

Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

[facebook.com/ashton.centre](https://www.facebook.com/ashton.centre) twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust [instagram.com/ashtoncommunitytrust/](https://www.instagram.com/ashtoncommunitytrust/) [Ashton YouTube Channel](#)

North Belfast Lantern Festival Saturday 28th October 2023



Mark your calendars and prepare for a night of enchantment and excitement as North Belfast's most anticipated community arts event, the Lantern Festival, returns on Saturday 28th October 2023. This year the festival promises an unforgettable evening under the theme of 'Marvellous Monsters,' featuring thrilling entertainment, a fireworks extravaganza, and a headline act that will have everyone singing along.

A Day of Family Fun - 12.00 pm-3.00 pm

The festivities kick off at noon with a Family Fun Day that promises a delightful time for all. No tickets are needed for this portion of the event, so bring the entire family and enjoy a range of activities, games, and fun.

Main Event Highlights

The main event takes place in the evening, with entrance via Mileriver Street ONLY.

Here's the schedule you need to know:

5:30pm - Gates Open at Mileriver Street: Arrive early to secure your spot and take in the ambiance as the lanterns start to light up the night.

7:30pm - Last Entries at Mileriver Street: Be sure to arrive on time to fully immerse yourself in the festivities.

8:00pm - Fireworks Finale: Prepare to be wowed as the night sky is set ablaze with a spectacular fireworks display that will

Continued on Page 3

Community Magazine Supported by Belfast City Council, Newington Housing Association and Ashton Community Trust



Belfast
City Council

Newington
Housing Association
(1975) Ltd.

ashton



ashton
Kinderkids
Daycare

Ashton Kinderkids Daycare based in the heart of North Belfast operating over 2 sites, Cliftonville Road & Henry Place (off Clifton Street)

Kinderkids is a long standing childcare provider with over 20 years experience serving the North Belfast community and its children.

Providing Early Years & Afterschool options from individual sessions to full week care.

Kinderkids Daycare had developed a child centre philosophy which is central to the care and learning we provide to each child and their family.



To register for a place or for more information please contact:

Charlene Foster - Charlene.foster@ashtoncentre.com
Telephone: 028 9521 9830

Fionnuala Black - Fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com
Telephone: 028 9074 2255



Ashton Community Trust
COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 9:15- 3:30
Wednesday: 9:15-3:30
Thursday: 9:15- 3:30
Friday: 9:15-1:00

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food.

Community Contact Details

174 Trust	9074 7114
Ashton Centre	9074 2255
Bridge of Hope	9074 2255
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
Community Restorative Justice.....	9621 0900
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain.....	90749 688
Friends of St Joseph’s Church Sailortown	terryblfst@gmail.com
Glenravel Local History Project	9074 2255
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 - Cliftonville.....	9521 9830
McSweeney Centre.....	9032 2289
Newington Credit Union.....	9035 1773
Newington Housing Association.....	9074 4055
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 Queen St. Community Centre	9032 3945
Smile SureStart	9075 6654
St. Patrick’s Primary School.....	9035 1206
Star Neighbourhood Centre.....	9074 0693
TAMHI	9074 7437
Tar Isteach.....	9074 6665/9074 6664

Follow Ashton On Twitter

 twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust

Alcoholics Anonymous Antrim Road Group, Belfast

Address: Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street,
Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2BP

Meetings and times:

Sunday: 12:30	Closed Meetings
Sunday Night: 8:30	Closed Meetings
Monday: 8:30	Closed Meetings
Tuesday: 8.30	Open Meetings
Wednesday: 8.30	Closed Meetings
Thursday: 8.30	Closed Meetings
Friday: 8.30	Step Meetings
Saturday: 8.30	Discussion
Meetings	

Zoom Meetings: Tuesday and Saturday 8:30pm



North Belfast Lantern Festival 2023



light up North Belfast. It's a sight you won't want to miss!

Exit - All gates will be open to ensure a smooth exit for everyone after the grand finale.

No Parade, All Focus on the Park

This year, the organizers have decided to forego the parade to concentrate all their efforts on creating an incredible experience within the park. Expect a night filled with entertainment, surprises, and a festive atmosphere that will leave you with cherished memories.

Digital Tickets - A Must-Have

To gain entry to the Lantern Festival, make sure you have your ticket ready. You can either show the digital ticket on your phone or bring a printed copy with the QR code for seamless access.

'Marvellous Monsters' Theme

Get ready to embrace the whimsical and fantastical as this year's Lantern Festival embraces the theme of 'Marvellous

Monsters.' Prepare to be captivated by imaginative lanterns and decorations that will transport you to a world of enchanting creatures and mythical beasts.

Headline Act: Harry Styles Tribute Act

The stage will come alive with the electrifying performance of one of the UK's most popular Harry Styles Tribute Acts. Get ready to dance, sing, and celebrate the night away with hits from this international sensation.

The Lantern Festival has become a beloved tradition in North Belfast, and this year's event promises to be the biggest and most magical yet. So, gather your friends and family, don your lanterns, and get ready to be enchanted by the Marvellous Monsters that await you on 28th October. It's a night you won't want to miss!

Tickets are £2 each and available from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-lodge-arts



Ulster University What's on Campus

The ground and first floors of the new main teaching Block (Block BC) on the Belfast campus are open to the public.

Aromaroma Starbucks

AromaRoma is open from 8am-7pm and is to the right of the main York Street entrance on the ground floor of Block BC. It is a strong, drinks-led coffee shop with a product range including Starbucks 'We Proudly Brew' Coffee and a full range of Starbucks cold drinks, in addition to a range of fresh smoothies, pressed juices, Boba drinks, sandwiches and other Grab & Go items.

The Junction

The Junction is open from 9am-3pm and is located to the rear of the main reception walkway on the ground floor level of Block BC. It is accessible by the main York Street entrance and the Frederick Street entrance. The Junction offers a wide range of hot and cold snacks and meals to sit in or take away.

