the new Colin Town Square along the Stewartstown Road. The local community was invited to join the walk for any amount of time from 5 mins to an hour.

Local groups attending included the essential services, local schools and sports clubs. Everyone wore a high visibility vest displaying the lifeline crisis response helpline service number 0800 808 8000 with the key message of 'just talk'.



Lord Mayor John Finucane also attended and support groups were available on the day to offer support and guidance.

Annie Armstrong, Manager Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, commented: *"The theme this year was working together to prevent suicide. This walk was organised to encourage people to talk about and share their problems. People need to know that someone is listening and if they or someone they love is in distress, that it's ok to ask for help and help is available, and that it is also ok not to be ok"*.



Building Your Future Employability Project

Recruitment for year 2 of the Building Your Future Project has been a huge success to date. Here at Poleglass Community Association, we provide outstanding support and guidance to unemployed and economically inactive participants, who live within the Colin Urban Village area.

We continue to support participants to tackle their educational, employment and emotional needs. A training calendar has been produced to offer a range of workshops and level one Vocational Skills

training to enhance educational attainment, confidence and motivation.

A number of local residents have recently completed a level 1 qualification in Make Up Application where they learnt both practical and theoretical skills for applying make-up competently. Several participants are planning to run their own business and are progressing to our Social Enterprise Academy.

In addition, participants are currently completing units in confidence and self-esteem, improving assertiveness, good relations and interpersonal skills for the individual.

A lot of participants have already overcome employment barriers and are planning their goals for the future.

One way of doing this is through visualisation boards and one to one mentoring.

A group of participants have also completed Construction and CSR training and significantly they have gained employment.

For more information on the Building Your Future Project, contact Roisin McGarry on **028 90627250** or email roisin@sallygardens.org





Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street

DERRY~ LONDONDERRY

Bringing the Streets Alive

The Streets Alive project is an annual programme of events in Derry-Londonderry that aims to build connectivity and develop relationships between communities in the Bogside, Bishop Street and Fountain areas.

Over the summer months, the streets have been alive with some of the best known cultural and community events in Derry-Londonderry, they continue to attract higher levels of attendance from across the city and also visitors to the area.

The unique aspect of Streets Alive is that it supports extending these well recognised events and activities into the venues and streets of the Fountain, Bogside and Bishop St Urban Village area; connecting with community directly and involving them in development of creative and inviting engagement ideas. This has generated increased use of shared space and ease of transition, creating more welcoming spaces across the Urban Village area.

Festival of Fire

Working together, sixteen partner organisations produced a spectacular performance of fire and music as the finale to the 27th Annual Gasyard Feil . The Festival of Fire, in its new location on the Faughan Street embankment (the banking), continues to develop a family friendly option as an alternative to the unregulated bonfire that occurs in the area.

A number of original acts performed at the festival stage before a fireworks display, attracting over 4,000 people

from across the city as well as tourists and visitors to the area. The fire procession included many of the young people and volunteers from a range of local community organisations who were involved in planning the event.



Jog in the Bog

This year, Jog in the Bog had over 500 runners and saw spectators lining the street to cheer them on, before returning to the Gasyard Centre for the winner's presentations and family fun activities.

More children than ever took part in this year's event with many running alongside their parents. The event is now well established in the city's sporting calendar and continues to attract more participants each year.

As well as bringing people together from diverse community backgrounds to take part in the run, Jog in the Bog provides an opportunity for people to improve their

mental health and wellbeing by getting active. Local mental health groups attended the event to raise awareness of mental health and to advise people about the services they offer the local community.



Celtronic Kids

Over 4,500 music fans converged on Derry-Londonderry for the 19th edition of Ireland's leading electronic music festival, Celtronic 2019. As part of the festival, Streets Alive collaborated with Celtronic to produce Celtronic Kids at Long Tower Community Centre in June.

Celtronic Kids is an electronic music event for children up to the age of 4 and features a full-scale festival style production with state-of-the-art lighting, sound and visual projections. The event was a huge success and was attended by 300 children from across the Urban Village area with their parents/guardians.



Streets Alive Older People's Events

A summer bus trip was organised in partnership with the Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum for seniors from the Urban Village area. The provision of this type of event helps keep people connected to and across their communities giving them the opportunity to meet new friends and participate in community events.

Being connected and keeping active are vital to improving our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. This engagement helped identify other health & wellbeing issues and people were given advice on community organisations providing a range of cultural, health and environment services for local older people.

Contact Mary Breslin at BBHF by Telephone: 028 7136 5330



Fringe Festival

Following the success of the inaugural New Gate Fringe Festival in 2018, this year's festival was a huge success featuring over 50 events including music, dance, drama, storytelling, historical tours and debates.

The festival has quickly become a highlight in the city's cultural calendar and has outgrown their original home in New Gate Arts Centre. It has held events in sixteen different venues across the city this year.

Through a wide range of events and activities, the festival celebrated the cultural diversity and

heritage of the city and attracted people of all ages and community backgrounds, with many international visitors enjoying the craic alongside the locals.

Kyle Thompson, North West Cultural Partnership, said *"This year we were amazed and delighted to receive a parcel from Meryl Eve Gay, who lives in Yarrah, South Australia. Meryl had heard we were having an exhibition of Orange Heritage during the festival, saw a collarette in a shop in Port Augusta, bought it and posted it too us. We were completely blown away by her gesture, and the reach the festival had!"*

<https://youtu.be/D5gbkB94r94>





Food Waste can Waste Money

The Know it, Change it, Live it project is continuing to support low income families in the Urban Village area. It covers a range of financial issues to make best use of income and build financial confidence for families. The project builds cohesion across communities.

