

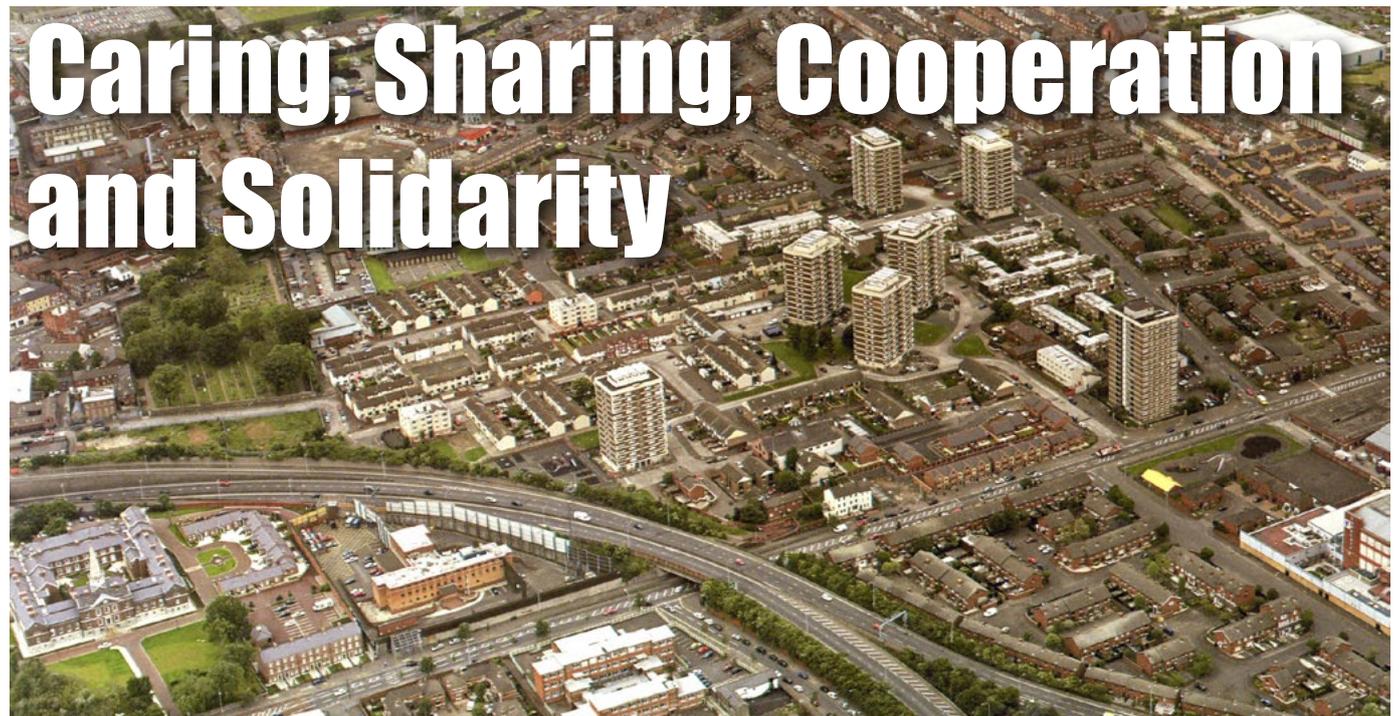
# ashton

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[twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust](https://twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust)

[instagram.com/ashtoncommunitytrust/](https://instagram.com/ashtoncommunitytrust/)

## Greater New Lodge Community Magazine



It is only right that we all pay tribute to the many groups and individuals in the Greater New Lodge and indeed across wider society who have sprung into action in response to the Coronavirus crisis. The huge levels of community action undertaken have ensured that the basic needs of so many vulnerable people were able to be met. Without such action it would have been inevitable that the levels of isolation, suffering and neglect within the community would have been much, much more severe.

### Concern for Others

It should never be forgotten that the many volunteers that have come forward and that have been working so hard to provide support during these terrible times have been putting themselves and their families at great personal risk. This type of self sacrifice and concern for others is the very essence of community.

### Resurgence of Community Spirit

None of us can be sure of what the future holds or what type of social, political, economic changes will occur in the aftermath of this pandemic. However whatever our fears may be, we can certainly all take heart from the current resurgence of community spirit. When communities pull together to support each other we can deal with the toughest of challenges. And when public services such as our local Councils join forces with communities, as has just been shown, then really powerful, effective, positive social action is possible.

### Learning the Lessons

We must all learn from this crisis and hopefully emerge from it all the stronger. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is the value of human cooperation. It is crucial that when this crisis has passed that this cooperation continues. Active collaboration within neighbourhoods supported by strong, resourced partnership working between communities and public service providers can ensure that the social cooperation we have witnessed during the pandemic is not just a flash in the pan but provides a pathway to a better future.

# Communities In Transition (CIT) Urban Project

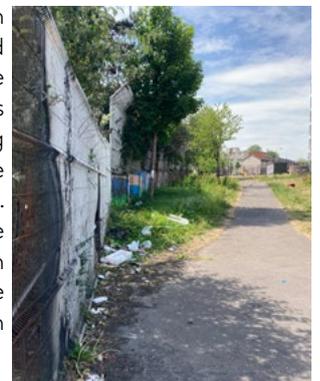
We know that many unused and problem urban spaces reduce the quality of life for residents in North Belfast. These spaces mostly result from flawed urban planning, the Westlink cutting its way through the city, or housing layouts of past regeneration that were ill-conceived. They are often locations for anti-social behaviour or littering and neglect. Often, they have underground services or are spaces that were difficult to build on.

The Communities in Transition Urban Regeneration Project is working with ten groups in Ardoyne and New Lodge to examine these spaces, learn the methods of dealing with them, and progress some of them to solutions that can be ready for funding. The contradiction is that both neighbourhoods do not have good access to well-maintained city parks and good quality green spaces. This impacts on residents and their children's health and well-being. Having good walking access to an open green space is vital in a city. Both neighbourhoods are also helmed in by roads and buffer planning that restricts access to the rest of the city.

The project works with community partners to identify these problematic spaces and co-design solutions. It will be important to consider the ongoing maintenance arrangements. Many



of the spaces cannot be built on and have underlying planning and land ownership problems. One idea emerging is to have a series of productive plant and gardening uses and a social enterprise structure to manage the spaces. The series of spaces will shortly be illustrated online and if you wish to engage further there will be local discussions and a draft plan produced.



Contact:  
[mark.hackett@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mark.hackett@ashtoncentre.com)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

**Drop Off Week 22nd June – 26th June 2020**

Locations Details/Dates and Times

<p><b>Ardoyne Association</b> Contact your street representative or Marie McKee 028 90715165 to arrange collection.</p>	<p><b>Cliftonville Regeneration Forum</b> 185 Clifton Park Avenue Drop Off between 11-1pm @ 185 Clifton Park Avenue or telephone 028 90391225 for collection</p>
<p><b>Ballysillan Community Forum</b> Willowgrove Centre, 925 Crumlin Road Drop Off Monday – Thursday 11 – 1pm @ Willowgrove Centre or telephone 028 90391225 for collection Use car park at rear of building</p>	<p><b>Ligoniel Improvement Association,</b> Drop off between 11-1pm @ 148 Ligoniel Road or contact street representatives or 028 90391225 to arrange collection</p>
<p><b>The Vine Centre</b> 193 Crumlin Road, Drop Off between 11-1pm @ 193 Crumlin Road or telephone 028 9039125 for collection</p>	<p><b>St Patrick's Soup Kitchen</b> 199 Donegal Street, Belfast Drop Off Monday – Friday 11-1pm @ Soup Kitchen or telephone 028 90391255 for collection</p>

**SWAP SHOP DETAILS – PLEASE NOTE WE CAN ONLY SUPPLY WHAT WE HAVE AVAILBLE ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS**

If you would like to avail of the School Uniform Swap Shop please email your order to the following address:  
**advice@ligonielvillage.com or telephone 028 90391225**

Include: School Name, Items required, Sizes



**North Belfast Advice Partnership**

## ashton Community Family Support Programme

Are you interested in developing your learning?  
Would you like to keep your mind active at this time.

**We Can Help!**

If so why not join CFSP where you can avail of free training which includes managing a personal budget and online safety.

To be eligible for this you should live in North Belfast, not in education, training or employment (or had your education postponed due to covid 19). If interested contact: [kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com), [eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com), [clare.anderson@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:clare.anderson@ashtoncentre.com), [caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com)

This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy.



Department for the Economy  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)



European Union  
European Social Fund  
Northern Ireland

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

# Update from Ashton Kinderkids Daycare

Kinderkids Daycare is planning to reopen again in July 2020 and is looking forward to welcoming back all our children and families.

When our doors reopen, Kinderkids will operate differently. There will be new processes in place to ensure compliance with the new guidance in relation to Covid-19. Getting it right from the start is important to Kinderkids. Parents will be updated regarding the changes prior to their children restarting including information on new drop off and collection procedures, updates policies and access to the building reduced, parents will also receive information on how the pods of children will operate within Kinderkids.

