

THE NORTH BELFAST STRATEGIC
GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME

A REPORT ON ACTIVITY 2016 TO 2017

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES
UNITED COMMUNITIES**

SPRING 2017



» GREATER WHITEWELL COMMUNITY SURGERY

878 SHORE ROAD, BT36 7DQ
TEL: 028 9085 9911

ACHIEVING PERSONAL POTENTIAL

Achieving Personal Potential (APP) is a shared cross community afterschool programme that offers not only educational support and social skills but also various recreational activities. These activities range from t-shirt design, pottery making, creative arts, and multi-sports taster sessions developing good relations throughout the community. Due to the demand for the programme, we have lowered the entry age of participants to primary 3.

The programme continues to grow from strength to strength and continues to rise in terms of numbers of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds. APP recently took part in a collaborative programme which brought participants together from outside our community for eight weeks. Due to feedback from parents and the young people who are past participants we have successfully set up an extension to the programme for those who exceeded the age limit for the original programme. With the continued support received from the Executive Office this has enabled this programme to achieve its full potential.

Greater Whitewell Community Surgery continue to support the provision of sustained child services development within community based facilities. This particular programme is available for those aged 6-11 and the extension programme will be available for those aged 12-14.

Each session of APP begins with homework support for the first hour and various recreational activities for the second hour. APP is free of charge and currently running 50 weeks of the year, including our summer programme which was set up to maintain relationships with young people throughout the summer.

HAZELWOOD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Hazelwood Community Partnership is a partnership between statutory and public bodies and community workers who come together on a monthly basis to discuss the various issues which impact on our community. This programme has led to a decrease in interface violence and anti-social behaviour and increased awareness of issues like cold calling burglaries. All participants believe that good progress has been made in developing good relations.

» INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the time to pick up and read this newsletter.

The aim of this publication is to tell you a little about the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP).

The NBSGRP is delivered as part of the Executive's wider Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy. The Programme is jointly managed by The Executive Office in partnership with the Community Relations Council (CRC). The Executive Office manages the strategic direction of the funding, with CRC taking responsibility for the administrative aspects of the programme.

The NBSGRP consists of 12 contract holders, delivering a wide range of Good Relations provision in North Belfast through a large number of partner organisations and providers. Each contract holder has a section within the Newsletter where you can find out more about them and get an idea of some of

the Programmes these groups have been running in your area, and the difference they have been making in the local community.

The Programme has a strong focus on outcomes. Every funded project has one or more outcomes directly linked to the wider aims of the T:BUC strategy. You can see some examples of project outcomes in the "Programme Statistics and Outcomes" section of the Newsletter.

If you would like more information on the Programme in general, please do not hesitate to contact the North Belfast team using the contact details below:

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» BALLYSILLAN COMMUNITY FORUM

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TEL: 028 9039 1272

Ballysillan Community Forum (BCF) has continued to deliver NBSGRP funded programmes during 2016/2017.

During this funding period, our shared learning Irish history programme has visited 10 places of interest. One of these was the HMS Caroline Museum at Belfast Dock. This ship is the only surviving vessel from the Battle of Jutland in which many vessels and thousands of Navy Men were lost forever. The age group of the participants on this visit was most appropriate, as at least half of the group had either been born before, during or shortly after World War II. This visit proved quite an emotional experience for some.

Another interesting visit was to the Gasyard Heritage Centre in Londonderry/Derry in June 2016. Here the participants examined a recorded history of the Northern Ireland conflict and the journey of politics since that period. We also learned a lot from the 'Columba to Conflict' exhibition which charts the history of the Bogside from the early Christian period right through to the beginning of the Troubles.

“I HAVE BEEN TO PLACES I HAVE NEVER BEEN BEFORE AND THE PROGRAMME HAS GAVE ME A REAL FEEL GOOD FACTOR. THE COMPANY IS GREAT AND IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE PEOPLE GETTING ON SO WELL AND MOVING FORWARD”.

