



# Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

## **BACKGROUND**

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership (ISBNP) was established in June 2005 to oversee the implementation of the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in the three inner city communities of Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau and the Market. The ISBNP has membership drawn from the Community and Voluntary Sector, Public Sector and Private Sector, as well as elected members of Belfast City Council.

The Inner South Belfast NRA includes Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau and the Market which, as of the May 2014 'Super Council' elections, are now located Botanic ward. The area has suffered from the decline in traditional manufacturing industries, and the resulting job losses, coupled with population movements out of the area, resulted in the local population suffering the composite effects of urban decline. In recent years, there has been an increase in the population of ethnic minorities in the Inner South Belfast area and therefore the Action Plan promotes regeneration which will bring social and economic benefits to the area through job creation and increased resources for all communities.

## **PEOPLE AND PLACE: A STRATEGY FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL**

In June 2003, Government launched *People and Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*, which represented a move away from short-term project-led interventions towards a long-term programme-based approach to tackle deprivation and close the quality of life gap. Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross government strategy and aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life. Using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure, neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified, resulting in a total of 36 areas being targeted for intervention, 15 of which are in Belfast.

Across these Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Neighbourhood Partnerships were established as a vehicle for local planning and implementation. Each Neighbourhood Partnership developed long term visions and action plans designed to improve the quality of life of those living in the area and to ensure that the people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and opportunities.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme is to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas and it does so by making a long term commitment to communities to work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is informed by two over-arching goals:

- To ensure that people living in the most deprived Neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life for themselves and their families
- To improve the environment and image of our most deprived neighbourhoods so that they become more attractive places to live and work in

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has 4 objectives:

- **Community Renewal**- to develop consistent communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas
- **Economic Renewal**- to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy
- **Social Renewal**- to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments
- **Physical Renewal**-to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AND THE MID-TERM REVIEW**

The Department carried out a Mid-Term Review of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which considered the overall impact for those who reside in the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The aim of the Mid-Term Review was to determine the extent to which the Neighbourhood Renewal policy has met or is meeting its objectives and that those intended to benefit have done so.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Mid-Term Review, published in March 2011, identified a number of recommendations, including:

- A common set of project output indicators should be agreed for Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund supported projects
- If real change is to occur which goes beyond alleviating the symptoms of deprivation then regeneration success should be measured by the outcomes that it delivers (not activities) with a priority focus on improving economic outcomes.

The Mid-Term Review suggested that in order to make a positive difference to the lives of those people that we seek to support, Neighbourhood Partnerships must focus more on what they aim to accomplish as opposed to focusing on the projects supported and interventions made.

## **INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP**

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership underwent an election process, administered by the South Belfast Partnership Board, and on the 5th December 2013, a new ISBNP Board was elected. In addition, the ISBNP Constitution was formally adopted by the Board in mid-December 2013.

The ISBNP has a Board of 9 community representatives (3 from each community) and also consists of representatives from statutory bodies, as well as one political representative from each political party representing the Botanic area. The Partnership's Board includes a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer, as well as the Chair of each of the 5 Thematic Sub Groups. In addition, there is a Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator who provides secretarial support to the Chairperson and the Partnership. The ISBNP delivers across 5 themes and therefore has 5 Sub Groups; one dedicated to each theme and directly linked to the delivery of the ISBNP Action Plan. The majority of the work and decision making is undertaken at the Sub Group level, which is then ratified at the overall Partnership Board meeting. The Sub Group meetings occur on a fortnightly basis, therefore it takes a period of ten weeks for all Sub Groups to have met once, and then the Board meets on the 12th week of the cycle. Therefore, there will be a total of 20 Sub Group meetings and 4 Board meetings per year for the ISBNP.

The organisations which compose the ISBNP provide essential front line services in the most deprived areas of Inner South Belfast, as well as providing the strategic leadership necessary to bring about the economic regeneration of the area. For instance, the fourteen DSD funded posts in Inner South have enabled the creation of a further forty-six jobs through both self-generated finance and securing the support of other funding bodies. For the approximately £486,313 of DSD funding for fourteen posts in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal area approximately £1,220,917 has been secured from other funders and self-generated through various social enterprise's. For example, of the £100,876 provided to Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group to fund three full-time positions a further £600,761 has been secured from other funders and £172,010 has been self-generated. The massive social and economic return for the relatively small levels of DSD investment needs to be taken into consideration, as well as the wider impact any cuts will have on the large number of families and individuals availing of the services provided.