Nothing much will change for the children, hopefully they will quickly adjust to their normal practices and routines and quickly get back to all the fun and learning they took part in everyday at Kinderkids. However, if some children do struggle our trained staff will be on hand to work alongside parents and carers to ease the transition from the home setting to the Daycare.

At this time, more than ever our children need to be reassured and returning to a familiar setting with familiar staff will ease any difficulties they may have initially. We are excited to welcome all our children and families back.

If you are an existing parent requiring more information or at or a new parent wanting to register for a childcare place.

**ashton**  
Kinderkids  
Daycare

**Kinderkids Daycare Update!**

Kinderkids is hoping to reopen in July.

Flexible childcare options with competitive rates

Dedicated early years curriculum for 4 years and under

Afterschool service implementing Playwork principles

For more information please email: fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com, charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com, christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com

Please contact: fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com  
charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com  
Ashton Kinderkids Daycare Online

## Belfast City Council Bulky Waste Collection

If you want to dispose of a large item, such as a sofa, cooker, bed or mattress, you can request a free bulky waste collection from us.

### Yes

- Furniture (must be dry and covered)
- Mattresses (must be dry and covered)
- Carpet (must be dry and covered)
- Electrical appliances e.g. TV
- White goods e.g. fridges, washing machines and cookers

### No

- Bagged household waste
- Builders rubble, plaster board, bricks or soil
- Tyres and car parts
- Cardboard and packaging
- Batteries and fluorescent tubes
- Paint, pesticides and oil
- Garden waste or garden furniture
- Bathroom suites, kitchen units, radiators, doors and sheds

**Call 028 9027 0230**

# Ashton Still Here To Help & Support The Community



All our staff teams are re-located and are working from home and we continue to provide services from the safety of their homes. We will continue to look at innovative ways of continuing to support you, our community and make our services and support as accessible as possible.

As a community focused organisation, it is challenging for us to have closed our doors, but the critical and lifesaving message is about Staying Home and Staying Safe, this is an essential move for us to make at this time and presents us all with challenges. Our doors will re-open as soon as it is safe for us all to do so.

For your information, below are contact details for all our projects.

## Bridge of Hope

Email contact: [irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com)

Bridge of Hope Project can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/>

## CORE Project

Email contact: [arlene.moody@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:arlene.moody@ashtoncentre.com)

CORE Project can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/coreproject1/>

## Belfast Works

Email contact: [kevin.donaghy@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:kevin.donaghy@ashtoncentre.com)

Belfast Works can be contacted on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/belfastworks/>

## Essential Skills

Email contact: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)

Essential Skills can be contacted on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/ashtonessentialskills>

## Ashton Kinderkids Daycare and Family Services

For information on **Kinderkids Daycare** contact via email:

Christine McKeown on [christine@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:christine@ashtoncentre.com)

Charlene Foster on [charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com)

Fionnuala Black on [fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com)

If you would like to seek support from our Family Services team,

please contact them on the following numbers or via their email: -

For the **Family Support Hub** (provides Early Intervention Family Support Services for families with children aged 0-18)

Edith McManus on [edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com) or 07396374764

For the **Community Family Support Programme** (provides training and employment opportunities using a holistic family support model)

Kris Morrison on [kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com)

Eileen O'Prey on [eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com) or 07926534966

For the **Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Project** (provides 1- 1 Family Support service delivered in a family home setting)

Caroline McIlwee on [caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com) or 07538575324

Alana McKeown on [alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com)

## Breakthrough Programme

Email contact: [rosemary.mccusker@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:rosemary.mccusker@ashtoncentre.com)

Breakthrough Programme can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/breakthroughbelfast/>

## New Lodge Arts

Email contact: [anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com)

New Lodge Arts can be contacted via Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeArtsBelfast/>

## New Lodge Youth Centre

Email contact: [sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com)

New Lodge Youth Centre can be contacted on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgeyc/>

## Fablab

Email contact: [anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com)

Fablab can be contacted on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/>

**Full details of all projects can be found on our website:**

<https://www.ashtoncentre.com/ashton-covid-19-coronavirus-update/>

## Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Programme

The Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Programme, funded by Belfast Charitable Society, has now been operational since October 2019 and continues to provide support to local families during the current pandemic. The project was devised to provide 1-1 Family Support to families in either the home or school setting. Unfortunately this has not been possible over the last few months due to social distancing but our two team members, Alana & Caroline, have continued to support families through phone calls, emails or Zoom meetings.

The project can support you with the challenging behaviour of children, low mood/anxiety or improving family relationships. The team will work with the whole family in a supportive and non-judgemental way and can help you through this challenging time and over the next few months as we slowly begin to return to a more normal way of working.

Should you wish to avail of this service please contact [alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com) or [caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com)

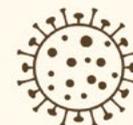
### Community Contact Details

174 Trust .....	9074 7114
Ashton Centre .....	9074 2255
Bridge of Hope .....	9074 6737
Bridges Sewing Group .....	9074 2255
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain.....	9032 2409
Camberwell Fold.....	9096 0552
Cancer Lifeline.....	9035 1999
Carlisle Day Centre .....	9023 1227
Carrick Hill Community Centre .....	9023 1602
Clanmill Housing Association.....	9087 6000
Friends of St Joseph's Church Sailortown .....	<a href="mailto:terryblfst@gmail.com">terryblfst@gmail.com</a>
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain.....	90749 688
Glenravel Local History Project .....	9032 2289
Holy Family Primary School.....	9035 1023
Holy Family Youth Centre.....	9087 5150
Indian Community Centre .....	9024 9746
KinderKids Day Care - Ashton .....	9074 2255
KinderKids Day Care - Cliftonville .....	90749146
KinderKids Day Care 1 - McSweeney Centre .....	90333966
KinderKids Day Care 2- McSweeney Centre.....	95219830
McSweeney Centre.....	9032 2289
Newington Credit Union.....	9035 1773
Newington Housing Association.....	90744055
New Lodge Arts .....	9074 2255
New Lodge Housing Forum.....	9074 2399
New Lodge Safer Streets .....	07564 938276
New Lodge Youth Centre .....	9075 1358
North Belfast Family Centre .....	9024 7580
North Belfast Mens Shed .....	9032 2289
North Queen St. Community Centre .....	9032 3945
Smile SureStart .....	9075 6654
St. Patrick's Primary School.....	9035 1206
Star Neighbourhood Centre.....	9074 0693
TAMHI .....	90 747437
Tar Isteach.....	90746665/90746664

*help is at hand...*

**CANCER**lifeline

**Coronavirus  
COVID-19**



**Cancer Lifeline are  
still here for you...**

We understand that this is an anxious time for everyone, especially cancer patients and their family members. Due to COVID19 we have had to rethink how we can best support you.

**HERE'S HOW...**

- Telephone /Counselling support
- Welfare benefits advice
- Bach Flower Remedies and Aromatherapy
- Positive Wellbeing videos ([www.cancerlifeline.info](http://www.cancerlifeline.info))
- Emergency Help (with getting shopping or collecting your prescriptions).

To find out more, please contact us  
on our work mobile number -  
07949 109091.

**Staff are working from home  
Stay safe and stay at home**

**44 Alliance Avenue, Belfast, BT14 7PJ**

**T: 02890 351999 M: 07949 109091**

**E: [info@cancerlifeline.info](mailto:info@cancerlifeline.info)**

**W: [www.cancerlifeline.info](http://www.cancerlifeline.info)**

# breakthrough Programme

- Are you aged 14-24 and interested in a new training opportunity?
- Do you live in North Belfast/Greater North Belfast (including, New Lodge, Cliftonville, Ardoyne, Marrowbone, Lower Oldpark, Shankill, Lower North & Newtownabbey)?
- Would you like to receive up to £40 per week (depending on eligibility)?
- If yes, the Breakthrough Project is recruiting!

Breakthrough is a 26 week youth work programme (delivered over 6 months), focusing on Personal Development, Citizenship, Good Relations, one-to-one mentorship & Life-skills support.

We are currently recruiting for new groups which will be offered online (until current restrictions in place due to Coronavirus are lifted).

## What's Involved? Young people will;

Sign up as part of a group of up to 15 to work with and receive support from trained youth workers.

- Participate in group work, team-building, creative arts based programmes and gain OCN qualifications
- Identify local projects in their communities to support as part of an Active Citizenship programme
- Develop a range of skills including confidence, communication, leadership, goal setting, creative arts skills, etc

If you are interested, reach out to one of the team to find out more by contacting [breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com) or click on our social media links below.

[breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/breakthroughbelfast/>

<https://twitter.com/BreakthroughIV>

<https://www.instagram.com/breakthroughbelfast/>

Breakthrough is an EU Peace IV Funded Project supported by SEUPB

New Lodge | Woodvale | Shankill | Rathcoole | Ardoyne | Newtownabbey | Cliftonville | Lower North Belfast



**ashton**  
Supporting  
North Belfast  
Lead Partner

**Peace**  
Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund



**Northern Ireland  
Executive**  
www.northernireland.gov.uk



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

**Peace4Youth**  
This project is supported by the European  
Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by  
the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

164 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2FF  
(028) 90 742 255  
[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)  
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[twitter.com/BreakthroughIV](https://twitter.com/BreakthroughIV)  
[instagram.com/breakthroughbelfast/](https://instagram.com/breakthroughbelfast/)

## Tar Isteach - COVID19

The current pandemic has presented many new challenges for all in our local communities. While a virus is no respecter of social distinction there are, however, different circumstances wherein some have been more challenged than others. Because of this the need for support services has never been greater. Throughout this difficult period Tar Isteach has continued to provide welfare rights advice, advocacy and counselling. This is, of course, now done in compliance with best practice and



current guidelines on social distancing whereby Face to Face contact with our clients has been temporarily suspended. However, we continue to provide professional and effective services by phone, email and video conferencing. We also continue to take referrals from Statutory, community and voluntary agencies, and local community volunteers.

As part of the surge in demand, Tar Isteach has seen a significant increase in requests for employment advice, the making of fresh claims, contacting health care providers, and help with new complexities inherent in bereavement cases, such as closing down benefit claims and applying for succession of tenancy in difficult situations where relatives are not able to have close contact with loved ones.

Similarly, the surge in requests for assistance with employment has brought its own complex circumstances not hitherto prominent. For example, one reason for the increased demand has been employers contacting employees to discuss possible redundancy or reduction in hours, as well as changes in work patterns due to 'lockdown'. Many people are confused, conflicted and afraid e.g. because circumstances do not allow them to have access to child care arrangements due to the COVID situation.

Thankfully Tar Isteach has good, well established working relationships with agencies such as NIHE and the Social Security Agency that helps to facilitate the resolution of many

of these issues. In particular, the staff at these agencies have to be commended for expediting claims where there is any financial hardship or reduction in household income identified, processing these as priorities. Likewise, the NIHE has ensured emergency repairs are dealt with promptly while the Patch managers and Housing Benefit staff have dealt with all urgent cases in a sensitive and timely way.

Life's adversities go on for people alongside Covid -19 and, some are created or exacerbated because of it. Unfortunately, the surge in demand coincides with diminished access to support services. Clients have expressed to Tar Isteach, their appreciation for having maintained a localised presence. Many have commented that they feel less isolated, less anxious, knowing they are speaking to someone familiar with their family circumstances, someone who has good working relations with service providers and agencies who have consented to Tar Isteach acting in an intermediary capacity.

Throughout this deeply unsettling period, Tar Isteach has been and, is committed to continue providing these services. We would like to thank our partners in the Coiste groups, the Department of Communities, Newington Housing Association and our colleagues in the North Belfast Advice Partnership and North Belfast Christian Fellowship food banks, Duncairn Post Office plus the scores of local community groups and activists delivering food and essentials across north Belfast that are assisting us and our clients at this very difficult time.

Joe Barnes - Counsellor  
Agnes Fraser - Advise Worker  
Kathy Stanton - Welfare Rights Advisor  
Tommy Quigley - Manager

For Further information contact:

<https://www.facebook.com/taristeachrepublicanexprisoners/>



**JOIN OUR**  
**ashton**  
WhatsApp Group

**Just text your name to:**  
**078 034 058 99**

# New CRJ Coordinator in New Lodge and Carrickhill

My name is Chrissie Mac Siacais. I am working as the new Coordinator in CRJI in the New Lodge and Carrickhill area.

I'm not sure if you have heard of CRJI (Community Restorative Justice Ireland), we have offices based in Belfast, Derry, Newry and Armagh but in case you are not familiar with our work, I thought it might be useful to tell you a bit more about us.

CRJI is a grassroots community organisation, initially set up 1998 in response to community issues; such as informal policing and anti-social behaviour; CRJI sought to find peaceful and non-violent ways to address these issues and advocate a restorative justice approach. We have evolved to meet the changing and growing needs of the community and have developed a range of community support and restorative programmes; such as the Travellers' Project, Family Support Hubs, Youth Mentoring, Offender Reintegration, Victim Support, LINCS, Family Support, Mediation Services, etc. CRJI continues to promote restorative justice responses and restorative practices to build community capacity and create positive change. For further information, please visit our website: <https://www.crjireland.org/> or follow

us on twitter @CRJlcentral

This is a brand new project. I have been in post from 6th April this year. Hopefully we will be acquiring premises on the New Lodge Road where we will be totally accessible to the community.



Obviously with the Covid-19 lockdown I have been impaired a lot, so I am taking this opportunity to make myself known to the community.

I am from West Belfast and previously worked in the Drug and Alcohol project in Falls Community Council as a Family Support worker. I facilitated clinics also in PIPs and the Marrowbone Community House. I was a member of the Mid Falls Hub. Previous to this I was coordinator for the West Belfast Community Safety Forum. I also coordinated the Upper Springfield CRJ project for seven years.

I hope to meet as many community reps and residents as soon as possible starting next week.

**ashton**  
Kinderkids  
Daycare

Caring & learning is what we do, in partnership with you!

- ✓ High quality childcare for 0-12 years
- ✓ Accessible North Belfast locations
- ✓ Flexible childcare options with competitive rates

Get in touch

**(028) 90 742 255**

✉ christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com  
✉ fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

**ashton**  
Community Family Support Programme

The Community Family Support Programme is a training and employability project, using a holistic family support model.

**We Can Help!**

Given the difficult times we are in there may be extra pressures for families, the Community Family Support Programme can support you in areas such as stress management/reduction, practical support behaviour management and budgeting. We can also support you to access online training and other employability supports.

To qualify you must live in North Belfast and not be in education training or employment (or had your education postponed due to Covid 19).

Contact: [kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com)

This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy.

Department for the Economy  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

European Union  
European Social Fund  
Northern Ireland

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

## A letter from Local Councillor JJ Magee

We began March 2020 watching the British government react with dangerous lethargy to a deadly, unseen virus. As it moved across the world from east to west, many individuals here in Ireland had important decisions to make, not only to keep themselves safe, but also their family, friends and communities.

As the British government belatedly ordered a lockdown, concepts such as self-isolating and social distancing were becoming new norms. Society and communities were being told to stay apart and although physically separate, our community grew closer than ever.

The economic impact of the Covid-19 global health emergency has had a deep effect on communities bringing a level of anxiety and stress on an already tense climate. As businesses closed, many were made redundant with thousands of others being furloughed taking a 20% cut in their income. The old and vulnerable were asked to shield, making it difficult for them to obtain essential items and supplies. It is to this backdrop that North Belfast community activists shone a light of hope.

The amount of work that has taken place by activists, volunteers and civic society in recent months has been nothing short of incredible. Thousands of food parcels, hot meals and essentials have been delivered to not only those most in need but to the frontline NHS staff that have been fighting against the virus on the frontline. The generosity and community empowerment that has been evident throughout North Belfast has shone a light of hope whilst we endure the harsh reality of this deadly virus. The funding that came from Belfast City Council, local businesses and individuals allowed this project to gain life, but the leadership shown by Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey saw over £1.5m injected into these community foodbanks. A significant move that complimented other initiatives taken by Deirdre and other Sinn Féin ministers within the Executive to aid communities through this virus.

Twelve weeks in and some signs of what we used to know as normality have started to emerge. There is more traffic on our roads, more walkers in our parks and our favourite shops have begun to re-open. But as we return to work, we need to ensure that this is done so with the health and safety of workers being of the upmost priority for all businesses. Employers need to be following the advice coming from the PHA and the HSE, ensuring that measures including, but not exclusive to, social distancing, sanitation and PPE are put in place and readily available where appropriate. Sinn Féin have been engaging with many businesses, unions and employees on this issue and will continue to stand up for their protection.

Homelessness including those living in housing stress and on waiting lists is a problem that will only get worse as we emerge out of this crisis and this is something that Sinn Féin in North Belfast will continue to campaign on and demand. My constituency colleague Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, the newly appointed (temporary) Minister for Communities has always led the campaign for housing equality not only in North

Belfast but across the North. Writing in the North Belfast Sinn Féin summer newsletter she reflected on the current housing situation within our community:

Now more than ever, we are witnessing levels of homelessness and overcrowding that should have been consigned to the past. 3000 people across North Belfast are on the housing

waiting list and those in housing stress continues to rise. Three generations living under the one roof has become a modern norm for those in social housing and enough is enough. The Housing Executive need to step up and fulfil their statutory obligation to invest in sustainable social housing projects. The underlying problem that has directly resulted in this stark reality is decades of poor and inadequate policy making by the Housing Executive, alongside a unionist veto in the development of social housing sites. The inequality that exists in the allocation of homes is also alarming in North Belfast, a pattern repeated across the North which has been recognised by the Equality Commission and the United Nations. We need a new approach, and this is something that Sinn Féin has been and will be demanding from the NIHE. We want to see a rights-based approach to housing as well as a needs-based approach to the allocation of homes. It is shocking that there is still a housing veto held by unionists in the development of sites and this needs to end immediately. I have called previously for an equality expert to oversee social housing across the North and that new builds are in areas that require them, as it is vital that areas of greatest need are targeted in order to address years of underinvestment. The Housing Executive need to have a vision and they need to be ambitious. They need to build homes. But it won't come about by wishing for it. We need to demand it, campaign for it and mobilise for it.

