



**Housing**  
Executive



**Supporting<sup>™</sup>  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

20<sup>TH</sup>

**1999 - 2019**

ANNUAL  
**COMMUNITY**  
CONFERENCE

**Celebrating 20 years of  
resilient communities**

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# HOUSING EXECUTIVE CHAIR'S FOREWORD



I am delighted to present this edition of the Housing Community Network Output Report. The theme this year is Resilient Communities, and I believe that it is only right that we should look back over the past year in order to appreciate and take stock of all that has been achieved.

When we take into consideration the challenges and difficult circumstances that organisations in the community, voluntary and social enterprise sector encounter year-on-year, it is easy to underestimate how strong and hardy our community organisations are.

Over the years the Housing Executive has strived to empower our partner communities, to give them a voice so that their interests can be represented, to share their concerns and to help build a society that has that ability to speak and stand up for itself. A resilient community is one that has the capability to come together in the face of adversity, and one that has the knowledge and the ability to challenge and drive change for the better. In an ever-evolving world it is vitally important, now more than ever before, that we have champions within our communities who can stand up and be counted.

This document includes Area Output Reports and provides local examples of partnerships between the Housing Executive and the communities that we work with. We do this through our shared continued focus on community involvement, community safety, community cohesion and social enterprise. It is very evident from the figures included in this document that throughout the last year you have faced head on many challenges, and you have been able to provide your community with the tools needed to tackle these issues.

It is fantastic to see from this publication what has been achieved in each area, whether this relates to the figures for how many Housing Community Network meetings were held, how much money has been invested in each community, and how many actions have been taken to enhance community safety, community involvement, community cohesion or social

enterprise. These actions are testament to how resilient you are. The commitment that you provide to your community does not and should not go unnoticed.

I am delighted to be able to report a high level of involvement by our tenants and residents in helping us to build strong, cohesive and vibrant communities. I would like to add a special word of thanks to our Housing Community Network, Central Housing Forum, Disability Forum, Youth Forum and Rural Forum members and, of course, Supporting Communities for their commitment over the past year. It is evident that your valuable contributions of time and insight have an important impact on your communities and wider society.

Thank you all for your hard work, commitment and unwavering resilience in helping us to deliver the best possible services for our tenants and other people. We anticipate that the next year will bring some additional challenges, and that your resilience and spirit will surely be tested, but together we stand united to face these trials and this will help us to shape and deliver our services. By working together we continue to progress towards our aim of ensuring that all our communities are sustainable, now and in the future.

PROFESSOR PETER ROBERTS  
Chair

# CENTRAL HOUSING FORUM CHAIR'S FOREWORD



Another extremely busy year has passed for members of the Central Housing Forum where we continued to challenge and lobby the Housing Executive on their role as a landlord for tenants and communities across

Northern Ireland. It should also be remembered that much of the work and interests of the Central Housing Forum have been impacted by the uncertainties following the collapse of the Stormont Executive and Assembly and the apparent lack of progress on the Social Housing Reform programme. Ongoing work alongside the Housing Executive ensures positive development of their business/services and influence of policies and procedures for the benefit of local communities.

Our involvement with the Housing Executive has led to influencing vital matters such as Welfare Reform, the Community Involvement Strategy 2018-23 as well as changes to policies and procedures. During the past year we have set up various Working Groups to address other important thematic areas such as; Social Clauses & Social Enterprise, Digital Inclusion & Website Development, Customer Service Excellence (CSE) and Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues on the Central Housing Forum for their time and commitment over the past year and also thank those who have stepped down during the year. This included long serving members; Rosemary McCaw, Les Nelson and William Smith. By the same token, we welcomed new members who have come on board over the past year including; Leanne Reid, Harry Smith, Gerry O'Reilly, Sheila McWilliams and Ian Cox.

Community representatives continue to occupy the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Central Housing Forum; we are both extremely honoured to have held these positions during the past year and we thank our fellow representatives for their support and their contributions over the year. We also acknowledge the support and guidance of Supporting Communities as well as the continuing role played by Housing Executive members of staff who attended and serviced our meetings during the past 12 months.

Over the forthcoming year we aim to strengthen all tiers of the Housing Community Network in our goal of creating sustainable, vibrant and inclusive communities along with Supporting Communities and the Housing Executive.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Watson".