Dove House is now engaging with families in relation to food waste and considering the amount of money lost as a result of unnecessary food waste.

Families, especially children, have shown great enthusiasm for the project and feel that by reducing the amount of food they dispose of, they are contributing to helping the environment as well as helping their budget.

For more information on the Know it, Change it, Live it project, contact: **Majella Stewart** at Dove House 028 7126 9327



Fountain Fun Day

A community fun day in the Fountain saw the beginning of preparations for the annual Awakening the Walls Halloween event. The event inspired young people to get creative and come up with new ways to promote events and

activities taking place in their community, to encourage people from all backgrounds and communities, and visitors in the city to come together to celebrate this fantastic event in the Fountain area.

Talk Like TED

Tegan, Catriona and Amy from Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area, all participated in the Talk Like TED programme supported by the Urban Villages Initiative. The aim was to encourage young people to find their voices and to bring them to new audiences of influencers, to share their big ideas.

Following a series of workshops, the young people presented their talks at their very own Talk Like TED event in the Long Gallery at Stormont.

Name: **Tegan Nesbitt, aged 17 years**

Name of TED Talk: **Turning your fears into your strengths**

“This has totally widened my speaking opportunities and allowed me to prosper and keep going with suicide prevention in my city as I’ve been contacted on how it has helped others with their anxieties.

It has brought my community together as most have related to the topic and want to speak about it more with each other.”

Name: **Catriona Walsh, aged 17 years**

Name of TED Talk: **The education system setting us up for failure**

“This program allowed me to grow in confidence. I learnt so much about my own abilities that I never knew. I would have never thought that I, at 17 could stand up and talk to an audience about my biggest struggle in life, Dyslexia. This program has made me brave and outgoing when speaking about my opinions and even fears.”

Name: **Amy Doherty, aged 17 years**

Name of TED Talk: **Power of Stereotypes**

“This talk helped me improve my personal development. It enhanced my public speaking abilities and increase my confidence to speak in public. In relation to good relations I had the opportunity to interact with people from all different backgrounds and made friends for life.”

Talk like TED: <https://youtu.be/hcSKf-tQWb4>





Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST

Seven artworks were created some of which were 3D

Belfast's First International Chalk Art Festival



As part of EASTival, Ballymac Friendship Trust welcomed chalk artists from France, Holland, Italy and Venezuela to take part in the first ever Chalk Art festival on the Fraser Pass walkway at Pitt Park, East Belfast.

Local young people that completed OCN's in Street Art, Theatrical Make Up and Sound Tech, delivered by Ballymac Friendship Trust and supported by Eastside Urban Village Initiative, showcased their achievements at the event.

Dee Craig of Belfast Mural Art, who initiated the Festival, commented: *"I have seen many events like this across the world, and working with Ballymac has made it possible to bring this festival here."*

"This type of art form delivered by international artists, complements the traditional artworks and murals that are part of the make-up of this community, and it helps build international relationships to share the good news story about East Belfast."

Roz Small manager of Ballymac Friendship Trust says *"it was amazing to bring a new form of street art to East Belfast. The artworks created were stunning, it was a privilege for the Trust to host the very first festival of this sort in Belfast. Our young people also displayed their work and creatively contributed to the event."*

This event was supported by Belfast City Council, Eastside Urban Villages Initiative and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.



Alley Project at Chadolly Street



A group from Hosford Homeless shelter and local residents participated in the Alley Project at Chadolly Street/St. Leonards Crescent, facilitated by Hosford, East Belfast Mission.

A series of workshops looked at memories of local entries in the area and participants designed a mural with local artist Dee Craig.

The alley received a deep clean and the project was launched with a celebration lunch in Skainos and a Horticulture skills session with Belfast in Bloom. Each resident received a hanging basket and this has encouraged several residents to start growing in their back yards.

The group activity reduced social isolation and improved physical and mental health. Local residents that volunteered talked of having a sense of pride in their community. The programme built cohesion across the community by working better together and creating thriving attractive places.

Participants that volunteered during the project felt the benefit and local residents who didn't have the time to get involved with the project saw improvement as the area was cleaned up so well and they received a hanging basket.



Myth Busting and the Realities of Poverty



The Scaffolding Project co-ordinates the collaborative work of community and voluntary organisations who want to reduce the impact of poverty in East Belfast.

'Myth busting and the Realities of Poverty' was the theme of the Scaffolding project conference hosted in March this year. The conference raised awareness, addressed myths and encouraged action.

Two thought provoking films 'I Daniel Blake' and 'A Northern Soul' were screened in the run up to the conference to highlight some of the big issues linked to poverty such as the Social Security and In-work poverty.

People from the community and private sector, businesses and churches attended the conference. Current statistics presented indicated the level of poverty in the local



community and considered the many causes and influencing - factors. Delegates participated in roundtable discussions about the issues presented.

The voices of local people were clearly communicated through video, life stories and poem, which powerfully communicated personal experiences.

People were able to sign up and engage with the Scaffolding Project and its ongoing campaigns and initiatives. For more information contact Barbara Smith by Email barbarasmith@eastsidepartnership.com or Telephone 028 9046 7924



Talk Like TED

Beth Vance and Jack Ellison both aged 17, from the EastSide Urban Village area.

Beth and Jack participated in a Talk Like TED programme supported by the Urban Villages Initiative. The programmes aim was to encourage young people to find their voices and to bring them



to new audiences of influencers, to share their big ideas.