The ISBNP Board feels that maintenance, at the very least, of current levels of Neighbourhood Renewal funding are essential in order to meet key strategic objectives in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal area. This funding will provide the space necessary for the completion of a number of projects which will have a major social and economic impact on the city. For instance, the £125,908 of DSD funding for five posts in the Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF) has leveraged a further £138,000 for the Donegall Pass Community Garden Project, which has provided a much needed green space for local residents in a heavily built up area of the city. DPCF has also taken the lead in administering the Cromac Regeneration Initiative (CRI) Building. Similarly, the £73,053 of DSD funding for three posts in the Market's Development Association (MDA) has allowed that organisation to

secure a further £147,961 for the regeneration of the Market area. The impending start of the MDA's flagship Tunnels Project, which has secured funding at both Council and Assembly level (£1.4 million), will witness the creation of a major economic driver in the area.

### **STATEMENT OF NEEDS/PRIORITIES**

The ISBNP carried out an Action Plan review in April/May 2014, and it was agreed that the Action Plan for 2015-2017 would continue to be based around 5 strategic themes, which the five Sub Groups are formed around in order to deliver on the Action Plan.

- 1. Building Strong, Safe, Attractive and Sustainable Communities**
- 2. Economic Development, Worklessness and Skills**
- 3. Improving Community Relations**
- 4. Raising Education Attainment and Engaging Young People**
- 5. Improving Health and Well-being**

### **SOUTH BELFAST SYNERGIES FORUM**

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership joined with the South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership to establish the Neighbourhood Renewal Synergies Forum. The South Belfast Partnership Board are the lead on this initiative and the ISBNP actively participates in the events of the NR Synergies Forum. Areas of collaboration include: an Economic Forum, Consultations, Vacant Building Rates, Tourism, Youth, Health, Education and Communication/Newsletter.

## INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting projects in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Area across the themes of Community Renewal, Economic Renewal, Social Renewal and Physical Renewal. The organisations which deliver in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal area include:

- Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group (LORAG)
- Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF)
- Market's Development Association (MDA)
- Donegall Pass Community Association (DPCA)
- An Droichead
- Mornington Community Project
- Réalta na Cromóige
- South Belfast Alternatives (SBA)
- Sólás
- GEMS NI
- Cromac Regeneration Initiative (CRI)
- FASA
- St Malachy's Youth Centre

## **LOWER ORMEAU RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP**

The Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) has continued to deliver a range of important services to meet its strategic goals of providing social, leisure and developmental activities to residents and developing the socio-economic profile of the area. LORAG's core projects in the areas of children, youth, health and sport have operated extremely successfully, achieving key targets in terms of numbers and diversity as well as the quality and effectiveness of the programmes on offer. The inclusive and open nature of LORAG and Shaftesbury Recreation Centre is a feature of all LORAG's projects and activities. The Creating Cohesive Community Project continues with its huge success in bringing together communities, agencies, groups and individuals from all community and ethnic backgrounds in the widest range of creative, innovative and enjoyable events.

The Shaftesbury Recreation Centre building is a hive of community based activity and also provides a safe place for many of those new arrivals to Belfast. The Centre has continued to extend its in house services and the building is open 7 days a week totalling 114 hours. LORAG have delivered successful projects on a broad range of community issues including anti-social behaviour, legal and illegal drug sales, crime, the need for improved social housing, and protection of children's play space and maintaining good neighbourliness. There have been particular successes in the following projects:

### *Sports Development Unit*

The Unit has embraced new and exciting challenges and has successfully married health related programmes with traditional sports development programmes for the benefit of the local community. The project has continued to develop and deliver on a range of strategic themes to increase participation in sport and physical activity in communities while also tackling a range of social issues including training, education, community safety and employment throughout the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The projects have engaged with a wide audience from young children to the elderly while also enhancing the links, partnerships and networks with community, voluntary and statutory organisations that play a vital role in the jigsaw of Sports and Community Development, whilst not undermining local delivery.

### *Creating Cohesive Community*

The project strives to bring synergy to community cohesion and was delivered in conjunction with all projects at LORAG including Sure Start, Children's Project, Youth Project and various Sports Programmes. The Creating Cohesive Community Project exceeded all the agreed outputs for participant numbers for all the programmes by over 50% with a number of additional programmes developed.

### *Health Outreach*

The Family Fun Walks project evolved throughout this period and focused on fun physical outdoor activities with families with small children, including the May Day Fun Walk. The School Project *Fitness 8*, which involves 8 schools across South Belfast, has involved Active Community Coaches delivering a unique fitness programme incorporating games and nutrition as well as physical activity education. Other adult based health programmes were also delivered across the Inner South Belfast area including Mental Health, Parent Education Programmes, Sexual Health Education Programmes, Men's Health Programmes, Accredited Drug and Alcohol Programmes, Smoking Awareness, Baby Health and Awareness, Healthy Happy Christmas and Oral Health for Parents Programme. LORAG has continued to support the development of services in the three local communities of Inner South Belfast such as Lifeline Services and SafetyNet Signposting Service.