Street Beats

Street Beats is open from 8am-7pm and is located on the ground floor level of Block BC. It is simply Street Food at its best with a quick serve Deli counter selection of soup, sandwiches and salads with Barista coffee.

The Art Gallery - with a full annual programme of FREE exhibitions is beside the main reception in Block BC

Signature on-campus events throughout the year. Details of the art gallery and wider events programme is updated regularly on <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterpresents/whats-on> or you can sign up to the newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/ulster/presents>

Neighbourhood Forum

As a result of consistent community lobbying led by Ashton in recent years, which has mostly been conducted through the UU/Neighbourhood Forum, agreed processes and protocols have been put in place to help lessen some of the effects of building demolitions and constructions on residents living nearby.

One example that illustrates some of the progress that has been made through this has been the agreement by one of the building contractors to produce a monthly newsletter to keep local residents informed about the nature of the works and to provide contact details if residents have an issue or complaint they wish to make. Turkington Holdings are currently constructing another student accommodation tower block on York Street.



www.ashtoncentre.com

Follow Us On Social Media

✓ Facebook

✓ Twitter

✓ Instagram

✓ LinkedIn

✓ YouTube

✓ Pinterest

✓ WhatsApp

Supporting
North Belfast

Click Here

facebook.com/ashton.centre

Happy Days Project Grand Opening

Young Adults with Learning Disabilities

Ashton was thrilled to host the grand opening on Monday 9th October 2023 of its new 'Happy Days' project. Our Happy Days project will provide essential support and foster a welcoming community for young adults with learning disabilities. The project is based at McSweeney Centre Henry Place, starting on Monday 6th November 2023 from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Safe and Nurturing Space

The project will serve as a safe and nurturing space where



young adults with learning disabilities from the age of 19 to 30 years old can access a wide range of activities designed to enhance their quality of life, promote independence and encourage social interaction. Happy Days will be a place where all our service users are supported within a community development environment to grow the capacity (skills, knowledge and confidence) necessary to reach their full potential as young adults living independent, interesting, age appropriate fulfilling lives.

Tailored Programmes

The key highlights of the Ashton Happy Days Project include programmes tailored to the needs of the individuals. These will encompass life skills, creative arts, physical fitness, dance, drama, trips and music to name a few. The project will be led by the participants who will decide what activities they want included within their time at the project. With the help of a future participant and her mother in the recruitment of staff, we have assembled a team of experienced and compassionate professionals who are dedicated to providing the care and support to create an inclusive and respectful environment.

Extensive Community Engagement

We have actively engaged with the local community through partnerships with other organisations, youth groups and schools, as we believe community involvement is essential in breaking down barriers and fostering meaningful connections. Taking all of this on board our facilities are modern and furnished with the necessary equipment including a sensory room, accessible spaces, community garden and a welcoming communal area.

Family Involvement

We recognise the importance of family involvement in the well-being of our members; parents have been invited to become



part of the parents group that will interact with the staff team and service users, acting as a critical friend. We are excited to bring the Happy Days project to our community and we look forward to being part of a service that is needed for our young adults so if you are interested in using this service please do not hesitate to contact us for a tour.

Anyone interested in signing up, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/azfjWKeQ9ZE5DAf3A> and a member of staff will be in touch.

Ciara Rea - Ashton Community Trust



New Lodge Arts - Summer Drama Camps

Summer Highlight

The summer season in North Belfast just got a whole lot more dramatic, thanks to the annual Summer Drama Camps hosted by New Lodge Arts. With three camps catering to different age groups – Tinys, Junior, and Senior – these camps have become the highlight of the summer for aspiring young actors and theatre enthusiasts alike. This year, the summer drama camps welcomed over 50 children, each bringing their unique talents and passion for the performing arts. From budding actors to future Broadway stars, these camps have nurtured young talent and provided an exceptional platform for creativity and self-expression.



Tinys Camp: A Partnership with C21 Theatre Company

The Tinys Camp, in partnership with the esteemed C21 Theatre Company, was a fantastic showcase of young talent with the theme of Backwards Fairytales. Under the guidance of experienced theatre professionals, these young thespians developed their skills and showcased them in a memorable performance at Girdwood Community Hub. The showcase was a testament to the power of collaboration and the boundless potential of young performers.

Junior Camp: A Heartwarming Production of 'Annie'

The Junior Camp, a group of talented young actors, delivered a heartwarming and memorable production of the beloved musical 'Annie.' The audience at The Recy were left in awe as they watched these young stars bring the timeless tale to life. The dedication and passion of the junior cast shone through in every scene, leaving not a dry eye in the house. Their performance was a true testament to the power of youth and the magic of theatre.



Senior Camp: 'The Little Mermaid' Makes a Splash

The Senior Camp, the crème de la crème of the summer drama experience, dazzled audiences with three sold-out shows of 'The Little Mermaid' at The MAC. This group of talented young teenagers not only delivered an incredible performance but also showcased stunning vocals that would be the envy of any West End production. The Senior Camp

New Lodge Arts - Summer Drama Camps

demonstrated what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a love for the arts.

The Summer Drama Camps offered participants more than just the chance to perform on stage. They provided a safe and nurturing environment for children and young adults to build self-confidence, develop communication skills, and make lasting friendships. The camp experience goes beyond the final bow, leaving participants with memories and skills that will last a lifetime.



The Agency Belfast - New Lodge Arts

The Agency is a UK based, award winning creative entrepreneurship programme that enables young people from some of the most under-served places to create lasting change in their community. New Lodge Arts and Ashton have recently become a partner in this amazing programme, bringing the experience and expertise to young people in Belfast (aged 15-25). The programme started on Saturday 16th September, and at the time of writing the young people are now entering their fourth week. The programme has been a massive success so far for all of the young people that have become involved. Our Coordinator Orla Hawkins said, "We have been receiving amazing feedback from both young people and parents and the programme has been absolutely amazing so far. The facilitation team are doing a really fantastic job in delivering the programme in a fun filled and very effective way. Currently we have a core group of 18 young people from all across North Belfast. We will continue to enable them to build on their ideas and it is a very exciting time for everyone involved. Watch this space for more information on upcoming events".