Following a series of workshops, they presented their talks at their very own Talk Like TED event in the Long Gallery at Stormont. They did brilliantly!

Beth's talk was called **Diversity and Inclusion in Northern Ireland**, and she said:

"The programme greatly improved my confidence and allowed me to meet new people and improve my communication skills. I hope that [my talk] may have changed previous opinions and improved people's views of where they live."

Jack's talk was called 'Legacy, what does it mean?' he said,

'The Talk Like TED programme has allowed me to become exponentially more confident in myself and my speaking. It has helped my mental wellbeing in so many ways... and I made friendships with some amazing people.'

 Talk like TED: <https://youtu.be/hcSKf-tQWb4>



Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan

NORTH BELFAST

Ardbone Festival's Thriving

This year's Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival had a strong good relations focus with many cross-community highlights to tell you about:

Run the Walls Fun Run

The Run the Walls 5k Cross-community fun run along North and West Belfast interfaces started on the Crumlin Road and ended in Ardoyne, following the peace walls along the way.

Elaine Burns, of Ardoyne Association, commented: *'Run the Walls is about fun and community. It promotes fitness and supports North Belfast Foodbank. The foodbank plays a vital role in supporting our clients through hard times.'*

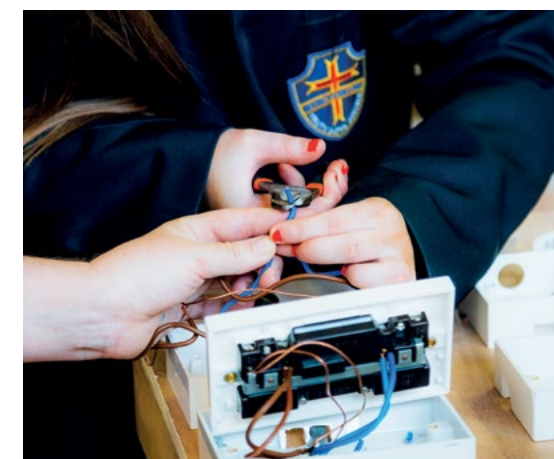
It's also about challenging ourselves, reflecting on the visible walls that surround us, and the walls in our minds. It brings together people who have much more in common than divides them.'

Paddy Barnes and Joe 'the Goal' Gormley joined the 188 runners from Ardoyne, Woodvale, Ballysillan, Oldpark, Shankill and further afield for the 5k fun-run in August this year.

A truly collaborative event, it was organised by Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival, Jigsaw Counselling, North Belfast Advice Partnership, Streetbeat Youth Project and YEHA (Youth, Education, Health, Advice), with support from the Urban Villages Initiative and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

David Lorimer, youth worker at Woodvale's Streetbeat Project, said: *'We're really proud of the young volunteers and the youth and community leaders who worked together to make this a fun and safe event.'*

NOTE for your diary: 'Run The Walls' Santa Run and family fun day is on the 8th December. More information from @ardbonefest on Facebook.





Oklahoma at the MAC

This fantastic production was a great showcase and morale boost for Ardoyne and Ballysillan. The production of Oklahoma the musical had almost 50/50 cast from across communities.

The musical drew its cast from all age groups, communities and walks of life. Rehearsals took place in venues at no charge!

Through the generosity of the Houben Centre, Ballysillan Community Forum, Ardoyne Community Centre, Blue Houses and others. Ardoyne, Ballysillan and Ligoniel residents helped with make-up and hairdressing, volunteered as stage hands and donated costumes.

Actress and coordinator Megan Mooney said: *'Oklahoma was a wonderful experience, with overwhelming cross-community support. A big team, a big family, a safe place to nurture and showcase local talents, build trust and make new friends'.*

Other great activities included, a cultural diversity trip to Derry-Londonderry that took residents to the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall and Free Derry Museum, a memorable day reflecting on cultural history.

There were also cross-community sports: game of three halves by Peace Players, children's Mini World Cup and friendly football, GAA and golf tournaments involving local teams from across North Belfast. At the health and wellbeing day at Houben Centre, representatives from Greater Ardoyne, Ballysillan and Ligoniel health initiatives, advice services and community groups attended.

The Festival also supported an event by North Belfast Friendship Club at their Tuesday evening meeting space at R-City Café for people from around the world.



Watch a 3 minutes video about the project here: <https://www.facebook.com/flaxtrustarts/videos/1437082019750054/>

WOMEN'STEC shows Girls it's #notjustforboys

The recently launched #notjustforboys Programme brings together representatives from industry, education and the public sector to support women and girls choosing careers in construction and sectors where they are traditionally underrepresented.

Lynn Carvill, Chief Executive of WOMEN'STEC stated, *"Girls are often directed towards traditional career paths such as hair and beauty. The #notjustforboys programme will connect girls with a wide range of exciting career pathways, enhancing their lifetime opportunities and at the same time meet the needs of employers across the wider construction industry."*

The project offers girls of all ages support to access work experience, work placements and apprenticeships, aiming to challenge misconceptions and to encourage women to consider wider career choices.

The uptake of apprenticeships is so low amongst girls in trades like construction and engineering, this programme will encourage and practically upskill girls to consider these fantastic career opportunities.

Project participant Charlotte says: *"I learned how to use new equipment that I have never used before. I learned new skills and it has shown me new job options."*

Recently, an exciting new website was launched called www.notjustforboys.org which gives more information on the programme and how employers, schools and girls can get involved.