### *Engage for Change*

LORAG have developed the 'Engage for Change' course aimed at getting NEET young people aged 14-20 back into education, employment or training. This Project is designed to give the participants 6 months of an engaging employability programme that incorporates work experience, training, qualifications, diversionary work, counselling and voluntary opportunities.

### *Youth*

LORAG Youth Project is also operated out of Shaftesbury Recreation Centre and it works with young people aged 12 to 25 years. Young people are registered in a range of programmes including Body Image, Mentoring Programme, Life Long Learning, Young Women's Group, Young Men's Group as well as a Good Relations Programme with Roma and NICRAS.

### *Children's Project*

The Children's Project has had a successful and challenging year delivering afterschool, educational and social development support to children aged 2-11 years and their parents. The project has delivered a wide range of programmes throughout the year including an eight week Summer Scheme, a Personal and Social Development Programme, an Intercultural Sports Programme, Homework and Educational Support Classes for 5-11 year olds, as well as two Child Protection training courses which was attended by local workers and volunteers.

### *Inner South Family Support Programme*

The Family Support Programme is for parents and families with children aged 5-11 years old and the key aims are to create stronger links with local schools in developing educational initiatives, develop partnerships with local providers for developing programmes, and to develop late night and weekend programmes for early intervention initiatives. The three communities of Lower Ormeau, Donegall Pass and the Markets are involved in the Inner South Family Support Programme, and it was very successful in terms of participation rates for this report period.



## **DONEGALL PASS COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Donegall Pass Community Forum community had a very successful reporting year which far exceeded project targets and outcomes. There was a wide range of services and educational courses delivered either directly by our staff team or through our Partner organisations. We recognise the importance of building and nurturing effective Partnerships to deliver the best services in our area. This is evidenced through our work on the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board and its thematic sub groups and with organisations such as South Belfast Sure Start, NIHE, Belfast City Council, South Belfast Partnership Board and the South Belfast Social Enterprise Hub to name but a few.

In 2014/2015, there were a total of 168 support sessions for individuals accessing careers advice and employability skills training to develop key personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers covering topics such as enterprise, preparing for employment, succeeding at work, CVs, job search and presentation skills. This element of our work is delivered in partnership with GEMS NI.

We also delivered a range of ICT training to 340 participants, providing skills which enhance employability and give participants a distinct advantage in the jobs market. In addition, we provided food hygiene training, SIA licence, CSR cards, first aid and barista training to deliver employer recognised accreditations and employability skills to those seeking employment in the hospitality, construction, security and retail sectors, which 58 participants successfully completed.

We facilitated motivational training directed at the most disadvantaged and hardest to reach members of the community to encourage them to participate in training and education activities. A total of 43 people participated in the motivational training, helping them build up confidence levels and self-esteem. 77 other participants were involved in other confidence building type courses delivered by DPCF and this included driving theory, local history, self-defence and others. We also facilitated courses in ICT, English and maths at essential skills levels to improve educational standards, advance life opportunities and enhance employability and there were a total of 50 participants whom completed the courses.

We recognise that it is very important to acknowledge and celebrate the success of local adult learners in completing community education and training courses. In September 2014 DPCF held a community celebration event in the Boardroom of the CRI building and presented over 60 awards to participants on courses.

During this reporting year Donegall Pass Community Forum has continued to successfully deliver valuable services through the implementation of three Service Level Agreements - Contact NI (Lifeline face to face counselling services) CRI (Building Management services) and GEMS NI (Employment South Training Services).

We also continue to work in partnership with Ballynafeigh Community Development Association to deliver our welfare and benefits advice service which delivered one day per week. This service has a significant impact on local residents, with the following benefits being secured

- Housing Benefit £30,304
- ESA £64,000
- Social Fund £12,400
- DLA £48,000
- Miscellaneous £18,280

DPCF has successfully delivered a major regeneration project in the area that has totally transformed a derelict and overgrown site. The creation of the Donegall Pass Community Garden has brought major environmental and social benefits to the community with the site now being a key focal point for local residents and visitors alike. Funding for this project was awarded by Belfast City Council and the project was delivered in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers. The official opening was held in May 2014.

DPCF have supported several local community initiatives by way of providing advice, guidance and resources and continue to produce a quarterly newsletter which is delivered to every household and business premises within the Donegall Pass area.

## **MARKETS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Markets Development Association are the lead organisation for the Regeneration Project funded under the Department Of Social Development and it is a collaborative project with the Donegall Pass Community Forum. The Project is funded under Physical Renewal and employs a Community Regeneration Officer in the Market community and a Physical Regeneration Officer in the Donegall Pass community.