The Ballysillan Community Forum Women's programme experienced a very successful visit to the 10th Anniversary Belfast Mela. There we enjoyed mixing with many different cultures, sampling cuisine, enjoying music and learning how other cultures have settled in Belfast and across Northern Ireland. A highlight of the event was to meet the Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Brian Kingston and the Lady Mayoress Mrs Eileen Kingston.



» CLIFTONVILLE COMMUNITY REGENERATION FORUM

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Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum was set up in 1995 by a number of community groups working in the Cliftonville area of North Belfast, to act as an umbrella body and now works across the Cliftonville and Antrim Road. We have been working very closely with the development of the Girdwood Community Hub and over the past year it is being used in increasing numbers by local residents and young people from the surrounding communities – Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, New Lodge, Cliftonville, Girdwood, Thorndale, Duncairn, Kinnard and further afield.

In October 2016 a cross community Halloween event there drew more than 1,200 local people. The event went beyond our expectations in terms of numbers attending and participant response. 94% of those attending said they enjoyed the event and 80% said it was brilliant.

“A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT THAT EMBRACES DIVERSITY. I LOVE THE IDEA OF CROSS COMMUNITY”.

Halloween event attendee

From April to December 2016 the Girdwood Youth Space has been extremely well utilised by young people, particularly those from the surrounding communities. The Girdwood Youth Programme is delivered by the following projects and takes place throughout the Girdwood facility:

- North Talks Too
- New Lodge Arts
- Lower Shankill Youth Project
- Star Neighbourhood
- Let Youth Lead.

“ALTHOUGH I NEVER HAD ANY ISSUES WITH CATHOLICS BEFORE GOING TO GIRWOOD, I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD HAVE A CATHOLIC AS A BEST FRIEND, BUT NOW I HAVE LOADS”.

Girdwood Youth Space user





» INTERCOMM

290-292 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 5AA
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INTERCOMM is an indigenous peace building agency established in 1995 that has played a key role in the promotion of good relations and cementing the peace process locally and regionally. Throughout this time INTERCOMM has demonstrated its ability to engage politicians, governments, civil servants and residents in programmes and processes that have challenged prejudice and sectarianism and which have brokered relationships that have enhanced societal capacity to deliver good relations outcomes. INTERCOMM has developed an extensive network and infrastructure of organisations and communities who have participated in, and promoted, good relations activities over a 10 year period through support from The Executive Office. Organisationally INTERCOMM is committed to contributing to the delivery of the headline commitments identified in Together: Building a United Community.

One of the highlights of this year's programme was working in partnership with Duncairn Community Partnership, Healing through Remembering and Belfast City Council, in showcasing the drama 'Those You Pass on the Street'. The drama explores the complexities of dealing with the legacy of conflict, especially when that conflict is localised and personal. While the performance is fiction it provides the audience with an opportunity to look at real issues that still cast a shadow over society today and which unsettle our fragile peace. The showcase was attended by over 100 people and at the end of the performance the audience took part in a panel discussion with invited experts and it was hosted by the commentator Brian Rowan. The discussion highlighted post conflict relationships addressed in the play. The main outcomes articulated by the participants included



a greater understanding of how to address legacy issues, people felt open to discuss topics in a shared space, and people had a changed attitude and a better understanding of good relations issues.

The 2016/17 programmes were aligned with the four headline policy priorities of Together: Building a United Community. INTERCOMM provided programme and project activities for over 600 people from within North Belfast on a wide range of engagements.

Out of the four programmes INTERCOMM delivered 30% of them were over subscribed.

65% of participants believed that the programme they were involved in gave them a greater understanding of people from a different cultural background.

55% of participants felt that they were more confident in travelling outside their own areas as a direct result of our programmes.

95% stated that because of the quality and professionalism of the topics, debates, workshops and seminars they would be keen to be involved with more programmes that looked at difficult issues within North Belfast, including parades protests and rule of law.