Some incentives for those participating in our Agency Belfast Programme are:

- Learning Entrepreneurial Skills
- Making New Friends
- Having Fun
- Making Your Idea A Reality
- Earning £40 Per Week!

Recruitment for next year's Agency Belfast Programme will start in the summer of 2024. Contact Orla Hawkins for more information - 02890742255



ashton

Training & Employment

Belfast Works[®]

CONNECT

SUPPORT | TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT

Connecting People, Changing Lives

Ashton Community Trust's brand new project has been given £££'s by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help people within our communities



Support - Training - Wellbeing

If you are aged 16-67, not in employment and fit into any of the categories below:

- Looking after a family member/children or home
- A registered carer for a family member
- Too ill to work
- Early retired
- Student and not working
- Not working but might want to work in the future

We can offer free support and training in a range of areas:

- Personal development
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Money management/budgeting
- Health & Nutrition
- Education Support/Essential Skills
- Helping with homework
- Personal wellbeing
- Driver Theory test & training
- Forklift training
- CSR card training
- Horticulture training
- Computer training
- Overcoming personal barriers
- Employability skills
- And much more



www.belfastworksconnect.com

With personalised training and incentives to help you learn and develop, *what's stopping you?*

ashton Training & Employment

Calling all Residents!

Do you have the Essential Skills for everyday life and work?

English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills



Start your
Essential Skills
journey!

New short English, Maths and (ICT) computer courses are starting soon for anyone living in BT14 and BT15.

Courses cover:

- ✓ Improving everyday Maths
- ✓ Communication skills for Life + Work
- ✓ Using computers for English and Maths



Courses are **LOCAL + FREE** + lead to a recognised **QUALIFICATION**

If you would like to find out more phone 02890742255, email Angela McAteer at: angela.mcateer@ashtoncentre.com or message us on 07564711355

www.ashtoncentre.com



Participation in any of our courses is completely free and will not impact on your Benefits



www.belfastworksconnect.com



Belfast Worksⁿⁱ CONNECT

SUPPORT | TRAINING | EMPLOYMENT

How We Help

- Person-Centred 1-2-1 Support
- Better Off Calculations, Specialist Benefits & Welfare Advice
- Training, Skills & Qualifications
- Volunteering, Job Tasters & Employment
- Financial Support (Clothes, Childcare, Travel)

ashton

Supporting North Belfast

For further information contact:

☎ 028 9074 2255

✉ belfastworks@ashtoncentre.com

📍 @BelfastWorksConnectAshtonCommunityTrust

Connecting People, Changing Lives



Funded By UK Government



Sailortown, Stella Maris and New Lodge Arts Collaboration

Star of the Sea Artwork

An artwork project reflecting the historical significance of the Sailortown area was publicly launched on the 5th September at St Joseph's Church and at the Stella Maris Hostel, Sailortown. The project was a collaboration between Stella Maris residents, Sailortown Regeneration Women's Group and young people from New Lodge Arts, co-ordinated by Radius Housing, and supported by the Arts Council NI. The artwork comprises a large ceramic triptych on the wall of the Stella Maris building as well as a number of smaller artwork pieces sited in St Joseph's Church, Stella Maris and Sailortown Regeneration office.

Bringing the Community Together

The project has brought the local community together and explored connections between the present and the past. Using art-based workshops, the project allowed the residents of Stella Maris to engage with the Sailortown Regeneration Group and community giving a common identity and sense of belonging. The historical significance of the area was discussed through personal reflection, imagery and stories. Ceramic workshops engaged local people from New Lodge Arts, Sailortown Regeneration Women's Group and Stella Maris residents. The maritime theme of the new artwork is consistent with a previous mosaic of St. Brendan crossing the Atlantic which had to be replaced as it was damaged.

History

As a dockland area Sailortown historically catered to the transient population of seafarers, located in the docks area north of Belfast City Centre, bordered by Henry Street, York Street and the Whitla Street dock gate. Garmoyle Street serves as Sailortown's main arterial road. At one time over 5,000 people lived between the dock and York Street. Visiting sailors from many European nations and from as far away as India and China added to the resident population.



Shared Reading Sessions at the Duncairn

We are relaunching our Tuesday night drop-in Shared Reading sessions in The Duncairn. Come along for an hour of great literature and conversation. It's always time well-spent.

Join in a discussion or listen with eyes closed - it's up to you.

There's no advance reading, no need to register and all sessions are free.

Please come along - and tell a friend!

Contact Marnie Reader in Residence 07971 568 573

Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts Antrim Rd /Duncairn Ave

www.theduncairn.com

www.facebook.com/stories.at.the.duncairn

www.thereader.org.uk

JOIN THE
READING
REVOLUTION



TRY SHARED READING

Mondays, 3 – 4 pm
Tuesdays, 7 – 8 pm

The Duncairn
cnr Duncairn Ave
& Antrim Rd BT14 6BP

Fridays, 2.30 – 3.30 pm
Belfast Central Library

Shared Reading groups bring people together to talk, laugh and share. Just drop in, grab a cuppa and enjoy listening to a story or poem – no pressure to talk or read.

Visit thereader.org.uk or call 0151 729 2200 to find out more.