The aim of the Regeneration Project is to build strong, safe, attractive and sustainable communities within the Inner South Belfast area, and involves developing the plans that will improve the socio-economic conditions of local residents within Inner South through physical, social and economic regeneration. The project has also aimed to improve community relations between the three communities, and it has been important in the development of the Cromac Regeneration Initiative (CRI).

As the lead community organisation in the Markets area, the MDA commissioned a socio economic feasibility study to be carried out in the area, which led to the identification of potential regeneration projects. The Markets Regeneration Plan was completed in 2010 and it identifies 14 regeneration projects of varying sizes which aim to address a range of social, physical, economic and community problems. The signature project from this plan is the Tunnels Project, which consists of the refurbishment of the derelict and unused railway arches located under East Bridge Street, for social and community use. The MDA carried out a range of studies for this project and have completed

an Economic Appraisal and Business Case for the variety of uses which would be included in the Tunnels (Child Care facility, Health & Fitness Space, GEMS NI office, Bike Hire, Conference and Multi-functional hire space, as well as a coffee shop). The MDA submitted a Planning Application for the project in December 2012 and in the period since April 2013, the MDA have been worked closely with Belfast City Council to complete the Flood Risk Assessment and Contamination Surveys needed as part of Planning. Also, during this time, the MDA staff and committee have completed an ILM Level 5 Social Enterprise course in order to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for the MDA to properly manage the Tunnels Project when completed. Of particular note this year was the redevelopment of the Market Playground at Stewart Street (approx. £400,000) and the imminent relocation of the Market Sure Start to the site adjacent the Playground (£250,000), as well as the development of a boxing facility for St George's ABC (approx. £130,000).

Another large project as part of the Markets Regeneration Plan includes the development of a 3G pitch in the area, on which we have been working closely with Belfast City Council to find an appropriate location.

### **DONEGALL PASS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

As a new organisation recently formed and a member of Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership, the Donegall Pass Community Association consists of members across a wide spectrum of ages and professional backgrounds. It was conveyed that whilst members are predominantly from the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist (PUL) community, there is a desire for the group to become more diverse. In that respect, members are keen to ensure that the group is viewed as approachable, trustworthy, effective and generally representative of the community at large.

As a response to needs, which were identified within the community through a needs analysis, the Donegall Pass Community Association was formed after a consultation process with local residents. The members of the Association possess a number of skills which undoubtedly highlight the capacity within the group to develop further. These skills include counselling, youth work, teaching, mediation and community development, all of which are offered freely, illustrating the commitment to address the needs, identified by the group as:

- Problems relating to housing; lack of and poor housing and the allocation of housing
- The fracturing of the community
- The increasing diversity of residents within the community
- The erosion of the Protestant culture, heritage and identity
- General sense of malaise and disenfranchisement of the Protestant working class
- The lack of opportunities for young people

- And finally, the general lack of community cohesion.

Since its inception, group members meet on a monthly basis, each have their own distinct role within the group and partnerships have been developed with key stakeholders from within and beyond the community and voluntary sector. In sum, the motivation for the group's emergence and continued existence rests on the belief that certain needs are not being addressed and that resources are not being utilised appropriately within the community. As such, the group has therefore been driven by the following values and motivating factors, in response to the needs detailed above:

- A belief that there is greater level of 'authenticity' associated with the group, given that it consists of members largely from the community, who are endeavouring to improve the community
- A desire to promote and enhance 'community spirit', cohesion, safety and regeneration whilst instilling a sense of pride in the local area
- To acquire sustainable housing and employment within the local area
- To generally create and promote opportunities for all members of the community.

Indeed, the Donegall Pass Community Association has had some level of success in supporting and addressing issues and concerns within the local area. For instance, they have launched a 'Community Safety Strategy', a 'Street Clean-Up Campaign' and have offered advice on housing and welfare related matters. Due to financial constraints however, the work of the Association has not been documented to any great extent, nor has it been able to flourish, despite the overwhelming desire to progress. According to the group, a greater level of formality and visibility within the community, enabling them to achieve their goals, can only be enhanced further by securing their own premises, paid staff member(s) and funding. Donegall Pass Community Association see themselves as integral to ISBNP's Action Plan and will fully support all actions whilst playing key roles in the development of community relations, regeneration and community cohesion.

## **AN DROICHEAD**

An Droichead are the lead organisation in Inner South Belfast for the Early Years Project through Neighbourhood Renewal funding. The project employs a Nursery Co-ordinator and a Nursery Supervisor (salaries only). The posts are based in, and are specific to An Droichead in Cooke Street. This falls into the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership area. This project supports the delivery of actions identified within the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan (ISNRAP) under the theme of "Raising Educational Attainment" and through building upon and strengthening the community infrastructure.