» LOUGHVIEW COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY HOUSE
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WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Loughshore Community Action Partnership's (LCAP) role is to add value to the activity undertaken by groups in local neighbourhoods and to work with organisations to ensure the continued development of a resourced community sector in the LCAP area that is recognised, valued and effective. We seek to support successful community development, encourage reflective practice and promote cooperation and locally based solutions. We do this by creating and encouraging active citizenship in local neighbourhoods, working on social justice issues and building on existing good relations work with the two main traditions and the new communities.

LCAP, is the umbrella organisation supporting local groups in local neighbourhoods in North Belfast. Our membership is made up of community groups drawn from an area that

is bounded by the Antrim Road, Whitewell Road, Duncairn Gardens and Belfast Lough. LCAP is representative of a broad range of interests and needs within communities and encompasses a variety of groups, including local residents' associations, faith based organisations, sporting organisations, older peoples' projects, youth groups and good relations projects.

It is widely recognised within LCAP that the building of relationships requires communities to create new lines of contact and develop meaningful engagement with one another. LCAP believes that divisions exist within and between communities and therefore argue the need to work on intra and inter community relationships. LCAP also recognises the importance of the work to tackle the history of suspicion, mistrust and even hatred that exists within communities. LCAP will endeavour to address these problems within its own neighbourhoods over which it has influence.

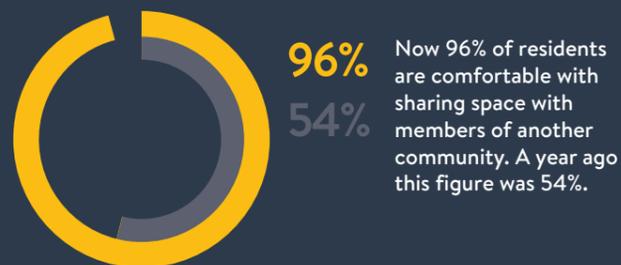
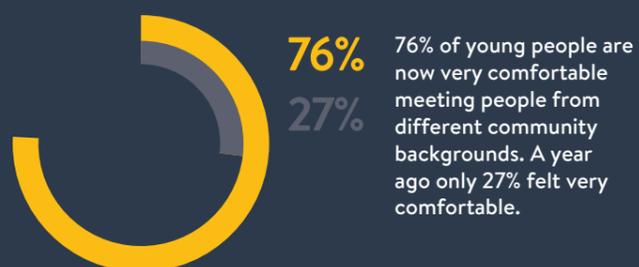
» PROGRAMME STATISTICS & OUTCOMES

GREATER WHITEWELL COMMUNITY SURGERY



Over **140** participants and beneficiaries took part in GWCS NBSGRP programmes this year.

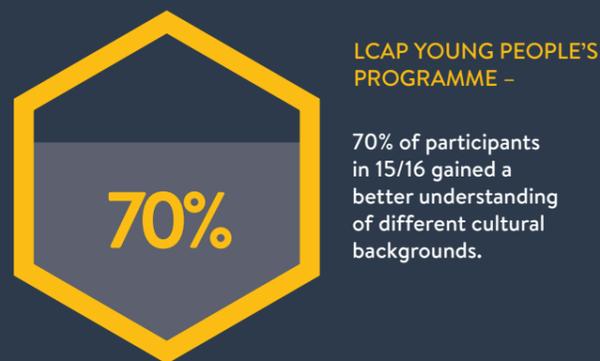
CLIFTONVILLE COMMUNITY REGENERATION FORUM



GIRDWOOD USER COMMENT

"Love this place – not only have I learnt loads about other cultures but have also met loads of new friends".