Car Isteach
Dobachtanacha

TAR ISTEACH

IARCHIMÍ POBLACHTANACHA
REPUBLICAN EX-PRISONERS & FAMILY MEMBERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2.00PM

EVERYONE WELCOME - TÁ FÁILTE ROIMH GACH DUINE

[TAR ISTEACH, 244 ANTRIM RD BELFAST BT15 2JR](http://www.caristeach.org)

For Information Contact 02890746665: info@taristeach.org



Car Isteach
Dobachtanacha



Belfast City Council



The Executive Office
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



Housing Executive



Communities in Transition



Developing Relations with the Ulster University

Whilst most of Ashton's work with the Ulster University (UU) in recent years has focussed on tackling the various social, physical and environmental problems that the UU relocation has caused for local residents, we must also acknowledge that gradual progress has been made in building better understandings and relations with the UU. For example this year the University hosted an open night for local residents and were active partners in the New Lodge Community Festival, hosting a number of events. They have also offered support in terms of providing meeting and activity space as well as delivering training for the local community, the most recent being Culinary Master Class tutorials. Ashton will continue to build on these positives. The picture beside shows some participants in the Pantry Programme delivered by Ashton Centre attending a Culinary Masterclass with the Tutors from the Culinary Arts School at the Ulster University. Tuesday 19th September 2023.



Open Day in the Garden Grid at Henry Place

Community Event

This community festival event at the Henry Place Garden in August marked a milestone and demonstration for the Garden Grid and its volunteers who have been working since February to clean and clear the overgrown space and plant. Volunteers built a traditional clay oven used for cooking breads and pizzas. On the open day the garden volunteers turned their hands to providing over 50 traditional breads, pizzas and fruit to the families and crowd attending.

Fun Events

There was a wide series of fun events and educational activities: unusual "beasts and bugs" were roaming with their handlers, storytelling sessions at the growing beds and a secret garden. At Henry Street there are two beehives, local volunteers are now trained up bee keepers and demonstrated the hive workings. They are now producing local honey. Forage foods, Irish cheeses and homemade potato bread educated us about local food and tastes. The Men's Shed showed their crafts and gave children bird houses and bug hotels. RSBP, Groundwork and Council information stalls showcased their work and projects. The weather was kind, music and even dancing finished off the afternoon.

Energetic Volunteers

Key to the event was the energy of the garden volunteers who have transformed the space and hosted near endless supplies of delicious food from the fierce wood oven. Many volunteers are asylum seekers who had engaged in Ashton information services and networks, they wished to volunteer and give back.

Transformation Aim

The idea of the Garden Grid is that wasted spaces in Inner North Belfast can be transformed and managed for growing, education, volunteering and events. The hope and intention is that, with funding, more spaces can be transformed and more facilities and engagement with residents will occur.



Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2023

This year's Greater New Lodge Community Festival Programme was a resounding success with over 45 events taking place throughout the area. The festival was staged during a 10-day period in August and there really was something for everyone to enjoy. A wide range of community based activities including street parties, music, theatre, arts, literature, talks, debates, sports activities, exhibitions, tours, nature and gardening, health and family information events attracted large numbers of local people as well as visitors from near and far.

The festival is the product of the collective efforts of local community groups and activists working within the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (CEP). The Festival Organising Committee would like to acknowledge all of those involved in making this programme possible, including all of the local community groups and businesses that organised and hosted events. Here are just some of the images from the various festival events that took place.



Greater New Lodge Community Festival 2023



New Lodge Youth Centre Volunteer Week

Over the final week of July 2023 young people from New Lodge Youth Centre led a number of volunteering initiatives. The young people led the planning and implementation of these social actions working with those they identified as groups with whom they believed they could provide impactful engagement.

These groups included The Peoples Kitchen Belfast where the young people volunteered their time preparing food for their outreach team to make ready for distribution. Activities also included a community clean up in partnership with Newington Housing Association as well as a community leaflet drop providing information focusing on support mechanisms for families working with

pensioners and young people with disabilities. It also highlighted details about fun activities for both groups. 25 young people participated in the week of activities and the positive benefits and impacts both for themselves and for others was very evident. Sean McMullan - Senior Youth Worker



FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICE

Our Floating Support Service will provide support and assistance to families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Floating Support will support service users to obtain and sustain accommodation within the community in the long term.



Type Of Support We Can Offer:

- Securing and/or maintaining a tenancy.
- Transitioning to a new tenancy.
- Moving on from supported accommodation.
- Finding suitable accommodation.
- Applying for accommodation via social or private landlords.
- Understanding the terms of your tenancy - rights and responsibilities in partnership with your landlord.
- Support to maintain safety and security of dwelling.
- Support in setting up and maintaining home or tenancy.
- Support in managing finances, maximising income and accessing benefits.
- Signposting and accessing other support services.
- Support into education, employment, or training.

- Developing domestic/ daily living skills.
- Developing social skills.
- Support in establishing social contacts and activities within the community, to promote emotional well-being and alleviate social isolation.

Who Is Eligible To Apply:

- Men and women with dependent children.
- Require support to maintain your independence and tenancy.
- Be willing to engage with the service and the support provided.

How To Make A Referral:

T: 028 9075 2310

E: homelesservices@arkhousing.co.uk

This service is available to families living in the **Greater Belfast** area.

ashton
Supporting
North Belfast



NEW LODGE ARTS LITTLE LIBRARY

Lots of books available in our Little Library.

Take a book, leave a book, borrow a book?

Available to everyone.

Pop into our Studio at New Lodge Arts.



New Lodge Youth Centre Summer Scheme

In the summer of 2023 New Lodge Youth Centre provided a seven-week long summer programme for 150 young people of the Greater New Lodge area aged 5-18. The programme consisted of a summer scheme, residential work, group work, outreach provision in the community, community events, and young people volunteering. The centre would like to thank Newington Housing Association for supporting our summer programme and to the young leaders of the centre who dedicated so many hours over the summer months.