While this project is, of necessity, primarily concerned with addressing the Inner South community's needs regarding Raising Educational Attainment, An Droichead plays a central role on the main Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and participates in several subgroups where they help to deliver upon a wide range of actions in the community. An Droichead has its own development plans that aim to address issues of economic isolation and social exclusion, and indeed these plans help inform the priorities identified in the Action Plan. By targeting these priorities An Droichead has also contributed to and delivered on the Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) 'People and Place' strategy. An Droichead's nursery service in Cooke Street gives children a gentle and holistic introduction to early years and immersion education so that they have both a clear sense of themselves and their environment, and also a good grounding in the Irish language by the age of four. The Nursery staff are all qualified with NVQs in Childcare and together with the purpose-built setting of the nursery rooms, they maintain a happy, bright, positive and creative environment for these children who mostly come from greatly disadvantaged homes with little or no stimulation for a child in the local environment.

Building on their ability to meet this need An Droichead recently opened a day care service that can accommodate children as young as 18 months for full day care throughout the year. With numbers in the day care service reaching capacity and the nursery having had its biggest intake ever this year, An Droichead are now looking at new ways of accommodating the increasing demand for affordable childcare in the community.

### **MORNINGTON COMMUNITY PROJECT**

After almost thirty years of delivering services and programs, the board of directors of Mornington Community Project has created a thorough strategic plan which seeks to rejuvenate Mornington's engagement with its local community. It will address the issues of a derelict building and of a lack of staff to supervise programmes and activities. Through the strategic plan, Mornington Community Project will develop programmes to meet proven community needs of employability training, childcare, family support and development of social enterprise initiatives. A fit-for-purpose building will be developed with a long-term sustainability plan secured.

Since September 2013 the Board have increased their level of commitment to this project by using a consultant development worker to establish relevant projects through partnership arrangements whilst working closely with the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership. They have also put in place a premises officer to make the premises available daily to local projects. A 5 day schedule of activities and programmes is now in place to meet community needs and the demand is growing daily.

Programmes to date include:

- Global Kitchen which is a food based social enterprise pilot initiative between Belfast Round Table, Springvale Training Centre and Mornington Community Project. Ten nationalities are represented and English is the second language of most participants
- A Nurturing Family Programme for young single parents in the area followed by a Surestart programme for young pregnant mums.
- Women's and Family Training programmes delivered by GEMS
- A women's health and fitness development programme delivered by An Droichead
- A lunch time Community Choir.
- A Food Bank distribution and collection centre
- A CAP programme in the early stages of development
- A mobile phone repair social enterprise scheme

Mornington Community Project's Vision is for a neighbourly community that is healthy, resilient and self-assured. Its mission is to provide a safe and welcoming space where people can enhance their quality of life. The primary beneficiaries of the Mornington Community Project will be from Lower Ormeau and Greater South Belfast. It aims to provide a hub and opportunities for all the members of the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership to work together.

## **RÉALTA NA CROMÓIGE**

Réalta na Cromóige were founded in 2013 and has recently completed its second season as a club with the seniors finishing 4th after gaining promotion to Division 2 last year and Réalta Ogá, the under 18s, also finishing 4th in the South Belfast Youth League. The clubs commitment to community development has also continued off the pitch. The players helped out with the seniors Christmas Dinner by serving food and organising a choir. Over Christmas the players also raised the funds to donate a few hampers to the Welcome homeless centre, and supplied gifts for the Bryson house family appeal. In partnership with the MDA the players ran football training and games in the Stewart Street playground on Friday and Saturday nights throughout last summer, and will do so again throughout July and August 2015. We appeal to all adults and young people in the Market to take ownership of this vital community space, and ensure that it is maintained as a clean and safe environment for our young people.

## **SOUTH BELFAST ALTERNATIVES**

South Belfast Alternatives (SBA) is a government-accredited community based restorative justice organisation that aims to promote and develop non-violent community responses to issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. SBA adopts a holistic approach to supporting victims, offenders and the community by providing a wide range of services & programmes designed to meet the needs of all parties involved namely:

- Victim and Family Support
- Intensive Youth Support
- Youth Prevention
- Intervention & Diversionary Programmes
- Mediation
- Training & Development

### *MACS:*

Mediation Advocacy & Community Support - addresses issues of hate-crime, anti-racism and community tensions through mediation and the provision of services that promote a more welcoming and culturally diverse community through the delivery of community education and restorative practice. Funded by Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