Siobhan Broderick, Programme Director, Urban Villages Initiative commented; *"This is a great programme, encouraging girls from the North Belfast Urban Village area not only to learn new skills, but to foster positive community identities, build community capacity and improve the health and well-being of local women by getting involved and learning new non-traditional skills."*

For further information on the #notjustforboys programme please email: info@womenstec.org or telephone on: 028 9074 9810.



CAREZONE

COMMUNITY | COMPASSION | HOPE

A Model for the City

The Care Zone Community Health Project

The Care Zone report launch at Belfast City Hall in October was an important milestone in the search for new community - led methods to address health inequalities in the city.

Two years ago, voluntary and statutory agencies started Care Zone in response to the high suicide rate and poor life expectancy in the Oldpark/ Cliftonville district, one of the areas of highest deprivation in Northern Ireland.

At the launch, representatives of Lighthouse, Youth Education Health Advice (YEHA), Public Health Agency, the Chief Medical Officer and Lord Mayor spoke of the Care Zone



approach - to put residents at the heart of identifying need and solutions.

But the stars of the day were community champions Tami Russell, Mickey Meehan and Cecilia McCloskey who brought to life the human stories behind the initiative and urged all involved to work harder to bring hope to the community.

Care Zone have carried out community consultations, organised events to promote hope, and to encourage people to reach out for help. They have conducted research

in causes of ill health, developed a local history project and trained community champions to gather local people's views.

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, youth organisations YEHA and Streetbeat extended the programme by developing the highly successful Care Zone in Schools project in Mercy College and Girls Model, training students as peer mental health advocates. This project is now being rolled out in all senior schools in the North Belfast Urban Village area.



Talk Like TED

Rebecca Toolan, aged 24 years from the North Belfast Urban Village area.

Rebecca participated in a Talk Like TED programme supported by the Urban Villages Initiative. The programme's aim was to encourage young people to find their voices and to bring them to new audiences of influencers, to share their big ideas.

Following a series of workshops, they presented their talks at their very own Talk Like TED event in the Long Gallery at Stormont.

Name of TED talk: **Speech and Social Class**

Rebecca's TED Talk was about accents and dialects, focusing on how speech reflects a person's identity and upbringing. Rebecca says the Talk Like TED scheme has

given her a greater sense of confidence and self-assurance, to continue to be her most authentic self.

"The programme facilitated lots of insightful discussion between participants from different parts of Belfast and Derry. It served as an opportunity for us all to remind ourselves that regardless of how we're designated by others, we face many of the same issues and have shared ideas on how to make the place we call home better for our generation and the ones that will follow."

▶ Prior to taking part in Talk Like TED, Rebecca was involved in the Ardoyne Youth Enterprise Speak Up! Project <https://youtu.be/ddCw-GxAeMQ>

Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST



Community Connections

Led by Forward South Partnership, the Connecting Communities programme aims to foster greater community participation and offer communities an opportunity to develop new ideas that could encourage collaboration between local community groups.

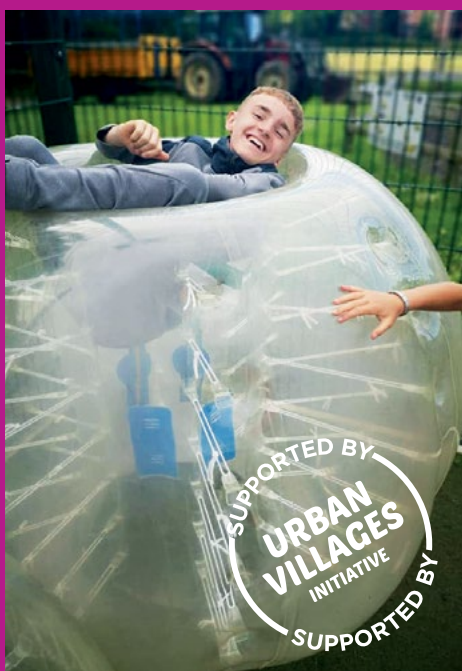
Community Connections brings together key stakeholders from across the South Belfast Urban Village area, Sandy Row, the Markets and Donegall Pass to develop a programme of good relations events and activities.

Sandy Row Bears Cross Community, Friendship Cup 2019

In September the Sandy Row Bears hosted a youth football tournament involving teams from across Belfast and further afield. In total there were 28 teams including, St James Swifts, Belfast Celtic, Shankill Jnrs, Andersonstown Community FC, H&W Welders, Doyle, Glentoran, Albert Foundry and Linfield Ladies.

The tournament involved people from many different community backgrounds, coming together and building new and lasting relationships through sport. It was an opportunity for people to meet and get to know people from

their neighbouring communities and football clubs. Everyone is looking forward to getting together looking forward to getting together again at the next football tournament.



Markets Development Association Spruce Meadows Trip

The annual 1st July trip saw 50 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 attend Spruce Meadows Adventure Farm as part of the Markets Development Association summer intervention programme. The trip promotes improved community relations, with young people from St Malachy's Youth Centre getting involved.

This trip which promotes good relations, is a effective way to help to keep tensions at a minimum by acting as a diversion from any anti-social behaviour that may occur and also encourages good health and wellbeing of the youth in the area.

Fionntán Hargey, Markets Development Association said *"This trip helps to relieve the tensions that can occur at this time of year, giving the young people something positive to look forward to instead. It gives them an opportunity to focus on something fun, build new relationships and improve their own mental health and wellbeing."*

Profile – Anna Devlin, Surestart Early Years Engagement Worker



In my role, which is funded by the Urban Villages Initiative, I work with children up to the age of 4 and their families from Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets.