So, the last three months have been busy for the North Belfast community and as we head into the summer this will be no different for team Sinn Féin. Over the last number of weeks, alongside the deliveries for various food banks, we have been assisting businesses with their support grants and guiding those who find themselves homeless through the housing process. We have met with various Ministers and statutory agencies to develop imaginative and sustainable projects for our part of the city, lobbying for much needed investment and vision. We have been engaging with principals, pupils, staff and the Education Authority on the return to school, whilst helping parents whose children have not yet been placed, through the appeal process. We are here to help anyone at any time – always feel to get in touch.

To get in touch with Councillor JJ Magee contact:  
<https://www.facebook.com/jj.magee> or ring 07711762578



# Belfast Works Employability Programme

The Belfast Works Employability Programme offers a tailored service which meets your needs whatever your situation. If you are unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week we can give you the help and support you need to get back into sustainable employment. Once you are signed up to the programme you will be assigned a dedicated mentor who will help you to take the next steps in developing your career or getting a job. We can help to fine tune your CV and give you the skills required to fill in application forms and prepare you for interviews. We work with many employers in your local area who are looking for people just like you. Because we have strong relationships with these employers we have exclusive access to jobs that you won't see advertised anywhere else which gives you a better chance of being successful at interview as we know exactly the skills they are looking for.

As a result of Covid-19 our top priority is ensuring that our clients are kept as safe as possible by conducting all of our meetings remotely over the telephone (or through online platforms such as Zoom). We are even running free accredited training courses over the internet to ensure that you are fully prepared once you get that new job. Our offices might be closed at the moment but we are still open for business so give us a call or send us a message on the Belfast Works Facebook page and take the first step to changing your life.

## Parallel Support Service

The Belfast Works Parallel Support Service is a bespoke programme for anyone who wants to get back to work but perhaps doesn't feel quite ready at the moment for one reason or another. We have a dedicated team who will work with you to try to break down any barriers you feel are preventing you from entering the world of work. Some of these barriers could be any anxiety, depression, low self-esteem or anything which is making it more difficult for you to realise your potential. Whatever it is we have a programme that is just right for you based on your preferences. We are totally client centred meaning that we will involve you in the whole process and always go at a pace that is just right for you to ensure that you get the most out of this experience. Our Parallel Support Mentors have a wealth of experience in helping people just like you realise your dreams. There has never been a better time to make a positive change. Covid-19 means that our offices are closed but the level of service stays the same. For your safety all meetings are being done remotely so that means either over the telephone or using video conferencing software (Zoom) which is proving to be very popular with both our new and existing clients. Once you sign up we can even arrange fully accredited training courses that you can complete from the comfort of your own home to enable you to reach your maximum potential and change your life for the better. For more information please give us a call or register your interest on the Belfast Works Facebook page and we will be in touch to let you know what the next steps are. What have you got to lose? For information on both programmes contact Stuart on 07706 094425 or email [stuart.green@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:stuart.green@ashtoncentre.com)

Other criteria applies for people on Universal Credit – contact us to see if you are eligible).

 <https://www.facebook.com/Belfastworks/>

 <https://twitter.com/belfastworks>

 <https://www.instagram.com/belfastworksjobs/>

 <https://www.belfastworks.co.uk/>



**Belfast Works**  
TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT | SUPPORT

# SUMMER OF OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to change your life?  
Would having a job make you happy?

Our team are working from home to help you to get a job. Simply send us a message on Belfast Works Facebook or call us on Tel 07706 094425

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy Led by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMIS, Job Assist Centre Greater Shankill and Job Assist Centre West Belfast.



**Belfast Works**  
TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT | SUPPORT

# Childcare Level 1

Would you like a Free qualification?

**Training Information**

**COURSE CONTENT**

- Child development • Play
- Communication • Health & safety
- Employment prospects
- Child psychology/theorists

**To qualify you must:**

- Be unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week and not a full-time student
- Live in Greater Belfast
- Actively seeking employment

The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy Led by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMIS, Job Assist Centre Greater Shankill and Job Assist Centre West Belfast.

# A letter from Mrs Neeson, Principal of St Patrick's PS

Dear Parents/Guardians  
I hope you and your family are all keeping well.

I want to reassure you that the staff in St. Patrick's are working really hard to plan for a safe return to school in the new academic year. I will share the full details of this plan before the end of June.

Having looked at the photographs of some of the areas in our school, I am sure you will agree that the work our Learning Assistants are doing is simply amazing. They continue to work so hard to ensure that the children will return to a colourful, vibrant learning environment.

You have heard me say time and time again, when children are safe and happy, then the learning is easy. That remains our priority.

I am very aware that some children may feel anxious about returning to school. My intention is to make a short recording of what the classrooms, corridors etc will look like. However, if you feel that your child would benefit from visiting the school before the new year begins, I would urge you to contact me directly and we can arrange this before the end of June.

We continue to miss all of our children so much and are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Thank you so much for your continued support. You are all doing a great job in very challenging times, well done!

Take care and stay safe,  
Mrs Neeson



They have been painting, knitting, sewing, hammering, sawing, chopping, you name it, they have done it. As you can see from the pictures, not a corner has been left untouched. The school looks fantastic and we are so excited to welcome everyone back in September to a cleaner, brighter school.



While the children have been staying home and staying safe, the team of Learning Assistants in St Patrick's PS have been working tirelessly to brighten up our school for the return of our children.



We look forward especially to meeting all the children who are getting ready to start P1. An exciting beginning for all our new P1 children as they begin a new adventure in St Patrick's PS.

# New Lodge Arts - What have we been up to during Lockdown?

When news of lockdown hit we were devastated that we were unable to continue our programmes in the same manner. But that didn't stop us! So, as an Arts organisation we began to do what we do best...be creative! Here's what we have been up to.

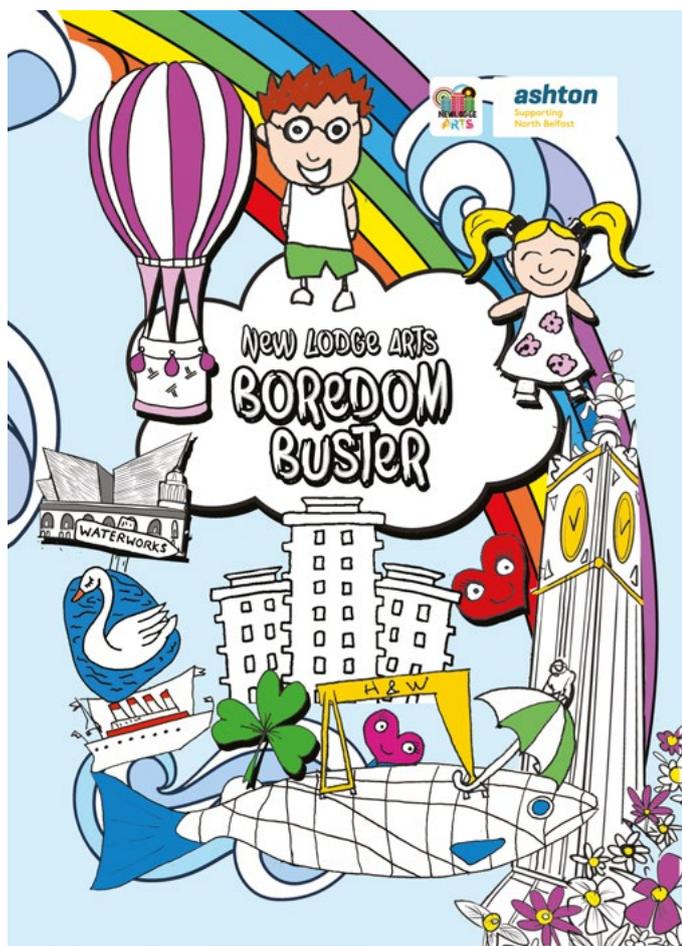
## Online Classes

Tune in every Monday to Rochelles Facebook Live hip hop class at 6.30pm on our Facebook page. Its been fab to see some of our regular dancers joining each week to showcase their talents – and great to see some new faces too!

Our popular Junior Drama classes have continued delivery online Monday and Thursday with tutors Mark and Sarah. The classes have been great fun and a chance for the group to reconnect. Both groups are working towards a Murder Mystery showcase and we can't wait to see what they come up with!

## Boredom Buster

We wanted to connect with our young people, families and community during this challenging time. To give them a sense



of escapism, fun and an opportunity to continue using their imaginations. We came up with the concept of an Art Activity

Book, filled with a wide range of innovative, entertaining and creative activities/games that can be done solely or as a family. We collaborated with a team of various local artists, all working from home with numerous emails, zoom meetings and phone calls "Boredom Buster" was born. A whole 5000 to be exact!

A wonderful new project that we all created and were so excited to share with North Belfast. In fact, we were that excited we began delivering the books warm from the printers and straight from the delivery pallets!