### *WAYS:*

Wrap Around Intensive Youth Support - partnership of Northern Ireland Alternatives & Community Restorative Justice Ireland providing a restorative based model of wrap around support and services to 13 – 17 year old young people most in need across Belfast. This includes young people who may be (or may have had) contact with the care and justice systems, who are deemed 'at risk' and / or vulnerable, and who are not currently in any form of education or training. Funded by the Big Lottery Reaching Out – Empowering Young People fund. Gareth Hughes [gareth@alternativesrj.co.uk](mailto:gareth@alternativesrj.co.uk)

### *YOUTH SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS – DONEGALL PASS & MARKET:*

Youth Safety Partnerships (YSP) aim to promote the safety and well-being of young people (aged 17-24), their families and their communities through a process of engagement, participation and delivery of youth led responses to local needs - helping young people to help themselves. There are two YSP in South Belfast – Markets (partnered with St. Malachy's Youth Club) and Donegall Pass. Examples

of projects/training delivered include mental health awareness, personal safety, community clean-ups, intergenerational support and OCN Level 2 Street Work (outreach/detached youth engagement). Funded by the Big Lotter

## **SÓLÁS**

Sólás provide a range of support programmes for children and young people with a broad range of additional needs and their programmes help with Educational Support, Social Development & Parent Support. The 'Educational Support Programmes' are targeted at those children in mainstream primary education who are on the schools' Special Educational Needs' register. For example, some children may not be achieving a literacy level comparable to their reading age. Some may struggle with language formation, phonics, time, sentence construction etc. Some may be waiting for an educational psychologist to carry out an assessment and provide a diagnosis. Sólás deliver support programmes to help children at the early stages of the School's Special Education Need's register in order to help them achieve their full learning potential. Sólás' Educational Support Programmes include 'Back on Track', which is an early intervention school-based initiative which facilitates weekly one-to-one support for children aged 7-11 who have an additional educational need, but do not qualify for statutory provision. The 15 week programme is supported by a team of retired teacher volunteers. In addition, Sólás provides a 'Kidz Support Den', which is an early intervention after-school initiative, supported by a team of student teachers. It provides weekly one-to-one homework support to local children who are struggling with their education.

There are 32 children of primary school age in Inner South Belfast who receive specialist provision and support in after school programmes through Sólás' ASD After-School Club. Currently, Sólás runs a dedicated after school ASD Club for children with autism five afternoons per week with 8 children in each session. Sólás also provides Social Development Programmes such as 'Happy Hands' After-School Club for children aged 4-11 with autism, 'Time for Me' Saturday Morning Club for children of primary school age with ASD and provides parents with respite at the weekend to spend time with the siblings of their special needs child. In addition, Sólás provides a 'Champ Youth' Club which runs two evenings per week for young people aged 11-16 with ASD and the 'Big Smile' Summer Scheme for children aged 4-11 with autism. Sólás provide emotional and practical support and advice for parents of children with special needs, and sessions include guest speakers, mindfulness, art therapy and other parental support.

Sólás also offer a number of training opportunities to educate and inspire those interested in supporting children and individuals with additional learning needs including E-Learning Child Protection Modules, CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Individuals with



Learning Disabilities, as well as a School Podcast Project which provides training on editing software plus video creation. Despite being seen as an integral part of the Inner South's development, Sólás has yet to receive any permanent government funding, a situation which the ISBNP would hope to see rectified in the year ahead.

## **GEMS NI**

GEMS Northern Ireland's key aim is to bring employment related services & support and promote access to the labour market for socially excluded groups who are furthest from the labour market whilst developing an employment service infrastructure. Their approach is supported by the Department of Employment & Learning and demonstrates its effectiveness in attracting non-traditional customers into training and work services with increased job outcomes for harder to help people with ongoing gains and soft skills such as improvements in confidence and motivation. Since GEMS inception in 2002 the organisation has gained extensive experience in delivering Employment Programmes and offering Career Advice and Guidance in Inner South Belfast NRA, greater South and East Belfast Areas. Gems were also instrumental in research that endorsed and supported the Social Investment Fund approach.

In 2014-2015 GEMS continued to provide services into the area helped greatly by increased collaboration with a range of key stakeholders including local community and voluntary groups, statutory agencies such as Probation Board NI and Youth Justice Agency and also local employers. Please find an outline of these services below.