Are you aware that Ashton is on Facebook? You can follow us to find out what's happening. Additionally, we have established a Facebook Group where we regularly share information about our services. We invite you to follow us or join our Facebook Group to stay informed. Thank you.

facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust
facebook.com/groups/Ashton

New Lodge Housing Forum



Housing Office

We have witnessed a steady flow of local residents call to our office both to report on housing issues which are affecting them and to make enquiries of any progress regarding the tower blocks, the Upper Long Streets, Duncairn Parade and the various refurbishment schemes which are ongoing in the area.

Tower Blocks

Our forum have been meeting with senior Housing Executive reps, residents and politicians to discuss the problems the tower blocks are presenting. Although there is a strategy in the long term to demolish the flats, the reality is that there is simply no room to build alternative housing in the area which would accommodate the numbers of people who would be displaced. There are problems in some of the blocks regarding dampness and flooding. We met with Housing Executive reps at Maeve House where these problems are impacting on the



lives of tenants in such a negative way. A major decision will be made re the sealing of the roof and a solution will have to be found regarding water penetrating the exterior walls on a number of floors which is leading to a situation where water is running down the interior walls and causing damage to homes every time it rains. Other issues which were addressed were the securing of main entrances to a number of tower blocks.

There where a small number of incidents were anti social elements were causing problems at these points of entry. The issue of the bin shutes was also discussed regarding the state of cleanliness. An ongoing problem is the dumping of furniture and large items within the confines of the tower blocks. In the past we have dealt with situations where these items were removed and burned in the streets close by. We were given assurances that this issue would be resolved in both the short and medium term.

Upper Long Streets

There continues to be a large volume of issues which are connected to situations regarding the Upper Long Streets. We continue to run the clinic which deals with the Upper Long Streets the first and third Tuesday of each month between the hours of 11am and 1pm in our office at 23 New Lodge Road. We are hopeful that a definite date will be given regarding the vesting of the area. There have been delays as the civil servants requested further information from the Housing Executive and we are told that this information has been provided. It is almost two years since the announcement of the funding being made available to complete the last strand of redevelopment in this area. We are working with the Housing Executive regarding a number of young families who had to be moved because of the poor state of the condition of the houses. They have been moved to accommodation which suits their needs in the local area and beyond. We also worked



New Lodge Housing Forum

with the Housing Executive to ensure that all empty dwellings are steeled up asap as this discourages any gatherings of people who want to use these dwellings for the wrong reasons. The Housing Executive have also responded regarding the clearing of rubbish and old furniture from these houses once they are vacated.

Succession And Joint Tenancy

We have had a number of enquiries involving the issues of both succession and joint tenancy of properties in the area. We are appealing to tenants to ensure that at least one other person of the household is registered regarding the tenancy of the property and that both partners are named as tenants. The regulation will state that any person applying for joint tenancy or succession must have evidence that they have lived at the address for at least one year. This evidence includes producing items such as bank statements, hospital letters, contact with HMRC and any benefits being paid to the person who is applying for the succession or the joint tenancy.

Dumping Problems

There has been a rise in the number of incidents regarding the illegal dumping of rubbish in different parts of the area. We have had incidents of builders vans dumping material in the Carlisle Road area. There are other hotspots in the area and this is causing misery to the residents who live close to these dumping sites. We are aware a number of households have been fined by the City Council as evidence was gathered that they were responsible for this activity. There has also been an increase in the dumping of bulky items such as fridges and living room furniture. There is a service provided by the City Council which will remove these items. It is simply a matter of phoning and arranging the pick up. If you should wish assistance regarding this then call to our office or ring the Housing Worker on 07804506903 and he will provide the contact details for the Council. There have

also been complaints re: the presence of vermin in the area. Again the council and the H.E. can be contacted to deal with this situation.



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

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a number of complaints regarding a number of tenants who are involved with anti-social behaviour. These include incidents of continuous partying, loud noise and we have witnessed the rise in drug and alcohol related incidents. We will log any complaints which come to us at our office and we are also in contact with the safer streets group and Community Restorative Justice Ireland who are based on the New Lodge Road at the Pinkerton Complex. We are also in contact with the Housing Executive on a regular basis when we receive these complaints.

Welfare Clinic

Our welfare clinic remains busy as we witness the devastating effect the cost of living crisis is having on our community. We assist residents with the filling in of forms eg PIP and ESA. We organise the office in such a way that we need to make appointments for those who need our help regarding benefits. We have a weekly tie in with the food banks and assist those who are in need of food parcels etc.

If any residents need assistance regarding any housing matters or any of the issues mentioned here then please call to our office at 23 New Lodge Road or phone the Housing Worker Gerry O'Reilly on 07804506903

Locals Take A Stand Against Noisy Car Club

Car Club

For quite a while now residents in the general area of Lancaster Street close to York Street have been subjected to persistent problems caused by motorists who come under the general auspices of a so called Car Club. It seems that Car Clubs are made up of enthusiasts who form into a community or a group of people who share a common interest in motor vehicles. Whilst there may be nothing wrong with this concept in its own right, unfortunately in this instance people living close to the activities of the Car Club have been literally driven to despair by the mayhem and noise caused.

Public Protest

On the 19th September 2023, local residents living in the general area of Lancaster Street, along with political representatives and Belfast City Council officials attended the Car Club gathering at the North Side ParknRide Car Park at 26 Shipbuoy Street to show their opposition against the level of noise caused by those involved. The noise includes loud engine revving, exhaust backfiring, tyre and brake screeching, horn tooting, loud music blasting, etc. all leading to general upset for residents living close by.

Something Needs to Be Done

Cecilia Devlin is the Chairperson of the Lancaster Area Residents Group (LARG). She said, *"We are sick sore and tired of reporting this problem to the relevant authorities including the police. However up to now very little action has been taken to resolve the problem. Residents living here are close to the new University and various student accommodation tower blocks which have been built in recent years. It is no exaggeration to say that during these demolitions and constructions our lives have been turned upside down with all sorts of disruptions and inconveniences and now we have to put up with this. Something needs to be done to resolve matters. All we want is to live in peace and quiet, we don't think that is too much to ask"*.