The main focus of my role is to promote good relations throughout the South Belfast Urban Village area, which entails recognising and celebrating the diverse range of cultures within the city.

For example, our popular Diwali celebration recognises the important contribution of the Indian community to life in South Belfast. It's a chance for families to come together to enjoy music, arts and food. The event last year, held in Sandy Row Community Centre was supported by Arts Ekta who brought traditional Indian dress, and arts and crafts, for the children.

"In July 2019, we held a 'Small World' workshop in Donegall Pass, which provided a forum for people to learn about the lives of refugees who are now living in Belfast. It provided an interesting insight into other cultures and the difficulties people have in seeking asylum in Northern Ireland." said Anna Devlin

Working with my wonderful assistants Zainab and Maria, we have been able to establish two additional weekly crèches. This has helped reduce the waiting list and ensures that

more children are accessing vital early year's services.

The provision of these services and range of activities have resulted in a better understanding of other cultures and backgrounds which has improved good relations in the area.



Alternative Therapies in Donegall Pass



Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF) continues to provide training for people from the Urban Village area in body massage treatments with the aim of guiding participants into employment.

The VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Swedish massage is a recognised qualification and equips trainees with a range of technical skills and a sound knowledge of health and safety, client care and communication.

Now in its third year, the programme is hugely popular both with residents who avail of the training opportunity and those who use the service for relieving stress.

The therapy team has recently welcomed four new therapists who successfully completed their training, enabling DPCF to provide extra therapies up

to four days a week, with both day and evening appointments available to residents in Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Markets.

Chloe Stephenson, DPCF Therapist,
“When I first started my training it was just a hobby, but it has developed into so much more. As a result of my training I am now self-employed and offering a clinic in DPCF every Friday. I am also studying Health and Social Care and working towards going to University next year to do a degree in Nursing.”

Donegall Pass Community Forum need volunteers to help students complete their training. If you would like to register to receive free student treatments, contact DPCF on 028 9032 6256.



Talk Like TED

Nathan Inacio Aleixo, aged 16 years, from the South Belfast Urban Village area.

Nathan participated in a Talk Like TED programme supported by the Urban Villages Initiative. The programmes aim was to encourage young people to find their voices and to bring them to new audiences

of influencers, to share their big ideas.

Following a series of workshops delivered by Bespoke Communications in partnership with Smarts, they presented their talks at their very own Talk Like TED event in the Long Gallery at Stormont.

The name of Nathan's TED talk is **Finding the Light in Life**, his delivery was very impressive. Nathan reflected on his life and realised how much he and the people around him had shaped and developed the person that he has become today. It helped him to envision the person that he aspires to be. The best version of himself, he said:

“What I wanted to gain from this wasn't the spotlight but to spread a message knowing that it could possibly reach at least one person. If it just lessens their struggle by a small margin, or even opens their eyes to help someone in need then the value of my message is enough.”

▶ Talk like TED:
<https://youtu.be/hcSKf-tQWb4>



Improving the Physical Environment

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in local communities and helping to create thriving places through a range of capital projects that are improving the physical environment in Urban Village areas.

Recently, a number of capital build and renovation projects have been officially opened and are already making a difference in people's lives through varied programmes and activities. Everyone is looking forward to getting together helping to achieve good relations outcomes in areas where there has been a history of community tension.

Benview Community Centre

The refurbishment of Benview Community Centre has upgraded internal and external facilities, including modernised common areas and the replacement of an existing MUGA surface.

These improvements provide a safe, welcoming and more inclusive environment in which to facilitate building of inter-generational and more diverse relationships across communities through the provision of wide ranging programmes and services.

This capital project was funded by the Urban Villages Initiative through a £157k investment and was delivered by Belfast City Council.





Sandy Row Play Park

Sandy Row Play Park has had an extensive upgrade of the existing multi-use games area with an attractive play space and all new play equipment.

This is a shared space to bring people and communities together, providing opportunities for children and young people to mix in a safe accessible space in the local area.



This capital project was funded by the Urban Villages Initiative through a £244k investment and was delivered by Belfast City Council.



Diamond Health Club

The Diamond Health Club has seen the development of a functional, modern, adaptable space for community events, a community gym and bicycle workshop space.

Rejuvenating a vacant site this innovative project provides much needed shared space to bring people together through a varied programme of activities; and in doing so helps further develop community relations in the wider EastSide Urban Village area.

This capital project was funded by the Urban Villages Initiative through a £241k investment and was delivered by Belfast City Council.

Orchard Café @ The Foundry

The Orchard Café @ The Foundry has created a new shared space that offers a range of training and development opportunities for local marginalised young people in a real catering business environment.

The café will be operated by Orchardville, a registered charity and social enterprise committed to changing lives by offering opportunities to learn catering and hospitality skills that will enhance employment prospects.

This capital project was funded by the Urban Villages Initiative with a £246k investment and was delivered by Belfast City Council.





Destined

The high standard refurbishment of the existing Foyle Valley Railway Museum building has created a welcoming and inviting place for Destined members, their families and visitors, and it provides DDA compliant accessible working space.

The refurbishment upgrade has improved access for people of all abilities.

The project complements a larger Lottery funded new build for Destined adjacent to this site. Together they provide essential accommodation and facilities for development opportunities for members, including social enterprise projects. This partnership integrated approach is building community capacity and fostering positive community identity.



The Urban Villages Initiative has invested over £100,000 in renovating the Foyle Valley Railway Museum into an accessible hub.