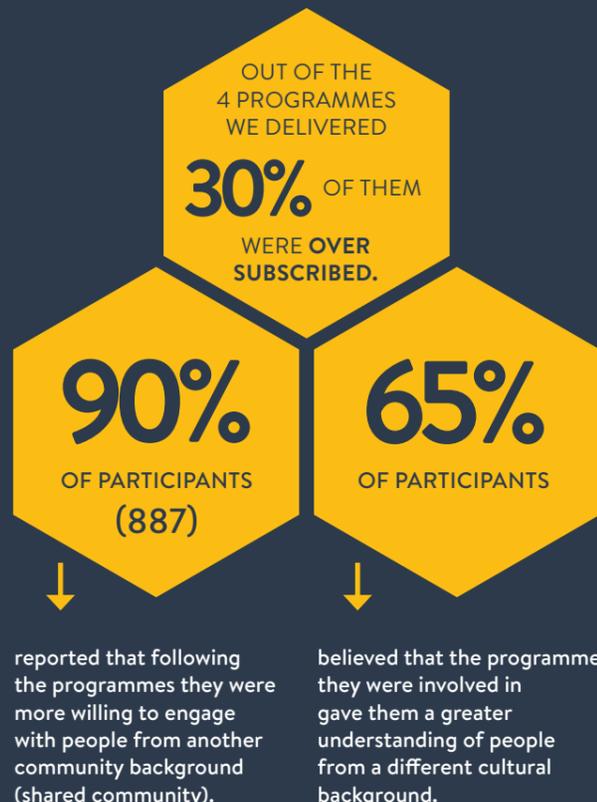
LOUGHVIEW COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP



BALLYSILLAN COMMUNITY FORUM



INTERCOMM



LIGONIEL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

The make-up of the participants was **12** from PUL and **8** from CNR communities. The women were aged between **40-75 years**.

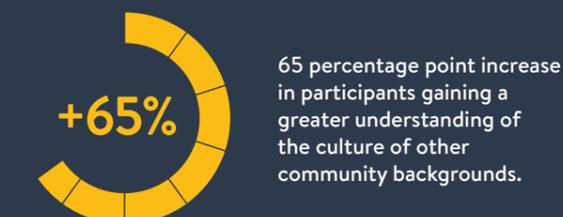
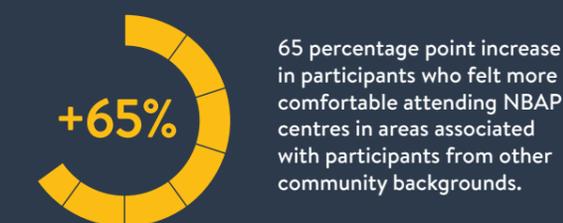
WOMEN'S JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE

20 participants **15** CNR **5** PUL
Age **37-71 years**.

The participants on this project are from Ardoyne, Twaddell, Ballysillan, Ligoniel, Silverstream.