Within 2 weeks 5,000 copies were delivered across Belfast. Boxes upon boxes were collected from Youth Clubs, local schools, NHS – Mater Hospital and community organisations. We have been astounded by the fantastic and enthusiastic response that we have received; I would like to thank New Lodge Arts for the wonderful Boredom Buster Book I collected this morning for my grandson and niece. I had a look through it, and it's fantastic, everyone will love it. I might just go round again and get one for myself.

Well done and Thank you very much – Pat Irvine (Facebook)

Due to the success and unbelievable fast rate that the Boredom Buster flew out we also created a downloadable version for those who were unable to get their hands on one or would like another.

<https://www.ashtoncentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/New-Lodge-Arts-Activity-Pack-2020.pdf>

## Art Packs

During May, we were delighted to create 550 art packs for local children.

As we have missed working with our Arts Academy and Stepping Stones children we wanted to create personal Art Packs for them as well as giving them the Boredom Buster book. We



knew the children would love these! The packs were distributed to New Lodge Arts weekly participants, children involved with the Family Support Hub, New Lodge Youth Centre participants and via the local food banks. 550 Personal Art packs were produced and delivered across North Belfast.

We hope that our little contribution has made a few children smile on tough days, gave parents that extra 10 minutes to themselves and perhaps have brought some families together having a little quality time without any stress just fun and unlocking your imagination.

### “We’re all in this Together – Lockdown Style”

This is a time that we have all become more appreciative and looked back to our “normal” lives. As a team we have reminisced to earlier projects such as the hugely successful “High School Musical” that we held 3 sold out shows staged in The MAC Theatre during the Summer 2019.

This got our creative clogs turning! We wanted to send out a simple, positive message to our young people. By using the hit song from the musical “We’re all in this together”, we literally all got together virtually and created our Lockdown Remix video.

The video featuring some of our cast members from the High School Musical and staff captures glimpses of our lives during lockdown. We wanted it to show that we are all having the same feelings of frustration, boredom, confusion, missing our loved ones/friends and appreciation of our fantastic frontline workers.

Meabh McNeill (16) who played the lead role of Gabriella Montez in our musical also stars in the video says, “It was an amazing project to be a part of as it brought back so many good memories from the show and I really enjoyed it. It turned out amazing.”



Meabh joined New Lodge Arts in May 2019 attending a residential trip, since then she has taken part in various projects and also with Ashton’s Breakthrough programme. She has found that her weekly Zoom Sessions have helped her a lot during lockdown.

We all thoroughly enjoyed creating this fun project

and taking part, we as staff took this challenge very seriously as we are not often in front of the camera. However, for many of us directing our loved ones or animals at home was somewhat challenging to say the least! The blooper videos would definitely be worth a watch.

Tackling this situation together is key, yes, everyone will have some bad days but we want to ensure our young people, families and community that we are always here for support, encouragement and to listen regardless the distance.

Remember we are all in this together!

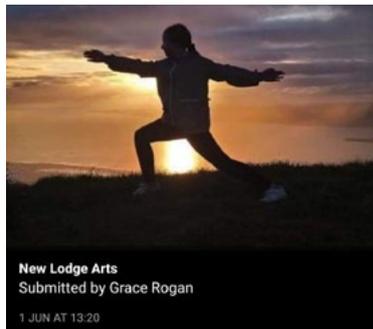
[Check out the video here](#)

<https://www.ashtoncentre.com/new-lodge-arts-were-all-in-this-together/>

### Photo Competition

In May, we launched a photo competition on Facebook LOCAL - CAMERA - ACTION. We asked people to take photos within their local area and submit these online.

We received loads of entries and the staff team had the task of collating the Top 10.



This was a difficult task as we received loads of fabulous photos including views across Belfast, top landmarks including Titanic Belfast, local street activities and lots of cute animals! The Top 10 went to the public vote on Facebook and The winner was Grace Rogan for her fabulous photograph of the sunrise at the tip of the Cavehill.

Congratulations Grace with a whopping 333 votes. Grace received a £50 Amazon voucher.

Thank you for everyone who took part in this competition and for taking time to vote and sharing this. We had an unbelievable response and support towards this.

### May 5k per day

Throughout May, we set up a Facebook group encouraging people to walk, run, cycle or even row 5K per day! The group was very popular with a consistent number of people achieving their daily target. The motivation for each other spurred us on to keep active and get off the sofa! Now the group are continuing to support the New Lodge Youth Centre



#NewLodgetoNewZealand challenge!

### Summer Planning

Normally, we are busy planning our packed Summer Programme at this time of year. Unfortunately, projects will not go ahead as planned but we are working on alternative delivery methods, following government guidelines and social distancing. Please follow us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeArtsBelfast/> @NewLodgeArtsBelfast and stay up to date with what’s happening.

f <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeArtsBelfast/>

twitter <https://twitter.com/NewLodgeArts>

instagram <https://www.instagram.com/newlodgearts/>

www <https://www.newlodgearts.com/>

# Ashton CORE New Training Prospectus

## Supporting 16-24 Year Olds

The CORE team assist people aged 16-24 living in the North Belfast and Newtownabbey areas through a support service that provides clients with an opportunity to achieve their goals through free training and employability skills. Working from home would indeed bring new challenges but challenges the CORE team were confident they could overcome.

When lockdown hit, our team asked the same questions as everyone else. "How long will this last? What does this mean for me and my family? How can we continue to support our clients in such uncertain times?"

## New Challenges

These and many more questions (that everyone has asked lately,) left us pondering on how we could continue in our roles and how best to adapt to remote working, whilst maintaining the needs of our clients, who rely on us for support in finding employment.



## Working From Home

Working hard from their home offices, our staff have successfully continued to engage with their clients through eLearning and the development of new online resources. They offer CV building skills, advice on effectively completing job application forms and guidance with online registrations for college enrolments. They are also available to provide interview techniques, job search support and one to one confidence building via our in-house tutor or through our referral process to organisations specialised in offering classes focusing building self-esteem.

## Social Media

CORE expanded its use of social media and marketing, creating new videos and job postings through a variety of platforms highlighting jobs locally and our training videos to connect with clients and employers.

## Planning for the Future

We are planning for a future beyond the current crisis. We are ready to "hit the ground running" as restrictions are lifted. We have a new and bespoke suite of training courses available to include Driving lessons, Make-up Artistry, SIA training, skills for employment, Forklift training and many more fun and dynamic training courses that can help our clients enhance their employment prospects and succeed in their chosen future careers.

Since April 2020 we have successfully supported 10 clients

into work and have newly registered over 70 people onto the programme.

Whatever the future holds for our society and whatever the "new norm" might be, the CORE team is here to help.

For more information on CORE Project and to register with us, contact us on 07752190297 or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/coreproject1/>

**ashton**  
CORE Project

Training Prospectus  
2020/21

www.ashtoncentre.com facebook.com/coreproject1/

This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department of the Economy.

A copy of the Training Prospectus can be downloaded by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.ashtoncentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/A4-Training-Prospectus-2020-Online-8-06-2020.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/coreproject1/>

<https://www.instagram.com/coreproject1/>

# The Training Service of Belfast Works

The Belfast Works training service offers a range of free training courses to unemployed people to help in their search for employment. Courses include; child care, health and social care, hospitality, business administration, travel and tourism, retail, personal development, Basic ICT, ECDL, spreadsheets and word processing. We also work with employers to provide bespoke sector training with real job outcomes at the end of training. Training is accredited and non-accredited with full support from your tutor.

To adapt with the Covid-19 pandemic we've quickly adapted to online training so our clients can continue learning and growing. Staff and clients have embraced this and enjoy new ways of working. We advertise all opportunities on social media and take clients through the process step-by-step. We are excited to be able to offer this new delivery of learning and are evaluating the process as we go. We hope our clients are as excited by this new development as we are.

## Employment Liaison Service

The Belfast Works Employer Liaison Service is a centralised team in the Belfast Works project with a specific role of engaging with employers across Belfast to source employment opportunities for Belfast Works clients. The Employer Liaison Service (ELS) team is made up of a number of Employer Liaison Officers, the Employer Liaison Coordinator and the Training manager. Each Employer Liaison Officer is tasked with obtaining job opportunities in certain areas and across certain sectors which will be of most benefit and best fitting roles to our clients in Belfast Works project.

The ELS team work across all sectors of employment in the Belfast area, some of the most common sectors which employ our clients have been Construction, Transport, Warehouse & Logistics, Health & Social Care, Retail and Hospitality among others. Examples of employers that have worked alongside our team includes; Translink, Morrows Contracts, Winemark, RGIS, Connected Health and many more.

The ELS team in conjunction with external training providers and our own internal training services delivery academies that provide fast tracked, tailored pre-employment training, licences and certificates required to gain and improve opportunities to access employment.

<https://www.facebook.com/Belfastworks/>

<https://www.instagram.com/belfastworksjobs/>

<https://twitter.com/belfastworks>

<https://www.belfastworks.co.uk/>

**Belfast Works**  
TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT | SUPPORT

## Bored at Home? Want to learn new skills?

WE CAN OFFER YOU A RANGE OF **FREE** COURSES:

- ✓ COMPUTER TRAINING
- ✓ SPREADSHEETS
- ✓ MICROSOFT WORD
- ✓ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ RETAIL
- ✓ BUSINESS ADMIN
- ✓ TRAVEL & TOURISM
- ✓ EMPLOYABILITY
- ✓ HOSPITALITY

**MESSAGE US FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The UEMS+ Project is part-funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020 and the Department for the Economy Led by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMS NI, Job Assist Centre Greater Shankill and Job Assist Centre West Belfast

Logos: European Union, Department for the Economy, Belfast City Council, T:buc, URRAN VILLAGES

**ashton**  
Training & Employment

Would you like help or support to find a job?