The M-Power project works at community and neighbourhood level, providing on the ground individual mentoring support to unemployed people. M-Power practitioners, who are highly qualified and experienced careers guidance professionals, work with their clients, supporting them to increase their confidence, linking them with learning and development opportunities to help them increase their skills by developing a personal employment action plan. M-Power works with each individual client at their own pace and for many this involves small incremental steps to build confidence, develop skills and maximise each client's potential to enter sustainable employment. This programme is offered on an outreach basis, is easily accessible from within the clients own community and is offered in various locations across South Belfast, but specifically within the Inner South NRA at Donegall Pass Community Forum, Market Development Association, Mornington and LORAG. It is very much client centered and offers practical assistance with job search, application form filling and interview preparation as well as help looking for education and training opportunities that suit the individuals

need. Dedicated support for those termed “N.E.E.T.” (Not in Education, Employment or Training) between the ages of 16-24 is also available.

Co-Ment is a programme aimed at and dedicated to those young people who are aged between 16-24 years old and are not in Employment, Education or Training. The program is particularly innovative that offers extensive mentoring and a flexible approach to training through participation in 4 different zones such as The Life Zone, The Leisure Zone, The Learning Zone and The Work Zone. The programme has a wide geographical focus operating in the council’s areas of Belfast, Lisburn, Banbridge and Co Down it has assisted many benefactors from Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The programme itself was nominated By Belfast City Council as part of the EURO CITIES that will select 10 cities and create a publication highlighting case studies for dissemination to the European Commission. Co-Ment was selected.

### **CROMAC REGENERATION INITIATIVE**

The CRI is a cross community project involving the three areas that comprise Inner South Belfast; this project secured £1.25 million to purchase a disused building in an economically inert area. The building is now generating a £40,000 surplus which is leading the rejuvenation of the locale. CRI’s prime objectives are the promotion of mutual understanding and respect for the cultural traditions of others. The project's objectives are to help in the reduction of fear and stresses between and within the communities along with the facilitation of collaborative work on common issues such as education, health and well-being, community safety, capacity building, citizenship and employment.

The Cromac Regeneration Initiative purchased a building known locally as Coyle's Place, which is situated on the interface of the three communities. The building is jointly owned and managed as a social enterprise, and is let on a commercial basis to generate an income to be shared between the three communities. Tenants of the Cromac Regeneration Initiative building include the Donegall Pass Community Forum, Sólás and RCity Media. In addition, as a neutral venue the CRI building is now used as the meeting space for all Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, and the CRI Conference room is frequently rented out for a range of uses such as training, interviews and business and community meetings.

## **FASA**

FASA is a community based professional organisation providing services for those directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse, suicide or self-harm. Formed in 1995 by local parents in the Greater Shankill area, they have developed a range of services designed to cater to geographical and thematic areas of need. Its services include: Targeted Education, Intervention, Treatment, Training & Crisis Response for dealing with experimental, problematic and dependant use of alcohol drugs and other substances.

Since 2006 FASA has developed further integrated services to support those directly or indirectly affected by Suicide or Self Harm including: Prevention, intervention and recovery support as well as Training, Crisis Response and Bereaved Family Support Group. Importantly, the organisation provides a walk in crisis centre giving instant access to services for those impacted on by substance abuse, suicidal ideation, self-harm and poor mental Health and wellbeing.

Throughout the financial year 2014 to 2015 FASA in South Belfast have worked with 258 referred treatment clients and have offered 1065 sessions including, Initial assessments, crisis response, counselling, complimentary therapies and other support and advice. Through our youth support staff and one stop shop, we have engaged with 650 young people in South Belfast at a number of planned drop in clinics in areas such as; Malone Integrated College, Simon Community, Charter Youth Club and the City Hospital among many others offering one to one support on a wide range of issues from sexual health, mental health, relationships, self-harm and drugs and alcohol. Our youth team have also engaged with over 61 facilitated prevention, early intervention group work sessions engaging with approximately 1558 young people across South Belfast. These include primary school sessions, leaving care support sessions and support sessions for local youth provision.

Additionally our Community Support Service (CAST) during 2014/2015 have been actively engaged with local community organisations and partnership groups to support the capacity building and focus around drugs and alcohol. The CAST worker has over the period support 178 different organisation or partnership groups over the last year and engaging with approximately 9,760 people to provide individual or group support around drugs and alcohol. The CAST worker has carried out 62 community consultations across South Belfast and has been working to support some intensive support areas including Holylands, Community Safety, Queens University and the homeless population. Carrying out 50 action planning sessions with local partner organisations the worker has enabled 104 organisations to access training around drugs, alcohol and suicide prevention, 172 actions or events have been carried out providing drugs and alcohol

information to approximately 8,951 people across South Belfast. FASA continues to work hard within local communities to plan, support, build capacity and develop new innovative ways to put those who are most vulnerable first.