NORTH BELFAST ADVICE PARTNERSHIP



UPPER ARDOYNE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



ARDOYNE YOUTH ENTERPRISE

TIME4CHANGE - 104 PARTICIPANTS



DIPLOMA - 16 YOUNG PEOPLE COMPLETING 120 HOURS EACH OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

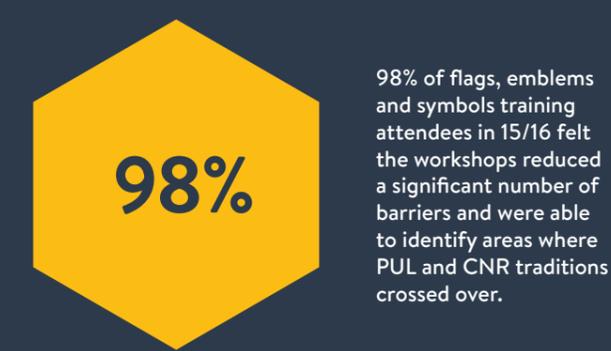


NBSGRP NEWSLETTER

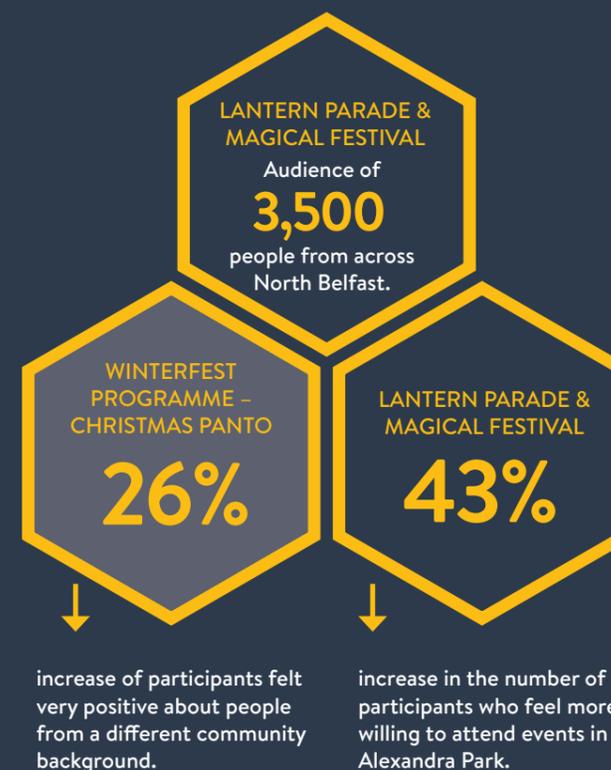
40,000 copies delivered throughout North Belfast.



SHANKILL WOMEN'S CENTRE



ASHTON COMMUNITY TRUST



SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY



» NORTH BELFAST ADVICE PARTNERSHIP

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NBAP WELFARE REFORM SESSIONS

This year North Belfast Advice Partnership (NBAP) delivered 35 Welfare Reform information sessions to 420 participants. Groups from across North Belfast took up the offer of the workshop and we delivered the programme to Surestart parents, local resident groups, women and family support groups. The programme informs participants of the new welfare changes introduced by the Northern Ireland Assembly in April 2016 and to the Mitigation Package available under the Fresh Start Agreement.

The programme provides participants with an overview of our welfare system, how it operates and how at a local level we can shape and contribute to policy making. Workshops provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the new welfare system and the impact these changes will have on individuals, households and communities.

All participants are offered a one to one benefit check at any NBAP centre and are informed on how to access support through local advice agencies, such as family support hubs and employment and training services. North Belfast Advice Partnership emphasise that all services provide a safe shared community space and we know that participants trust this information as many avail of the benefit entitlement check as is available at any NBAP centre.

Welfare rights and understanding the benefit system is important to everyone, as our lives are ever changing,

the same issues, problems and concerns affect all of us at one time or another and therefore it is imperative that as a community we are well informed on these matters.

This year we worked with Northside Family Support Programme and Ligoniel Improvement Association's Women in Politics group. Both had separate Welfare Reform workshops and then we brought both groups together to watch the MAC Theatre production of 'Entitled' a play about Welfare Reform. The play not only raised awareness of the new welfare system but really united the women as they stood together on issues impacting on all communities, such as food poverty, housing and employment.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

"I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AND I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE TRAINING WHICH IS GOING TO MEAN THAT I CAN HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY".

One of the participants has now found part time work with Ligoniel Improvement Association since completing the Volunteer Development Programme and has been actively raising awareness of NBAP's food bank and helping us to sustain this vital service for North Belfast.



» LIGONIEL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

This programme was a progression route for those who had participated in our Women In Society programme and participants were from across the sectarian divide. The focus of this programme was to study different parliamentary structures i.e. Scotland and Wales and compare them against the Northern Ireland model. In addition ten facilitated sessions were delivered on issues including the Suffragette movement, women's right to vote and the role of women in political Institutions. One participant commented:

"THIS IS THE BEST PROGRAMME I HAVE EVER BEEN ON. THIS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN A LIFELINE TO ME. I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED LISTENING TO THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS AND I JUST LOVE COMING TO THIS CLASS".