- ✓ Help with creating a CV or interview skills
- ✓ One to One mentoring, Job Search
- ✓ Essential Skills & Training

**Get in touch: (028)90742255**

training@ashtoncentre.com

www.ashtoncentre.com

facebook.com/AshtonEmploymentServices/



Ashton were delighted to support the Community Food Bank in their sterling efforts to help families across North Belfast.

## Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee



If you are the victim or the witness of crime, drug dealing or anti social behaviour you can contact the number below. If no one is there to answer always leave a message on the voice mail.

Remember If You Don't Report Then We Can't help You. Do Not Suffer In Silence

**Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee - 0756 493 8276**

**Another community number you can ring is, Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) - 028 90 753043**

If possible provide the following details;

- Your name and contact number (If you feel comfortable doing so)
- The nature and location of the offence
- The date and time of the offence
- The name/details of the offender (If known)



## New Lodge Housing Forum

Who we are:

A committee of volunteers and one community housing worker based in the New Lodge to support the improvement of the quality lives of the tenants living in the Greater New Lodge.

Assist Tenants On Issues Relating To:

- Repairs
- ECM Schemes
- Environmental Issues
- Sign Posting
- Service Suppliers
- Housing Campaigns/ Redevelopment
- Computers for Residents Use

How you can get in touch: Drop in to our housing office between the hours of:  
9am - 2pm Mon to Thurs  
9am - 1pm Friday

### New Lodge Housing Forum

23 New Lodge Road, BT15 2BU

Phone: (028) 90 742 399

Email: [thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com](mailto:thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com)

## 174 Older Peoples Club



**Dance – Bingo – Singsong - Every Saturday Night  
8.00pm – 12.00am - Bring Your Own**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Ashton/>

# Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

During the current health crisis we are delighted that the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub has still been operational providing services to families who live in Lower North Belfast.

The Family Support Hub provides early intervention services to families and young people requiring support. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people (0-18 years) and their parents/carers. This includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services and we currently have more than 60 services that are able to support your family.

The Family Support Hub can help your family during this difficult time whether it is dealing with the challenging behaviour of children, stress/depression, debt, food poverty or social isolation of children or families.

Over the past few months members have continued to support families through telephone calls, emails or Zoom meetings until we can get back to a safe way of working on a one-one basis. Since this is such an unusual time for all our families we have also tried to look at alternative ways to help families. We have been fortunate during this time to be able to support families with electronic devices provided by the Belfast Harbour Commission and also many families were supported with fabulous art packs by our Hub colleagues in New Lodge Arts as well as families being provided with donated garden toys for children.

This is undoubtedly a challenging time for families but help is out there for you to access so should you wish to avail of support please contact Edith McManus on 02890 749986/07396374764 or by email [edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com)

You can find out further information about the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub by visiting: <https://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/childcare-family-support/family-support-hub/>



Edith McManus Family Support Hub Co-ordinator presenting an Amazon Fire tablet to Claire Allen of Supporting Families North Belfast for one of their project's families

## Welcome to the Community Family Support Programme

Given these strange times we realise that families may be experiencing some difficulties across a range of areas. During the Covid 19 Pandemic we have continued to support families living in North Belfast in a creative and safe way through telephone calls and emails, offering practical supports, stress awareness, behaviour support and a range of employability skills to help enhance learning and ensure people are ready and prepared for entering the employment market. The project continues to be innovative and engage with families in a way that works for them.

Alongside our citywide partners we can offer training to individuals to allow people to keep learning and developing. This includes improving existing skills and promoting well-being, managing personal finances and social media skills. So if you or someone in your family is aged 16-64 and not in education, training or employment and would like to join our family centred programme please contact: [kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com), [eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:eileen.oprey@ashtoncentre.com), [caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com), [clare.anderson@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:clare.anderson@ashtoncentre.com) or call 07926534966 For further information on the Community Family Support Programme, please visit: <https://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/community-family-support-programme/>



Kris Morrison & Caroline McIlwee from CFSP receiving Art Packs from Susie Vint @ New Lodge arts for distribution to their families

# Positive Vision & Action



Ashton Community Trust is pleased to be working with community and voluntary groups across New Lodge and Ardoyne, with the aim of creating positive social change, as part of four new Communities in Transition programmes and projects. We aim to inspire, encourage and support increasing numbers of local people who are choosing to become active citizens and volunteers in our communities, when availing of opportunities for collaborative working and first-class training, while building inter-generational solidarity and increasing community resilience against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following Communities in Transition programmes and project which are funded by The Executive Office and managed by Cooperation Ireland will run until the end of March 2020: Building Capacity Programme; Urban Regeneration Project; Community Safety and Awareness Programme and Health and Wellbeing Programme.

A strong focus is being put on the need for innovative collaboration which aims to create a clear framework for how transition groups and relevant statutory providers, as well as non-governmental organisations, can create sustainable change together. The big challenge of 'People and Planet' will certainly be at the heart of all our training, social action projects and civic-engagement. Ashton Community Trust is committed to helping groups set positive goals that underpin a vision of working alongside those who are determined to build genuinely collaborative relationships with local citizens.

Our objective is to develop a clear framework and community toolkit for how transition groups and statutory providers can create sustainable change together. By coming together, we are able to create solutions together. We seek to create a caring culture, one focused on connection to self, others and environment. We are reclaiming the economy, sparking entrepreneurship, reimagining work, reskilling communities and weaving waves of connection and support. Courageous conversations are being had with the aim of having extraordinary change unfold, offering our young people a positive future. For further information contact: Paul Henry [paul.henry@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:paul.henry@ashtoncentre.com)

# Communities In Transition Ardoyne & New Lodge

**Communities In Transition  
Ardoyne & New Lodge**

**Community Safety  
Awareness and Outreach** PROGRAMME

Make **YOUR** area a better place to live, work and play!

- Build effective local networks focused on community safety
- Implement community safety initiatives co-designed by local residents and community stakeholders
- Learn how to conduct an Appreciative Inquiry
- Develop a register of community safety assets
- Implement effective community safety initiatives
- Take part in best practice visits
- Deliver relevant social action and civic engagement programmes
- Promote inter-generational working
- Address the challenges faced by 'young people at risk'

Calling local groups, projects and associations to get involved in this innovative programme.

**ashton**  
Supporting  
North Belfast

Communities in Transition is funded by The Executive Office and managed by Co-operation Ireland

The Executive Office | co-operationireland  
working for a future together

For further information contact:  
 @ paul.henry@ashtoncentre.com  
 www.ashtoncentre.com

**ashton**  
Arts

**NEW LODGE ARTS**

Get in touch:  
(028) 90742255

- ✓ The Arts Academy
- ✓ Youth Development
- ✓ Events & Festivals
- ✓ Partnership Programmes
- ✓ International Projects
- ✓ Taster Projects
- ✓ Adult Projects

www.newlodgearts.com

anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

www.ashtoncentre.com

## Bridge of Hope Available To Help You

## ashton Bridge of Hope

As with everyone else the Bridge of Hope team went into lockdown at the end of March but they very quickly settled into the new 'normal' of working from home to support our clients during these challenging times. Since the 25th March the team have worked with over 850 individuals providing a range of services including telephone counselling, Health and Wellbeing Caseworker support, live interactive training via Zoom and telephone support.

The focus of our work has been and will continue to be to support individuals coping with the stresses and strains of living through this pandemic. We have found some clients benefit from a support phone call with one of our clinical team, some need more support in the form of a series of sessions of counselling over the telephone and some are getting huge benefits from our training courses which include our Take 5 programme, courses for developing resilience and managing stress and more practical programmes like our very popular Hand Reflexology courses.

Feedback from all clients has been really positive and we are proud to still be able to help our local community through this difficult time. We are continuing to work closely with our practitioners and clients to identify innovative ways of working and supporting clients and each other.

During this time Ashton's Bridge of Hope was granted the status of BACP Accredited Service by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy for our counselling service which makes us one of only 7 organisations regionally to achieve this. We are very proud of this accreditation as it shows the quality of our counselling service and the commitment and dedication of our team to make it the best it can be for our service users.

As yet we have no definite plans as to when we will be returning to the delivery of face to face services but if you would like to know more about what we can offer now please contact a member of the team on the numbers below.