LINDA WATSON  
Chair

# CENTRAL HOUSING FORUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019



### Central Housing Forum Members 2018/2019

Mid & East Antrim	Currently Vacant
South	Phyllis Abraham
West	Linda Watson
South Antrim	Mark Cooper
South & East Belfast	Harry Smith
West Belfast & Shankill	Renee Crawford, Ian McLaughlin
North Belfast	Gerry O'Reilly
South West	Siobhan McDermott
Causeway	Sheila McWilliams
North Down & Ards	Ian Cox
Lisburn & Castlereagh	Leanne Reid
South Down	Valerie Rooney
Rural Residents Forum	Patricia McQuillan
Disability Forum	Isabelle Hamilton
NI Youth Forum	Amanda Stewart
Housing Executive	Ian McCrickard, Denise Conlon, Connor Smith, Chris Davis, Naoimh McFall
Supporting Communities	Colm McDaid, Darragh O'Neill

The Central Housing Forum was involved in many pieces of work throughout the last year. Noted below are a selection of key areas of work in which we were involved:

#### Social Housing Reform Programme:

Central members continued to express concern that the Programme has not made expected progress most notably following the collapse of the Assembly and Executive at Stormont.

#### Central Housing Forum Housing Manifesto:

The Central Housing Forum have reviewed the manifesto we produced some years ago outlining the key policy requests of the Housing Community Network, including the desire to see the Housing Executive back building houses once again. We continue to keep these key issues under review and will refresh our Manifesto.

#### Review of the Housing Executive's Community Involvement Strategy:

The Central Housing Forum has been actively involved in the implementation of this crucial strategy and will continue to review it on an ongoing basis.

#### Community Conference:

The 'Make an Impact' 2018 Conference proved to be a tremendous success with almost 300 delegates in attendance. The Conference Working Group made up of Central Members and supported by staff from Housing Executive and Supporting Communities have been meeting on a regular basis to plan this year's annual conference under the theme of 'The HCN Journey: Celebrating 20 Years of Resilient Communities' marking the 20th anniversary of the community conference.

#### Strategic Forums:

Central members continued to be represented on the various Strategic Forums including; the Disability Forum, Rural Forum, Youth Forum and the Strategic Cohesion Forum. Monthly reports and updates were provided to all Central HF members on each of these forums.

#### Working Groups

The Central Housing Forum members shared representation on a range of Working Groups including; CTOS Working Group, Welfare Reform Working Group, Response & Planned Maintenance Working Group, Social Clauses and Enterprise Working Group, Community Conference Working Group, Digital Inclusion Working Group and the Cavity Wall Research Group. The Working Groups meet over and above the monthly Central HF meetings where feedback from each working group is provided.

# CENTRAL HOUSING FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

## Engagement Session with the Housing Executive Board:

The Central Housing Forum continued to engage directly with the Chairman and Board of the Housing Executive enjoying frank and open discussions on a range of issues including; Tower Block Strategy; Social Clauses and Social Enterprise; Planned Schemes; Health and Wellbeing of tenants; Youth Homelessness; Digital Inclusion and website development

## Housing Executive's Website

Central Housing Forum members have been involved in the newly developed Housing Executive Website in order to make it as user friendly as possible. A view from community representatives is essential as many local community members are frequent users of the website.

## Categories of Work:

The Central Housing Forum continued to meet on a monthly basis, alternating between the offices of the Housing Executive in Belfast and Supporting Communities in Ballymena. In addition to some of the key areas of work highlighted above, the work of the Central Housing Forum could be described as falling into 3 main categories:

- **Information:** where the Housing Executive ensured members were kept informed of relevant changes in policy or operational matters.
- **Consultation:** where members were asked for their views on a range of policies or topics.
- **Participation:** where members actively participated in making a difference.

## Information:

Members were kept up to date or provided with presentations on the following issues:

- Business Benefits of Community Involvement and Tenant involvement in Governance
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Social Clauses and Social Enterprise
- Digital Inclusion
- Rural Housing
- Co-ownership Customer Engagement
- Build Yes and Transformation Updates
- Supporting Communities Funding Information Updates
- Housing Executive Social Enterprise Strategy
- CTOS Survey
- Termination of Introductory Tenancies and Sustaining Tenancies
- Welfare Reform/Universal Credit
- Customer Service Excellence
- Housing Executive Service Channels Project
- Tower Block Project
- Housing Executive Peace IV Projects
- Fire Safety in the Home Environment
- Social Housing Enterprise Overview

## Consultation:

Consultation took place on the following topics:

- Rethinking Social Housing Project - CIH Consultation
- Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy Update
- Department for Communities - The Future of the House Sales Schemes
- Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy
- Community Safety/ASB Strategy
- Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy

## Participation:

- The Disability Forum, Rural Forum, Youth Forum, CTOS Working Group, Products Working Group, Welfare Reform Working Group, Social Clauses and Enterprise Working Group, Community Conference Working Group, Digital Inclusion Working Group and the Cavity Wall Research Group
- Review of the Housing Executive's Community Involvement Strategy
- Review of the Housing Executive's Website

On behalf of the Central Housing Forum Members, myself and Patricia very much look forward to another busy and interesting year for the Central Housing Forum.