In addition to the tailored learning and a residential to Cardiff and Edinburgh, Ligoniel Improvement Association were privileged to meet a number of female politicians and learn of their experiences in politics. During these encounters it came to light that one of the participants aged 71 had never voted in any election and had voted for the first time in this years assembly election.

WOMEN'S JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE

The focus of the programme was to examine how women are treated in the judicial system. During this programme we visited legal institutions including Laganside Court, the Old Bailey, Royal Courts of Justice and a visit to Mountjoy Women's Prison. The visit to Mountjoy gave the participants an opportunity to hear what it is like to spend time in prison and we also held a meeting with the Governor. Whilst visiting Laganside courts the participants were able to speak directly with a presiding judge and question aspects of the law.

YOUTH HEALTH

We also delivered very successful youth programmes through the NBSGRP this year.

The Personal Development and Leadership Programme took young males aged 13-15 from both communities and challenged them every week with teambuilding tasks helping them face their fears together through outdoor sports based activities.

The Young Female Leaders Programme allowed young females from CRN and PUL communities to come together to discuss issues affecting their communities and how they as young females can empower change within their peer circle as well as their local communities.



» SHANKILL WOMEN'S CENTRE

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GREATER NORTH BELFAST WOMEN'S NETWORK

Fifty women participated in the STEPS to excellence programme, which is designed to increase levels of personal development including confidence, self-esteem and goal setting for the future. As a result of participating many of the women felt they had a more positive outlook on life and were enabled to participate in the many network events outside their own communities.

Participants commented:

"I have gained the tools to help me speak up".

"I am not as afraid to get involved in cross community as I was before doing STEPS".

"I know I will get my down days again, as most people will even without being bi-polar; however I'm hoping I will be able to put what I've learnt at STEPS to use and be able to cope a little better. I have noticed a big change in myself as have my family, social worker, doctors and consultants etc., and I feel I owe a big part of that change to Steps. I believe Steps came along at the right time for me and I'm starting to believe that everything good or bad happens for a reason and that makes you into who you are".

SWC participant.

BREXIT CONFERENCE

'Brexit What Now' was held in the Houben Centre in January 2017 with over 80 women coming together to discuss the implications of the United Kingdom voting to leave the European Union and the issues and challenges for Northern Ireland as a result. Conor Houston (Centre for Democracy and Peace Building) highlighted the main concerns including the impact on agriculture and fisheries, environment and energy, trade and investment, the border, the free movement of people, immigration and the common travel area, free movement of goods, peace funding and cross-border cooperation, research, higher education and citizens' rights. Of the 11 groups present the three key concerns were identified: EU funding; particularly Peace funding, the Border and the stability of the peace process ensuring that politicians work together to achieve the best outcome for Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the experience network members commented:

"At least I understood what Brexit was about before voting!"

"I'm really concerned about what's going to happen post Brexit, especially regarding the Good Friday Agreement".

» UPPER ARDOYNE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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BUILDING COHESIVENESS THROUGH SPORT

The Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership have designed a bespoke training program called 'Leadership through Sport' supported by the Executive Office. The program is designed to reach out to young people from across the religious divide and builds upon the Together: Building a United Community strategy - Children and Young People's outcomes.

Whilst building togetherness, cohesiveness and relationships amongst participants from a wide range of backgrounds, we offer them the opportunity to avail of quality accredited coaching skills provided by the Irish Football Association. The program also offers these young footballers the chance to become accredited referees, giving them opportunities for a new career in the footballing world. In conjunction with the football elements, we also have training on First Aid Awareness, Racism in Football and Child Protection Awareness.