If you would like to contact us about your appointments or refer yourself into Bridge of Hope, please feel free to contact our admin team anytime on the following numbers or via their email: -

Liz [liz.white@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:liz.white@ashtoncentre.com) 07425700630  
Martina [martina.donnely@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:martina.donnely@ashtoncentre.com)  
07551780599

If you are interested in finding out more about our on-line live training to support your health and wellbeing please contact our Training Coordinator:-

Mary [mary@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary@ashtoncentre.com) 07766138156

If you would like to seek support from our Health and Wellbeing Caseworkers, please contact them on the following numbers or via their email: -

Jim [jim.mcgivern@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:jim.mcgivern@ashtoncentre.com) 07846143385  
Brendan [brendan.brownlee@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:brendan.brownlee@ashtoncentre.com)  
07846089329

If you need to speak to someone regarding talking therapies, or what telephone counselling is all about please contact our Clinical Lead and Clinical Co-ordinator: -

Margaret [margaret.spencer@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:margaret.spencer@ashtoncentre.com)  
07990307237

Marie Claire [marie.claire@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:marie.claire@ashtoncentre.com)  
07826689272

We are all available during our normal hours of 8.30 to 5 Monday to Thursday and 8.30 to 2.30 on a Friday. If we don't answer your call it may be that we are helping another client so please feel free to leave us a message and we will call you back.

Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/>



**ashton**  
Bridge of Hope

Building a healthy resilient you

- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Complementary Therapies
- ✓ Personal Development

Get in touch:  
[facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/](https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org/)

[irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:irene.sherry@ashtoncentre.com)  
[mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com)

[www.thebridgeofhope.org](http://www.thebridgeofhope.org)

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

## CALL/ICT Project

The CALL/ICT project is Ashton's Essential Skills programme, part of the Training and Employment department. We provide accredited courses in English and maths using computers for residents of the Greater New Lodge area. Classes are small and we also offer one-to-one sessions if required. There is no charge for our courses and we are here to help you gain the Essential Skills for your everyday life and work.

Although online delivery of Essential Skills courses is not yet possible, we are looking into ways of providing online classes

should it not be possible to restart in-house classes in the coming months. During May and June, telephone contact and Zoom sessions were used to allow some project participants due to complete Essential Skills courses at the end of June to complete assessment and achieve their qualifications in line with the awarding body's Covid-19 guidelines.

Information about our Essential Skills courses can be found:  
Email: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)

 <https://www.facebook.com/ashtonesentialskills/>

# ashton

## Essential Skills

Are you homeschooling and helping your kids with schoolwork during lockdown?

There are great new programmes on the BBC iPlayer. Bitesize Daily for ages 5-14 is on every day and includes English, maths, history and science.

You can access the programmes on your television by using the red button, and on your computer, tablet or smartphone by going to [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer) and then searching for Bitesize



If you are interested in doing an Essential Skills course in English or maths when we get out of lockdown, contact Hilary for more information:

Email: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ashtonesentialskills](https://www.facebook.com/ashtonesentialskills)



# ashton

## Essential Skills

Thinking of doing one of our Essential Skills English and Maths courses?

Check out this website for a taster of what you could do on the course:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise)



There is lots of useful information to help you improve your skills, help your children with homework or get the job you want.

**Contact Hilary for more information about our courses:**

- + phone: 028 90322289
- + email: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)
- + call in person at the McSweeney Centre



## Would You Like To Participate in a Music Video

AMPS Studio is putting out a call for singers of all ages to participate in our Music Video project for Féile 2020 Online.

This is a fun community participation project.

The song selected is I'll Be There by Jess Glynn

Registration is easy!

Email: [sal@ampsstudio.com](mailto:sal@ampsstudio.com) to receive a Karaoke version of the song and information on when and how we will capture all performances.

AMPS Studio, 5-7 Conway Street, Belfast: BT13 2DE

[www.ampsstudio.com](http://www.ampsstudio.com), Mob: 07557641014, LL: 028 9023 6984

# New Lodge Youth Centre Update

At New Lodge Youth Centre we are continuing to work with and support those young people in need within our communities. With the Covid-19 pandemic and government guidelines forcing the closure of the Youth Centre we have had to find new innovative ways to work with and support the needs of young people within the community. We have moved to an online platform of delivery, which has taken some adjusting to our usual daily drop-in and the range of group and mentoring opportunities we offer. Throughout the lockdown period we have continued to provide young people with activities and workshops online and continual opportunities to engage in educational, reflective and creative activities.

Throughout this period we have also continued to work with our groups in an online format. Our Romania group, who were due to have been on their volunteering visit, have preserved and are determined to make the volunteering visit happen when it is safe to do so. In the meantime they have continued to engage in weekly group work sessions to build their knowledge and skills as young leaders to aid in their development. The Romania group have also engaged in social action activities, most creating hampers to provide to those in need in the community and also those who have provided support to others as a way to say thanks and show gratitude.

Our Perspective group have continued to engage online and have been involved in initiatives during Mental Health Awareness Week such as creating positivity boards and uploading positive quotes to provide motivation to others. Our START work has also continued to provide a vital service to the young people and families within the community through continued online one-to-one mentoring, group work and delivery of care packages.

Over the course of the lockdown period we have also facilitated a range of challenges online, most notably was the 'Pay It Forward' challenge which occurred during Mental Health Awareness week in which we encouraged people to undertake random acts of kindness and ask those in receipt of the kind



act to pay it forward to create a ripple effect throughout our communities and beyond in a challenging and difficult time. Currently we are facilitating our 'New Lodge To New Zealand' challenge in which our aim is to collectively, with all those that participate, walk/run/cycle/swim the distance between New Lodge Youth Centre and New Zealand in a way to promote positive physical and mental health. After week 1 we had an amazing 500 miles travelled through all that participated, there is still time to join in.

Currently our services remain online, however we are closely monitoring government guidelines and have a range of planned interventions and responses to implement within the community as restrictions ease and we move back to a sense of normality.

For further information about the Youth Centre contact: email: [\\_sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:_sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com) or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgeyc/>

[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)



**For further information contact:**

 <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgeyc/>

# Breakthrough Project: Continuing Supporting Young People during Lockdown

The Breakthrough Programme works with young people aged 14 to 24 years across North Belfast, focusing on personal development, one-to-one mentorship, encouraging active citizenship/volunteering and providing an opportunity to be involved positive Good Relations work.

With the onset and restrictions put in place to respond/minimize the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic, everyday life as we knew it disappeared, all norms went out the window and we all had to re-analyse life as we knew it!

But our Breakthrough team were up for the challenge! Our response was to continue to support, challenge and connect young people during a time where they may feel isolated. We re-evaluated our methods of working and thought of new innovated ways to continue to engage and work with our young people. Experimenting with online platforms such as "Zoom and Messenger" took front stage!

Although mentors have been working remotely from home, we have continued to deliver a fantastic service and programme to young people in the New Lodge. Using a range of creative methods, mentors have been able to engage daily and weekly with groups of young people, offering online group sessions, using a range of online/video platforms, setting young people fun challenges to do at home, ranging from baking, creating pieces of art work to express their time at home during 'lockdown', interviewing family members, having online discussions/debates/quizzes, promoting positive mental health and interviewing other Breakthrough groups from different communities (such as the Shankill and Woodvale areas) and much more!

The Breakthrough Group from New Lodge have recently started taking part in a Good Relations/Active Citizenship Project where they will be putting their newly gained baking and creative skills to use, by adding tray bakes and greeting cards to food packs for older people living in their communities. This project is delivered in partnership with a Breakthrough Group based in the Shore Road Area. The activities are helping the young people develop personally, be active citizens in their communities and be involved in ongoing Good Relations Work.

If you are interested in being part of the Breakthrough Programme, please get in touch. Contact us via our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/breakthroughbelfast/> or message Orla at [orla.hawkins@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:orla.hawkins@ashtoncentre.com)

**ashton Breakthrough**

Age Range  
14 - 24 Years

Want To Be Part Of Something Amazing???

**breakthrough**

- Travel covered
- Lunch provided
- Residential
- £8 per day incentive payment (subject to eligibility)
- Childcare costs covered (limited spaces)
- Team Building Activities
- One-To-One Mentoring
- Training in Arts, Digital Media, Sports, Digital Design and Fabrication
- Fun and engaging group workshops

(028) 90 742 255 | [breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:breakthrough@ashtoncentre.com)

Partners: Northern Ireland Executive, Northern Ireland - Ireland, Peace4Youth, Y&T, L&DIP, AYE, Street Heat Project, F, M&A, Northern Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

**ashton Music Breakthrough**

www.ashtoncentre.com

- ✓ Are you interested in developing musically?
- ✓ Build confidence, resilience, and self-esteem
- ✓ Meet different kinds of people and make friends
- ✓ Develop vital skills, get support to be able to face the world, and take control of your own lives

Get in touch (028) 90742255

anne.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

Partners: Northern Ireland Executive, Northern Ireland - Ireland, Peace4Youth, Y&T, L&DIP, AYE, Street Heat Project, F, M&A, Northern Ireland Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

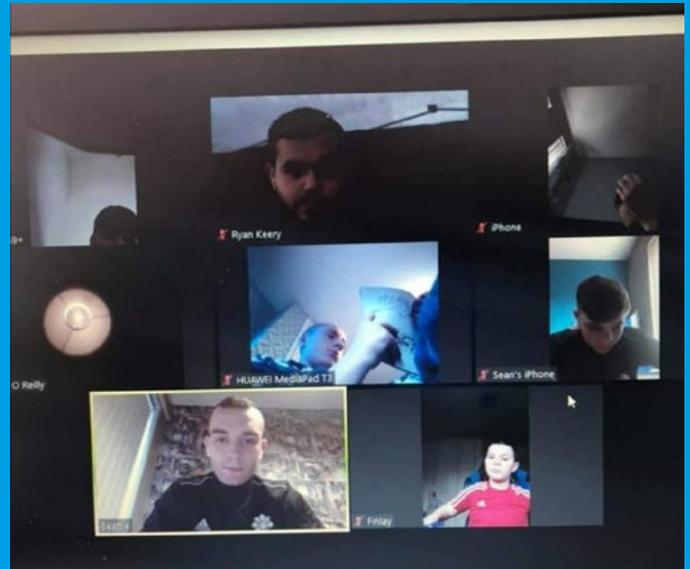
# START Programme during COVID

Before lockdown the New Lodge Youth Centre had 50 participants in the START Programme engaging in a range of different ways. Group work, one to one Mentoring, International Leadership Programmes, Youth Justice Diversionary Programmes, Mentoring through Trinity College and Outreach work. With the restrictions of lockdown a lot of these engagements were impossible to continue in their usual way, however we have reverted a new online only way of working and worked on maintaining the relationships with young people. In a range of ways.