Inaccurate and Abusive Online Comments Are Totally Out Of Order

Liam Wiggins Chairperson of the New Lodge Housing Forum who attended the Car Club protest in support of local residents has asked for the following statement to be publicised.

The residents protest on 19th September 2023 was held as a last resort because the statutory authorities are not fulfilling their responsibilities. The protest was both peaceful and respectful with residents simply asking for their right to live in peace and quiet to be respected. However since the protest, we have become aware of online comments made by people who do not live in the area and who are not directly affected by this. I feel that I must respond to some of these comments which were not only inaccurate but aggressive and abusive.

Foul language was used to describe at least one of our residents and she was told if the noise bothered her she should wear ear muffs. This is totally wrong, disrespectful and is no way to behave. Lies have also been told about police being heavy handed towards car drivers. There was no heavy handedness and that is the truth of the matter. In fact the only action by police was to hand out one single ticket to one of the drivers. Furthermore, those involved in the Car Club gathering on the night engaged with police at the scene in a cordial, friendly manner.

To be very clear about this, if there had been any aggression by the police then those involved in the protest, including myself, would have been the first to object and indeed to intervene. We have never supported police heavy handedness and we never will. It was also very evident that there was a strong smell of 'weed' which could be smelt even over the smell of heavy car fumes, perhaps this has clouded some peoples judgment and memory of the night in question.

We would ask the following question to those that think the Car Club is a good idea. What would you think if your own sick, elderly or very young relatives were subjected to this type of noise and upset on a regular nightly basis? Would you just put up with it and keep your mouth shut? The residents have every right to object and to protest and will not be intimidated by keyboard warriors on the internet. Residents in this area already have had to put up with too much disruption and upset in recent years, including huge demolitions and building works happening day and night, right on their doorstep. It really is time for people to give this some thought, do the right thing and stop adding to the problem.

Liam Wiggins

Lancaster Area Residents Group (LARG)

New Website

The building of the new Ulster University Campus at York Street has undoubtedly regenerated and brought back to life what was once a run-down and desolate part of the city. The area is now much more vibrant with far greater activity and social interaction taking place. However in the process of creating the new campus those residents living in the immediate vicinity of the new constructions have been plagued with problems. Excessive noise, dust and dirt pollution, rodent infestation, road and street closures, night works, traffic and parking problems, cleansing and maintenance issues, anti-social behaviour, high buildings overshadowing homes leading to the loss of sunlight as well as TV signal and internet have been just some of the disruptive impacts.

Neighbourhood Forum

In response to these problems Ashton Community Trust created a Neighbourhood Forum to enable engagement and communications systems and to provide continual interaction between the local community and UU officials, student union representatives, building contractors, student accommodation providers and statutory agencies. Community representation on this forum includes Lancaster Area Resident Group (LARG), Ashton Community Trust, New Lodge Housing Forum and New Lodge Safer Streets Committee. As time has moved on the Neighbourhood Forum has become ever more active in seeking solutions to problems affecting residents. The Forum is also exploring how social and economic benefits are to be provided for residents in the immediate and longer term. This is particularly important when we consider the life changes that local residents have had to adapt to and the disruption that they have had to endure.

Improving Community Communications

Following a recent community-led survey of the area facilitated by Ashton Community Trust, we arranged for the design of a new resident's website. Thanks to funding from Newington Housing Association the website is now operational. The LARG website will deliver a greater means of communications and information share for local people. It will also provide residents with a stronger voice in raising issues and in making decisions about matters that affect their everyday lives.

The website includes a live local 'Issue Map' that pin points ongoing issues that are affecting local residents by providing information, location and photos of current problems or concerns. The website has compiled a range of 'Useful Links' to organisations and agencies that will be useful to residents for reporting and signposting purposes.

A leaflet drop outlining all the relevant details about the website has been delivered to all homes in the Lancaster area. Website: www.largbelfast.com and email: largbelfast@gmail.com



Ashton, Health & Wellbeing



The last few months in Ashton Bridge of Hope have been a time of development and continued service delivery. Our team have been working hard to support the needs of those looking for support wherever possible. The team work hard to support those most in need in whatever way they can and to be adaptable and flexible to meet the needs of those who contact in whatever way they can.

Our Health & Wellbeing Caseworkers continued to meet victims and survivors to identify their needs and provide support both within Ashton, Bridge of Hope services and to external suppliers if appropriate. This support has proved invaluable to the individuals who have been able to access support to help meet their physical, psychological and emotional needs.

Bridge of Hope's Talking Therapy service has continued to be in demand from individuals impacted by poor mental health, suicide and self-harm and by the conflict. We are proud to be able to support those in need by offering BACP-accredited counselling support within our clinics in Alliance Avenue, McSweeney Centre, Henry Place and the Ashton Centre. Our therapy rooms offer a safe and comfortable environment where individuals can be free to talk about their personal challenges.

Ashton, Bridge of Hope is one of the Victims & Survivors Groups to be able to offer support to individual victims and survivors eligible to apply for the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme. Our Pension Welfare Officers work with individuals impacted by a permanent disablement caused by a conflict-related incident to help prepare their applications. During the last few months, we have seen our referrals for this service increase and are pleased to be able to provide this support.

As has always been the case Complementary Therapies continue to be in demand. These sessions of massage, reflexology and

aromatherapy are very popular with our service users. This service supports victims & survivors, and those impacted by suicide and self-harm and is delivered from our clinics at McSweeney Centre and Alliance Avenue.

At the start of September Ashton, Bridge of Hope started delivery of our VTCT Accredited Training in Reflexology and Swedish Body Massage. This year as well as welcoming 8 victims and survivors onto each of these programmes we were able to start delivery of a second programme in Swedish Body Massage through funding from the Communities in Transition Programme. All of these programmes proved very popular and we have already begun to collate the names of individuals interested in completing the programme in 2024.