As part of this unique program we have a Cross Border Football Challenge with Finglas Celtic Football Club (FC) based in Dublin. Ballysillan Swifts who are a dedicated football academy starting players at an early age and training them to progress to senior level football, participated in the Cross Border Football Challenge. Accompanied by 10 parents we took 22 young people from Ballysillan Swifts to Finglas FC in Dublin.

Finglas Celtic FC reciprocated the event by bringing 28 parents and 30 young people to Belfast to participate in our year end football tournament. The tournament consisted of six teams from across North Belfast and two teams from Finglas Celtic FC and was held on the Ballysillan 3g pitch.

Whilst this challenge is fun for all the families involved, its primary aim is to create an environment of shared space, whereby adults and young people feel safe travelling across the border to and from Northern Ireland.





» ASHTON COMMUNITY TRUST

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NORTH BELFAST LANTERN FESTIVAL

This year's North Belfast Lantern Festival, held on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October 2016, celebrated the stories of Roald Dahl. Over 1,000 young people took part in the outreach programme creating installations of *The BFG*, *The Witches*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Twits* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The main event held in Alexandra Park attracted audiences in excess of 3,500. The move to Alexandra Park from the Waterworks proved to be a very positive step and the feedback from audiences has been fantastic. The lower end of the park was transformed into Willy Wonka Land with an array of characters, artwork and music to capture the magical world. The top of the park was filled with street performers, music, and visual arts. The night would not have been complete without finishing off with a fabulous fireworks display. The whole event was a perfect example of communities working together to promote good relations and maximise the use of shared space whilst also being a great showcase for the positive contribution children and young people make to our communities.

Cecilia Heron, Good Relations Arts Worker for New Lodge Arts said; "We are delighted with the success of the event this year. The Roald Dahl theme worked particularly well and

we were amazed by the fantastic installations created by the young people. The outdoor cinema on the Wednesday night showing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was a brilliant addition to the festival. We are thankful to the schools and community groups that took part in our outreach programme this year. We look forward to delivering future events in Alexandra Park".

DESIGNS FOR THE FUTURE @ FABLAB

Fablab Belfast hosted a series of design and fabrication workshops bringing together young people from across the religious divide. Fablab staff engaged with the young people to explore themes of identity and mutual respect through the use of digital fabrication.

Hosted at Ashton Community Trust's state of the art Fablab, the participants were able to use high tech equipment, such as laser cutters, milling machines and 3D printers to design and make personal artefacts that reflected their views on a shared community and mutual understanding.

The participants were most engaged with the laser cutters where they were able to create objects on a wide array of colourful and exciting materials, such as laserable acrylics, various woods and even love hearts!



» ARDOYNE YOUTH ENTERPRISE

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This year Ardoyne Youth Enterprise (AYE) delivered six projects resourced through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme. This initiative has meant AYE have been able to support intensive mentoring programmes for twenty at-risk young people in Ardoyne and the Shankill, facilitated dialogue and planning around a shared youth space for all the young people in the City and delivered 120 hours of training each to 16 young people in the leadership skills required to help North Belfast communities help themselves in the years to come. AYE have been able to design and facilitate study visits for the North Belfast community and youth practitioners so that they could see and hear first hand of successful, sustainable development models throughout England and Scotland and we have delivered a first-rate diversity and good-relations programme, Time4Change, for 28 young people from five different communities over a period of six months. Additional



to this, we have collated and published this newsletter, which showcases the variety and strength of the work being delivered by other community groups working hard on the NBSGRP.

The 2016-2017 Time4Change programme enjoyed the participation of young people from Ardoyne, Glencairn, Mountcollyer, Cliftonville and Ligoniel. Twenty-eight young people aged 13-16 from these communities took part in a six-month programme of personal and social development. During this time through participation in two residentials and over twenty workshops, site visits and activities, this group of young people were able to increase their understanding of equality and diversity issues and increased their confidence and motivation to continue to build good relations amongst all communities.