Ligoniel Primary School

A community hub inside the school and a new build unit for mixed use activities in the school grounds have been developed in Ligoniel Primary School.

These facilities will help to deliver the school's programme

of community projects, continuing the emphasis on encouraging parents to get involved with each other and in the education of their children, as well as for the wider community to engage with the school.

The new accommodation will provide safe, welcoming shared learning and activity space for parents, children



and the community to meet and build relationships across community and cultures.

This capital project was funded by the Urban Villages Initiative through a £166k investment and was delivered by the Education Authority.

Improving the Physical Environment

The Urban Villages Initiative is about developing thriving places; using a co-design process, supporting people and organisations in the Urban Village areas to maximise facilities and to deliver safe shared spaces while building community pride.

How much did we do?



316,531
users

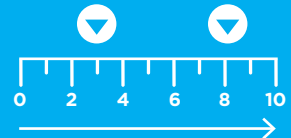
How well did we do it?



92%
participants reporting
the project helped them



96%
treated well



pre 3.35 and post 8.15
pre and post average
aesthetic scores

Is anyone better off?



78%
community
pride



87%
reported it
as shared space



95%
reported it
as safe space



The New Park in Colin

Planning permission was granted earlier this year for the construction of the new park in Colin on the Stewartstown Road. The project is due on site later this year for the enabling works.

This will be a high quality, Destination Park attracting people from across Belfast to the area. The park will be a safe and shared space for users

of all ages and community backgrounds and will include a play park, youth zone, event space, an environmental learning area, wetland habitat and park run.

Everyone will be happy to hear that the much missed Leap of Faith sculpture will be relocated at the new entrance of the park. The site hoarding will include a creativity project by St Colm's school, it will feature local people enjoying Parklife and you will be able to find out more about what is in the park.

LATEST CAPITAL PROJECT: Pro Kick Gym

All systems go for the development of the new Pro Kick Gym in the EastSide Urban Village area. The kickboxing gym has a legacy of working with children and adults from different backgrounds and cultures in a neutral, safe, shared space. The new fit for purpose facility will continue in this purpose impacting lives for the better.

What's On



EASTSIDE

Christmas Fayre - EastSide

Local handmade crafts, carol singing and children's workshops

DATE: 30 November

VENUE: Portview Trade Centre, Newtownards Road

For more information contact Roz Small roz.small@hotmail.com at Ballymac Friendship Centre or check out facebook.com/ballymaccentre/



Feel Good With Food

Ideas and recipes that could make a big difference to your health and your food bill, whether feeding a family or cooking for one.

DATE:

25 November 2019

16 December 2019

11.30am Seniors & 3.00pm Families on each day

VENUE: East Belfast Enterprise

For further information on the sessions check out facebook.com/feelgoodwithfoodeastbelfast or Emma on: info@vital-nutrition.co.uk

NORTH

OCN Level 1 Gardening Class

Participants attend 10 two-hour sessions, gain an OCN Level 1 qualification in a relaxed and friendly environment, with plenty of hands on gardening.

This course is open to everyone: parents, teachers, volunteers and local residents from Greater Ardoyne and Ballysillan.

DATE: November '19 - January '20

VENUE: Holy Cross Girls School

For more info or to register, contact Kerry at NBWISP (North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project) 028 9039 1028

Irish for Beginners

Irish language class for beginners. All welcome.

DATE: 12 November, 7.00 - 9.00pm

VENUE: Marrowbone Community Hub, Teach Eilís, 11-13 Gracehill Court, Belfast BT14 7RG

For more information: Marrowbone Community Association on 028 9074 1876

Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair at Ardoyne Community Centre, in aid of Wings of Hope Autism Support Group. Everyone welcome. Stall holders welcome, contact Jennifer.

DATE: 28 November, 10am-3pm

VENUE: Ardoyne Community Centre, 40 Herbert Street, Belfast BT14 7FH

For more information or to hold a stall contact Jennifer on 028 9074 3536 or 075 0706 9208

Ballysillan Christmas Lantern Parade

Community groups across Ballysillan are getting together for the second annual lantern parade to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. Everyone welcome.

DATE: 27 November, 6pm

VENUE: Starts from Ballysillan Leisure Centre Car Park

For more information, contact Joan at North Belfast Alternatives 028 9071 7077

Ardbone Festival Christmas

Family friendly festival including Christmas tree lights switch on, carol singing, disco and hot chocolate. Everyone welcome.

DATE: 08 December, 1.30pm - 7.00pm

VENUE: Various

For more information, visit @[ardbonefest](https://facebook.com/ardbonefest) on Facebook

Ardoyne & Ballysillan Run the Walls Santa Race

Everyone welcome! Run the Walls 5k race is back for Christmas and runners are encouraged to dress up as Santa. Proceeds will go to North Belfast Foodbank.

DATE: Sunday 08 December, 12.45pm

VENUE: Start in Alexandra Park, Ballysillan, finish at Holycross Boys Football Pitch, Ardoyne

To register or for more information, check out @ ardbonefest on Facebook.

COLIN

Safe & Well Event

Join us for a free Christmas themed Safe & Well event. The event will include singing from four local school choirs, festive treats and information stands from a range of community and statutory organisations.

DATE: 06 December, 11.00am - 3.00pm

VENUE: Dairy Farm Shopping Centre

For more information contact John Paul at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership on 028 9062 3813 or johnpaul@newcolin.com

Christmas in Colin

Come and watch Santa arrive to switch on the lights on the Colin Christmas tree. Get your picture taken with Santa, enjoy live music, carnival rides and arts and crafts and make your own Christmas decorations, yule logs and wreaths.