As well as this training we have been delivering a range of personal development workshops. Victims and survivors have been engaged in training across a range of subject areas, including menopause awareness, candle making, stress management, homeopathy and sleep hygiene. Thanks to funding from the Victims and Survivors service we have many more programmes scheduled for the next few months.

If you or someone you know could benefit from accessing some of our services please give one of our team a ring on 028 9074 2255. No matter who answers the phone we guarantee a warm welcome and a helping hand to get you the support you need.

Have you been impacted by The Troubles/Conflict?

- Have you been **physically or psychologically injured** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident?
- Were you **bereaved** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident?
- Do you **regularly care** for someone who has been injured as a result of a conflict related incident?
- Did you **witness** a conflict related incident or the consequences of such an incident?
- Did you provide **medical or other emergency assistance** to an individual in connection with a conflict related incident?

You are entitled to
Health & Wellbeing Support
and you may be entitled to
The Troubles Permanent Disablement Pension

Contact

For Health & Wellbeing Caseworker support:	For The Troubles Permanent Disablement Pension:
Emma - 07456532684 Tony - 07553100509	Ciaran - 07826689272 Ronan- 07769374807

ashton
Bridge of Hope

VSS
Victims & Survivors Service

Bridge Of Hope Upcoming Training October - December 2023



Ashton, Bridge of Hope are offering a range of training programmes over the coming months. If you are interested in attending any of these please email our Training Coordinator, Mary Stanton at mary@ashtoncentre.com.

Menopause Wellness Workshop “Harmony Through Change” 25/10/2023 - Ashton Centre 10am - 4pm

Discover your power through menopause at our transformative Menopause Wellness Workshop! Join us for an empowering journey of self-discovery, education, and community. Led by experienced facilitators in women’s health, stress management and menopause, our workshop provides a safe space to explore the physical, emotional, and mental aspects of menopause. Learn practical strategies to manage symptoms, enhance well-being, and connect with a vibrant community of women. Embrace this transformative phase with grace, confidence, and vitality.

“Take 5 Steps to Improved Mental Health and Wellbeing” 22/11/2023 - Ashton Centre 10am - 4pm

This Workshop offers a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to enhancing mental wellbeing. This workshop provides invaluable insights and practical tools to support your mental health journey. Join us as we explore the five key steps that have been proven to impact mental wellbeing positively. You’ll gain a deep understanding of strategies for managing stress, fostering resilience, and cultivating a positive mindset through engaging presentations, interactive exercises, and group discussions. Our expert facilitators will share the latest research and expert guidance, empowering you to make meaningful changes in your life. Take this important step towards prioritising your mental health by attending the Take 5 Steps to Improved Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshop today. Invest in yourself and unlock your full potential for a happier and healthier future.

Candle making and Affirmation workshop “Lighting your Inner Flame.” 01/12/2023 & 08/12/2023 - FABLAB Ashton Centre - 10am - 12pm

Ignite your creativity and kindle your spirit at our enchanting Candle Making and Affirmation workshop! In this delightful hands-on experience, you’ll learn the art of candle and wax melt making, from selecting the finest ingredients to infusing your creations with your unique intentions. Guided by expert candle artisans, you’ll delve into a world of colours, scents, and waxes, letting your imagination run wild as you make your personalised candles.

But that’s not all!

We’ll also immerse ourselves in affirmations—a powerful tool for self-growth and transformation. Together, we’ll delve into the realm of positive self-talk and learn how affirmations can reshape our mindset, boost our confidence, and attract abundance into our lives.

Leave with your handmade candles that will infuse your surroundings with warmth, serenity, and a newfound appreciation for the incredible power of affirmations.

**No prior experience is needed; you only need an open heart and a curious spirit.
Get ready to ignite your inner flame!**



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
mary.stanton@ashtoncentre.com

<https://bridgeofhope.support/>

www.ashtoncentre.com

Newington Housing Association's Brian Mullan Community Fund

The health & wellbeing of people living in the local communities in North Belfast is extremely important to us, in Newington Housing Association. The Brian Mullan Community Fund has been designed to support organisations and projects that promote inclusion, strengthen communities, and improve individual lives.

We therefore are seeking to invest in activities that have a significant and positive social impact for all. The Brian Mullan Community Fund aims to support voluntary and community organisations that are currently operating within North Belfast, to deliver a programme or one-off project for residents.

Our total funding pot is £10,000. All applications will be considered in line with the criteria outlined below. In previous years applications have been supported that help foodbanks, Christmas events, mental health and wellbeing, social isolation and sport.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for financial support ranging from £250 to £1,000, from the Brian Mullan Community Fund, please contact our Community Engagement Officer, Sadie Reid on 028 9074 4055 or email s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk

Any voluntary and community organisations wishing to apply must:

- be based within North Belfast or
- intend to deliver their proposed project within the North Belfast area.

Applications are available on request. All completed applications must be submitted via email or delivered to Newington Housing Association, 300 Limestone Road, Belfast, BT15 3AR by 12:00pm Friday 3rd November 2023

Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub

It has now 8 years since Ashton Community Trust was awarded the lead for the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub. Since August 24th 2015, Ashton Community Trust has been co-ordinating and receiving referrals and working to connect families to the services they need at a time when they need them throughout North Belfast.

Early Intervention

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 and this includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services.

A Range of Services

The Family Support Hub can work with your family to deal with challenging behaviour of your child or young person by providing one-one family support in the home setting and can also work with your son or daughter to help manage their emotions and provide strategies to deal with low level anxiety. There are also services available to provide young people with mentoring support especially if they are socially isolated or dealing with bullying or anxiety. There are also services available through the Hub to support families in financial

Ashton Early Intervention Family Support Project

In September 2019 Ashton was fortunate to receive funding from Belfast Charitable Society to provide a 1-1 Family support service that would take referrals directly from both Family Support Hubs in North Belfast. This was the most demanded service through Hub referrals and it is a fabulous asset to the suite of services we can offer to families. The funding also allows the team to provide supermarket vouchers to families who accepted services through the Hub but also were experiencing financial difficulties.