## **ST MALACHY'S YOUTH CENTRE**

Within the last year the youth centre has continued to grow in delivering needs led programmes for young people who have chosen to become members and to meet our annual action plan in relation to the Government's policy on Priorities for Youth. In addition to our strategic aims we have married these with the Neighbourhood renewal Strategy's aims and objectives to help combat the social and economic inequalities within the Market area. The worker in charge sits on the 'Raising Education Attainment and Engaging Young People' sub group of ISBN as well as working in partnership with 23 other community, voluntary and statutory organisations to help address young people and community needs. The centre is open to all youth regardless of their gender, sexuality, disability and ethnic origin. Within the last year the centre has had 37713 young people through its doors. The youth centre staff consists of one full time worker and a bank of 36 hours of part time workers spread over 5 evenings per week, we also have a dedicated volunteer team, who are diverse in their ethnicity, in which we could not provide such a service without their time and dedication.

The centre is the hub for young people in the area and provides a safe and caring environment where young people can grow and develop their personal and social skills to help them become valued members of society and active citizens initially within their community and eventually further afield. The main themes worked on and evidenced are: addressing low educational attainment, improving social mobility and raising aspirations, creating greater access to provision, enhancing employability and training, promoting health and well-being, reducing risk taking behaviour, promoting environmental awareness, building community awareness and active participation, contribute to improving relations between communities, longer opening times and outreach and detached work in response to identified need. Some of the outcomes and learning gained by members consist of young people attending and participating in youth provision and gaining new experiences, developing and building relationships, recognition of young people's achievement and showcasing their work, raised self-esteem and confidence, training, working effectively in groups and encouraging young people to feel comfortable in broadening their horizons, acceptance and understanding of other cultures and abilities, confidence building, increased participation and enhanced self-esteem, development of life skills and personal and social development.

Throughout 2014 - 2015 the centre has completed 16 programmes focusing on the needs of the participants and ISBN aims. Some of these included Community Relations and shared spaces, environmental clean ups, intergenerational activities, outreach/detached work and helping to physically make the area more attractive to live in. We have worked with BCC, Alternatives, MDA, CRI and CYPNI to help with local community and social issues. We have assisted in promoting positive mental health on a 1-1 basis with a few young people and signposted them on to relevant organisations. At the end of the year we held a celebration event where all participants were presented with certificates and congratulated on their success.

The centre has provided training for staff, volunteers and young people in CRED, Curriculum Awareness and Programme Planning, First Aid, Child Protection, OCN level 2&3 in youth work, Play work level 2, Assist and Autism Awareness which helps with professional development and employability. We are proud to say that over 75% of the workforce is local people who have gained experience and qualifications to enable them to gain employment within the local area and helping to build capacity within the community. The centre promotes leadership roles and encourages local people to volunteer their time to give something back to their community whilst developing and enhancing their own skills.

The centre also hosts an affordable after schools project and summer provision for working parents to avail of. The service includes a pick up from the local primary school which enables parents to work any hours during the day without the worry of having to do school 'pick ups' and opens late in the evening to allow for parents who finish at 5pm to include their travel to the childcare facility. St Malachys Youth Centre sees itself as the hub for young people in the area where they can socialise, have fun, learn, grow and develop into active citizens.

## INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP

### EXPENDITURE FOR 2014/2015

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2014/2015 individual spend for each project, and the overall 2014/2015 total expenditure in the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

-Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2014/2015 Spend (as at 31/03/15)
<b>REGENERATION</b>			
Markets Development Association	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£60,631.36	Up to £60,631.36
<b>Total Community Renewal Expenditure</b>		<b>£60,631.36</b>	<b>Up to £60,631.36</b>
<b>SOCIAL RENEWAL – EDUCATION</b>			
-			
An Droichead	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£54,203.04	Up to £54,203.04
<b>Total Social Renewal Ed Expenditure</b>		<b>£54,203.04</b>	<b>Up to £54,203.04</b>
<b>ISBNP CO-ORDINATOR</b>			
Markets Development Association	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£26,478.68	Up to £26,478.68

<b>Total Physical Renewal Expenditure</b>		<b>£26,478.68</b>	<b>Up to £26,478.68</b>
<b>TRAINING &amp; SKILLS</b>			
Donegall Pass Community Forum	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£100,353.26	Up to £100,353.26
<b>Total Training &amp; Skills Expenditure</b>		<b>£100,353.26</b>	<b>Up to £100,353.26</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Donegall Pass Community Forum	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£53,898.36	Up to £53,898.36
<b>Total Community Development</b>		<b>£53,898.36</b>	<b>Up to £53,898.36</b>
<b>YOUTH DEVELOPMENT</b>			
LORAG	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	£100,876.55	Up to £100,876.55
<b>Total Community Development</b>		<b>£100,876.55</b>	<b>Up to £100,876.55</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>Total Allocation £396,441.25</b>	<b>Total Spend <u>Up to £ 396,441.25</u></b>