DATE: 12 December

VENUE: Colin town square

For more information contact John Paul at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership on 028 9062 3813 or email johnpaul@newcolin.com



SOUTH

Window Box Workshop

Come along and make your own daffodil window boxes to bloom in the spring and add a splash of colour to your home.

Date and times: 16 November 10am - 1pm

VENUE: Donegall Pass Community Garden

For more information contact Donegall Pass Community Forum: Telephone 028 9032 6256

Donegall Pass Christmas Lights Switch On

Join us for some festive fun with Christmas crafts and a Christmas BBQ

DATE: 29 Nov, 6.00pm - 8.00pm

VENUE: Elim Church, Donegall Pass

For more information contact Ann McAllister by email amccallister@sky.com

Christmas Wreath and Centre Pieces Workshop

Join us for our annual wreath and centre piece workshop.

DATE: 07 December, 10am-1pm

VENUE: Donegall Pass Community Garden

For more information contact Donegall Pass Community Forum: Telephone 028 9032 6256

DERRY~LONDONDERRY

Christmas Nativity Play

Youth clubs across the Urban Village Area will be collaborating with local artists to perform a Nativity Play at Free Derry Corner. Up lifting performance to kick off the Festival.

DATE: 06 December 2019

VENUE: Free Derry Corner

For more information contact email feilederry@gmail.com or visit Gasyard Feile Facebook page

Gala Concert

As part of the Streets Alive programme, North West Cultural Partnership will host a Christmas Gala concert Celebrating the Traditions of Piping and Ulster Scots Music

DATE: 18 December 2019

VENUE: Guild Hall

For more information contact Stephen Porter at Londonderry Bands Forum by Email: stephen@londonderrybandsforum.com or Telephone: 028 7126 5869

What's On



High Hopes Choir

A choir of homeless people will be hosted in the Urban Village area for two days, visiting local youth clubs, delivering workshops and will perform a concert at St. Colm's Cathedral.

DATE: 06 December 2019

VENUE: St Columb's Cathedral

For more information contact email feilederry@gmail.com or visit Gasyard Feile Facebook page



TEDxStormont Women Open Mic/Pitch Session

This is your opportunity to pitch your idea or your story for a chance to take it to the stage at the TEDxStormont Women's event.

DATE: Tuesday 12 November, 10.00am

VENUE: Ulster University, Magee Campus, Derry-Londonderry

For more information contact Kaja Choma kaja@tedxstormont.com or register for FREE at: <https://getinvited.to/cdpb/>

Urban Villages Community Networking Event - Derry-Londonderry

Join us at this community networking event in Derry-Londonderry for the launch of our Area Based Plans; meet the young TEDx speakers from the Urban Villages area, hear examples of partnerships helping a wide range of stakeholders to do more in Urban Village areas and find out information on the roll out of the next phase of funding.

DATE: Wednesday 17 December, 10.00am

VENUE: Foyle Valley Museum

Please register by emailing info@urbanvillagesni.org

Urban Villages Community Networking Event - Belfast

Join us at this community networking event in Belfast for the launch of our Area Based Plans, meet the young TEDx speakers from the Urban Villages area, hear examples of partnerships helping a wide range of stakeholders to do more in Urban Village areas and find out information on the roll out of the next phase of funding.

DATE: Tuesday 18 December, 10.00am

VENUE: Girdwood Community Hub, North Belfast

Please register by emailing info@urbanvillagesni.org

BELFAST

TEDxStormont Women Open Mic/Pitch Session

This is your opportunity to pitch your idea or your story, boosting your confidence for a chance to take it to the stage at the TEDxStormont Women's event.

DATE: Thursday 14 November, 10.00am

VENUE: Ulster University, York Street, Belfast

For more information contact Kaja Choma kaja@tedxstormont.com or register for FREE at: <https://getinvited.to/cdpb/> (no charge for tickets)

TEDxStormont Women Bold+Brilliant

This is your opportunity to pitch your idea or your story for a chance to take it to the stage at the TEDxStormont Women's event.

DATE: Thursday 12 December

VENUE: Parliament Buildings, Stormont

For more information contact Kaja Choma kaja@tedxstormont.com or book tickets online <https://getinvited.to/cdpb/tedxstormontwomen2019/> (no charge for tickets)



News

Talk Like TED TEDxStormont Youth Programme

During the summer a group of young people from across all five Urban Village areas attended a series of professional media training workshops to help them to develop their big ideas ready to present on the 'Talk like TED' platform in the Stormont Long Gallery.

The programme provided an opportunity for young people aged 16- 24 years, from Urban Village areas to work together to develop their ideas, and to share their stories and vision for the future by bringing their voices new audiences of influencers, decision makers and key stakeholders.



The level of talented and inspiring talks from all of the young people was impressive. The panel selected Tegan Nesbitt to take the stage at the main TEDxStormont event later that month, with her talk 'Turning your Fears into your Strengths'. Tegan's presentation was seamless, the impact of the message was powerful and it had global appeal.

Following the Talk like TED event, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mark Browne said; ***"The sheer level of talent that was on display today was exceptional and really showcased the thoughtful and inspiring vision the younger generation***

have for the future of Northern Ireland. Tegan gave a strong and motivating talk, really drawing on her personal experiences to deliver a stirring message about hoping for a better future."