The two team members are able to support your family to deal with challenging behaviour of children and young people, emotional health and wellbeing of your family or any issue within the family setting that is causing you concern.

Should you wish to avail of this service please contact Caroline or Alanna by email at caroline.mcilwee@ashtoncentre.com or alana.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com

stress, including debt management and budgeting. We are aware that with the increase in household bills that families may be struggling so please reach out if you need help.

Referrals

Any adult family member can refer themselves and their family to the Hub simply by completion of a referral form. The Co-ordinator of the Hub will then contact you in order to help match appropriate services to your family's needs. And your information will only be shared with the organisations who you feel will be of help to your family.

There is now no need for families to struggle through life's difficulties because the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub is here to help through these times and work in partnership with families to improve outcomes for all the people who live in Lower North Belfast.

Contact

Should you have any queries about the Hub or should you wish to refer your family to the Hub please contact Edith McManus, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub Co-ordinator at the Ashton Centre 02890 749986.

Newington Housing Association

Welfare advice

In partnership with Tar Isteach and the North Belfast Advice Partnership, Newington HA are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Welfare Advice Officer for the area. Kathleen McGarvock will be based in the Tar Isteach Office 244 Antrim Road, Monday and Tuesday and anyone wishing to make an appointment can do so by calling 02890 746 664.

Each Wednesday Kathleen will be in the Newington Housing Office, 300 Limestone Road. This service is free and available for all Newington tenants and the wider community. If you require an appointment on Wednesday's, please contact the office on 02890 744 055. If you are a Newington tenant and need to book an appointment, you can book directly with your Housing Officer at the same number.

Newington Tenant Forum

Are you a Newington tenant and would like to be actively involved in our Tenant Forum? If so, please join the forum which meets on a monthly basis to discuss housing, community issues and plan events. For further information please contact Newington's Community Engagement Officer Sadie Reid on 028 90744 055 or s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk

Newington's Student Bursary 2023: Now Open

The aim of the bursary programme is to provide financial assistance to tenants or other family members (as part of their household) aged 18 or over entering a third level or higher-level educational course either on a full- or part-time basis.

Students must show evidence of having been enrolled and accepted on a course. The bursary will be payable for the duration on the course, renewed on an annual basis.

The award of bursary shall be deposited into the recipient's credit union account. Any applicant who does not currently have a Credit Union account will be requested to open one, prior to payment being released.

The bursary recipients will be determined by a lottery draw and the decision of the Association is final. Successful applicants will be required to take part in publicity or promotional events.

If you would like to apply for a Student Bursary or require any additional information, please contact our Community Engagement Officer, Sadie Reid on 028 9074 4055 or s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk

Applications must be submitted to Newington Housing Association Ltd, 300 Limestone Road, Belfast, BT15 3AR, or emailed directly to s.reid@newingtonha.co.uk by 12:00 noon on Friday, 20th October 2023.

Mobile Graffiti Unit (Bus)

PBNI currently work in partnership with Belfast City Council to remove graffiti using a mobile graffiti unit (Bus). We work together to remove graffiti from Council owned property and from private property with the owner's signed permission. In the case of contentious or offensive graffiti PBNI cannot be involved in the removal of this and the responsibility for this removal lies with the council solely. We are also unable to remove graffiti from some bridges as these fall under the department of infrastructure not covered by current arrangements.

Any referrals/requests for removal of graffiti need to go through the below centralised system and then the jobs are allocated to PBNI through this.

Report a street cleaning issue (belfastcity.gov.uk)



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)

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

DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT SERVICES

BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST AREA

Date of publication: 2022

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this directory at time of print, we do not accept any responsibility or liability for any errors. It is recommended that you always check directly with providers that their service or organisation meets your requirements. Where any specific organisation or service is mentioned by name or otherwise this does not necessarily constitute or imply any endorsement or recommendation by NIDACTs or PHA of that organisation or service.

This publication can also be downloaded from 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](#)

BHSCT 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](#)

Inspire Wellbeing Addiction Services

Tel: 028 9066 4434

Dunlewey 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](#)

BHSCT

Tel: 028 9504 2900

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 HSCT area visit:

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 9032 5786

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

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 to Cope/ Hidden Harm

For young people aged 11-25 who have been impacted by parental substance use and mental health problems.

[Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted](#)

ASCERT

Tel: 0800 2545123

www.stepstocope.co.uk

stc@ascert.biz

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

www.start360.org

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](#)

BHSCT

Tel: 028 9504 0365

Specific Groups

Needle and Syringe Exchange Sites

Maguire Pharmacy

3 Beechmount Avenue

Tel: 028 9032 0590

Chemist Connect

59 High Street

Tel: 028 9023 1002

Street Injecting Support Service (SISS) (inc. needle exchange)

Extern

Tel: 080 0085 8426

Removal of Drug Related Litter (Needle Finds)

Belfast City Council

Tel: 028 9027 0469

BHSCT Drug Outreach Team (inc. needle exchange)

Tel: 028 9504 1433

Group Support

Call or go online to find a meeting near you:

Alcoholics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

Tel: 028 9035 1222

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

AlAnon

Group Support for Family Members

Tel: 028 9068 2368

www.al-anonuk.org.uk

Alateen

Group Support for Teenagers

Tel: 028 9068 2368

www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen

Narcotics Anonymous

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

Tel: 0300 365 1010

www.na-northernireland.org

Community/Stakeholder Support

Belfast Drug & Alcohol Coordination Team/ Connections Service (BDACT 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

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

In Crisis? Call **Lifeline**

FREE 24/7 HELPLINE
0808 808 8000