We created an online profile which enabled us to continue the vital one to one sessions and to offer support for those at risk young people and their families who take part in the programme. The continuous engagement meant that young people who were completing the Youth Diversionary Programme were able to finish the required hours and be signed off from the programme with the Youth Justice Agency. The online profile gave us the opportunity to facilitate zoom meetings with the regular groups and to create an environment online as close to the in centre activity as we can. On a weekly basis we are facilitating Quizzes, Bingo nights and even setting challenges remotely through Kahoot!

Throughout lockdown we have also been actively delivering food parcels to families that have reached out for support during lockdown. Along with local food banks and by communicating with parents we have been able to gather as much food resources as I can before delivering them to the houses and offering much needed support to those at a very challenging time.

On a normal Friday night before Lockdown we would typically facilitate a life skills programme with young people from the START Programme. The aim was to develop valuable life skills on preparing, cooking and presenting food for all young people using the building on that night. Throughout lockdown we have been creating 'How to' tutorials and setting cooking challenges to encourage the young people to cook a nutritional, convenient and cheap meal for the family. This online programme has had lots of great feedback

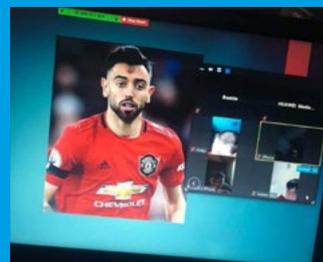


and has been very successful.

The lockdown has also provided the opportunity for upskilling and development. Alongside other START workers, our START worker Ryan has completed ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Training, Refreshment of The Circle of Courage, Mental Health and Resilience Training and online tutorials.

We are continuing to provide much needed support to the young people and families that we work with and will continue to do so and adapt to the ever changing environment as government guidelines progress over the coming months.

For further information about the Youth Centre email: sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgeyc/>



**Ashton on Facebook**, you can send us a friend request to keep up to date on all our services, we have also created a Like Page and a Group, where we will also post information on a regular basis about all of our services, please send friend request or like our page / join the Ashton Group to be kept updated. Thank you

[facebook.com/ashton.centre](https://facebook.com/ashton.centre)  
[facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust](https://facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust)  
[facebook.com/groups/Ashton/](https://facebook.com/groups/Ashton/)

# DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT SERVICES

## BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST AREA

Date of publication: JUNE 2019

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this directory, we do not accept any responsibility or liability for any errors that have occurred. It is recommended that you always check directly with providers that their service or organisation meets your requirements.

This publication can also be downloaded from [www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)

### Services for Adults

#### Community Drugs Programme

One to one and family support, auricular acupuncture, mentoring and onward referral service.

**Open Access**

#### Falls Community Council

Tel: 028 9020 2030

#### Reach Out

One to one support for alcohol and/or drug misuse (and other associated issues).

**Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted**

#### Extern

Tel: 074 4253 3165

#### Low Threshold Services

Aimed at those who misuse alcohol and/or drugs at harmful levels and/or in harmful ways but who are unable to commit to formal treatment (including chronic drinkers & injecting drug users).

**Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted**

#### BHSC Drug Outreach Team

Tel: 028 9504 1433

#### Extern Alcohol Housing Support Service

Tel: 028 9033 0433

#### Community Based Adult Services

One to one therapeutic treatment and support service for those aged 18+ misusing alcohol and/or drugs. Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

**Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted**

#### Addiction NI

Tel: 028 9066 4434

#### Dunlewy Addiction Services

Tel: 028 9039 2547

#### Statutory Addiction Service

Provided by a range of specialist teams within community and hospital settings.

**GP/Health Professional Referrals**

#### BHSC

Tel: 028 9073 7547

Residential treatment is accessible through the statutory addiction service.

#### Residential Addiction Treatment Centre

6 week residential programme.

**Addiction Service Referrals**

#### Carlisle House

Tel: 028 9032 8308

For more detailed information on services available in your HSC area visit:

[www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)



\*Addressing drugs and alcohol together\*

### Young People/Family

#### Belfast Youth Engagement Service (YES)

A youth friendly, holistic health and wellbeing service where young people, aged 11-25, have opportunities to socialise and to get advice and support on a range of issues.

**Open Access**

**Extern** Tel: 028 9084 0555

#### Community Drugs Programme

Drug and alcohol education and awareness programmes, accredited and non-accredited, targeted at young people and/or parents.

**Open Access**

**Falls Community Council** Tel: 028 9020 2030

#### Reach Out

One to one support for alcohol and/or drug misuse (and other associated issues).

**Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted**

**Extern** Tel: 074 4253 3165

#### Strengthening Families Programme

Parents and children participate in the 14-week SFP, both separately in teen and parent sessions, and then together in family sessions.

**Targeted at At-Risk/Vulnerable Families**

**ASCERT** Tel: 0800 254 5123

#### Targeted Lifeskills Service

Groupwork programmes for young people, aged 11-25, focussed on lifeskills and harm reduction.

**Targeted at At-Risk/Vulnerable Groups**

**LYMCA** Tel: 028 9267 0918

#### Steps 2 Cope

Online support and self help resources for young people, aged 11-18, affected by a parent's use of alcohol.

**ASCERT & Barnardos**

[www.stepstocope.co.uk](http://www.stepstocope.co.uk)

#### DAISY

One to one and group therapeutic treatment and support service for children and young people aged 11-25. Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

**Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted**

**Start 360 & ASCERT** Tel: 028 9043 5815

#### Pharos

Therapeutic treatment and support for families and children affected by parental alcohol and/or drug misuse.

**Social Services/Addiction Services Referrals**

**Barnardos** Tel: 028 9066 3470

#### DAMHS (Drug and Alcohol Mental Health Service)

A range of therapeutic support services for young people aged under 18 with significant mental health and substance misuse difficulties.

**GP/CAMHS Referrals**

**BHSC** Tel: 028 9063 8000

### Specific Groups

#### Needle and Syringe Exchange Sites

##### Boots

35 Donegall Place  
Tel: 028 9024 2332

##### McGregors

30 Botanic Avenue  
Tel: 028 9031 0045

##### Chemist Connect

59 High Street  
Tel: 028 9023 1002

##### Maguire Pharmacy

505-507 Falls Road  
Tel: 028 9032 7140

#### Street Injecting Support Service (SISS)

Extern, 118-122 Royal Avenue, Belfast  
Tel: 028 9033 0433

#### Removal of Drug Related Litter (Needle Finds)

Belfast City Council  
Tel: 028 9027 0469

#### Group Support

Call or go online to find a meeting near you:

##### Alcoholics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

Tel: 028 9043 4848

[www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

##### AlAnon

Group Support for Family Members

Tel: 028 9068 2368

[www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

##### Alateen

Group Support for Teenagers

Tel: 028 9068 2368

[www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen)

##### Narcotics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

Tel: 078 1017 2991

[www.na-ireland.org](http://www.na-ireland.org)

#### Community/Stakeholder Support

##### Belfast Drug & Alcohol Coordination Team/ Connections Service (BDAC Connections)

The DACT Connections Service provides information, advice, signposting and awareness raising initiatives to a range of community and stakeholder partners.

Tel: 028 9084 0555 (Extern)

[www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info)

[connections@bdact.info](mailto:connections@bdact.info)

#### Workforce Development Training Programmes

A range of drug and alcohol training courses for those working with adults, children and young people.

##### ASCERT

Tel: 0800 254 5123

##### Drink, Work and Me

Offers one to one and online support alongside training to enable employers to recognise the impact of alcohol related harm on the individual and the workplace.

##### Addiction NI

Tel: 028 9066 4434

[www.drinkworkandme.com](http://www.drinkworkandme.com)

In Crisis? Call **Lifeline**

FREE 24/7 HELPLINE  
0808 808 8000



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Supporting  
North Belfast



[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