The Urban Villages Initiative partnered with Smarts Communicate PR Agency and worked with Brown O'Conner and Bespoke Communications who delivered the workshops. As well as appearing at TedxStormont, Tegan will also take part in a mentorship programme at Smarts Communicate, she currently has over 16,000 views on YouTube for her talk.

 Tegan Nesbitt TED Talk - <https://youtu.be/qXSya8rzbyg>

TEDxStormont Women Bold + Brilliant



Following the success of the Talk Like TED youth programme, the Urban Villages Initiative is now working with our partners at TEDx to provide a platform for women of all ages, from Urban Village areas, to become more confident to tell their stories and share their big ideas on the TEDxStormont Women platform.

TEDxStormont Women Masterclasses in Belfast and

Derry-Londonderry helped to build self-confidence and improve communication skills for all of the women attending during October.

Some participants will now step out of their comfort zone and connect with an audience as they take to the open mic and present their 'idea worth sharing' at the pitch events.

The open mic or pitch sessions will take place in both Belfast and Derry-Londonderry. Up to 5 women will be selected to take to the stage with the opportunity to present to an audience of influencers and decision makers at TEDxStormont Women 2019.

The main TEDxStormont Women event will return to the Great Hall, Parliament Buildings, Stormont on

Thursday, 12 December. This year's theme, "Bold + Brilliant," speaks to the bold and brilliant women in our Urban Village areas, without apology!

Siobhan Broderick, Director of the Urban Villages Initiative said; ***"This is a fantastic opportunity for women from all walks of life from Urban Village areas to have their say on an issue that matters to them. I am so pleased that we are encouraging and facilitating a project such as this to enable women from Urban Village areas to tell their stories and to become more confident and learn new and transferable skills that can be applied to other aspects of their lives."***

For more information contact info@urbanvillagesni.org

 You can view a short film about the Talk like TED programme here: <https://youtu.be/hcSKf-tQWb4>

News

Making a Difference Together in Urban Village Areas



The Area Based Plan has been developed to tell you about the investment of the Urban Villages Initiative across capital projects, community led and cross cutting programmes in your area.

There will be five individual plans with illustrated maps to provide a current update or 'state of play' on projects.

The plan reflects how public sector and community are working better together to improve and animate the Urban Village areas and developing thriving places.

The plan can also be used to inform future private and public sector investment providing opportunity to stimulate economic and social benefit.

The initiative invests in local organisations to develop projects that will improve the lives of people and build good relations in the places where they live. Working better together to create thriving places spanning and connecting communities and cultures.

Sustainable change requires investment in people and places.

Make a positive contribution to the Hate Crime Legislation Review

Hate Crime violates equality between people: you can help to stop it!

What is Hate Crime?

A criminal offence with prejudice, hostile, or hateful motivation towards a victim; or an incitement offence where certain actions are intended, or likely, to stir-up hatred or arouse fear.

We welcome your thoughts, experiences and aspirations on how Hate Crime is currently dealt with, and how to deal with it better in the future. All in the strictest confidence.

The consultation is open, so make your views known by registering to attend any event, simply email registration@hatecrimereviewni.org.uk with your name and indicate the event you wish to attend or alternatively contact the Review Team Office.

Public outreach events are planned for:

Enniskillen: Thursday 16 January

Dungannon: Tuesday 21 January

Belfast: Wednesday 12 February

Ballymena: Wednesday 5 February

Derry/Londonderry: Wednesday 4 March

Craigavon: Thursday 12 March

Consultation ends April 2020

Registrations are treated in confidence and the process is for event planning purposes only.

Telephone: 028 9026 1395
Email: enquiries@hatecrimereviewni.org.uk
Find out more at www.hatecrimereviewni.org.uk

Keep in touch

Stay updated with what's happening in your Urban Village area. To join our mailing list send your contact details to info@urbanvillagesni.org

Focus Magazine - Next issue - March 2020. 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 - Keep the conversation going @urbanvillagesni

Youtube Channel - View videos of the great community projects we support



News Highlights



Orchard Café @ The Foundry Launch

Abdulbari, pictured with Mark Browne from The Executive Office at the launch event of Orchard Café @ The Foundry, is part of a group of young participants gaining work experience in the catering industry.

Abdulbari said *"I am enjoying my training and getting to work with some other young people from the area. Working here at Orchard Café has enabled me to have more work experience in this kind of job. It's always helpful to have experience in different things, and for me, more experience means more opportunities for the future"*



T:Buc Young Ambassadors

Young ambassador graduates from the Department for Communities, Uniting Communities Programme, including young people from Colin and Eastside Urban Village areas attended the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in Rwanda this year to join

their Rwandan counterparts in delivering two days of youth sport.

The young ambassadors also learned about the events surrounding the 1994 Genocide and the reconciliation efforts that have turned Rwanda into one of Africa's most stable countries with an exciting future.

Pearse, a young ambassador from the Colin Urban Villages area said *"It was a real eye-opening experience. I didn't expect to learn as much as I did from Rwanda's society. It made me realise that just because we have more money doesn't mean that our society is better as a whole. We can and should take some notes out of Rwanda's book."*

Knockout at the Diamond Health Club

The Diamond Health Club in the EastSide Urban Village area was opened by Carly McNaul, silver medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Carly, a local resident said, *"This new facility is a great resource for the local community to get together and it will encourage people to get out of their homes to get fit and healthy."*



EastSide Awards

The Urban Villages Initiative is supporting the 'Community Project' category in the EastSide Awards 2020. The awards celebrate all that is good about East Belfast, whilst showcasing the contributions being made to the economic, social and community development of the area.



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



Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org