Linda Watson  
(Chairperson CHF)

Patricia McQuillan  
(Vice Chairperson CHF)

# THROUGH THE YEARS

Recognise any faces?













# NORTH BELFAST

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Limestone United Cross Community Football Team and World United Multi-cultural Football Team came together at Girdwood Community Hub. This event in North Belfast on 7th January 2018 started the Housing Executive supported the United Together Project which aimed to create long term friendships between participants of both grass roots projects.

School children give seal of approval to re-imaging of walls outside Hazelwood Integrated Primary School.

New Beginnings and Westland Community Group recently achieved their level one certificates in community capacity building. Our partners Supporting Communities delivered this training and the Housing Executive supported the accreditation fees as part of a wider project under the North Belfast Community Grant funding stream.

# NORTH BELFAST

AREA REPORT



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£19,620**

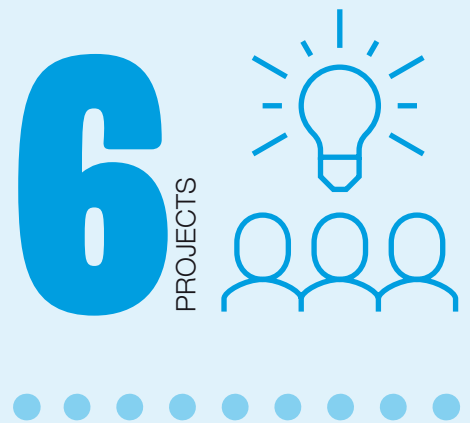


## COMMUNITY COHESION

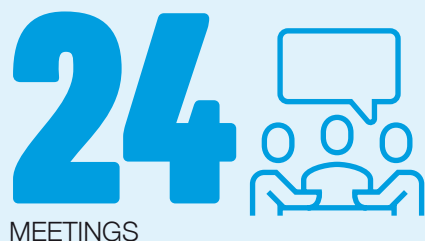
**£61,693**

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**18** PROJECTS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£71,987**

FUNDING AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

**£45,966**

FUNDING AWARDED



# SOUTH & EAST BELFAST

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Supported through Community Cohesion, Ballynaveigh Cultural Group delivered a cross community project which focused on historical links between the Northern Irish and Polish communities mainly focusing on the role of the Polish Armed Forces in the Second World War.

Supported through Community Cohesion, Réalta na Cromóige delivered a project that allowed members of the local community to undertake IFA football coaching and the opportunity for coaches to obtain an IFA coaching badge.

Supported through Community Cohesion, Annadale Haywood Resident's Association delivered an inclusive play project that fostered friendships, improved community cohesion and brought children together. The children that participated in this project were from different race/religious backgrounds and had a range of abilities.

# SOUTH & EAST BELFAST

AREA REPORT



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£19,398**



## COMMUNITY COHESION

**£66,673**

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**12**

PROJECTS

**7**

PROJECTS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

**120**

MEETINGS

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£47,300**

FUNDING AWARDED



**23**

PARTNERSHIPS

## COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

**£22,634**

FUNDING AWARDED



# WEST BELFAST

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Young people from the Falls Road in West Belfast were able to gain an OCN in photography. The project involved a partnership between the Women's Centre and Cara Friend. Sixteen young people took part in the project and were able to work on exploring different topics which they felt strongly about, for example gender and marriage equality. They were also able to increase confidence in themselves by communicating with one another about issues that they may not have opened up about before.

The Housing Executive recently supported Corpus Christi ABC through funding the purchase of a boxing ring. The club has a membership of over 100 people across the community including a large number of young people. The club offers the opportunity for these young people to learn how to box and improve their physical and mental well-being in a safe and controlled environment.

This was a four-week project which involved the famous Fortnite Dance and Shoot programme. The programme has become a craze for young people and the group felt it would be a good catalyst to engage with young people in the area. The focus of the programme was to come together, build relationships with one another and also encourage physical activity. There were around 70 young people involved in the project.

# WEST BELFAST

AREA REPORT

6

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£18,879

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£146,775

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

24

PROJECTS

10

PROJECTS



COMMUNITY LETS

## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

39

MEETINGS



5

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£76,099

FUNDING AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£88,465

FUNDING AWARDED



# LISBURN/CASTLEREACH

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Memories Revisited, with Hillhall Regeneration Group's Sunset Dollies, wanted to develop some new skills and something not the norm for a senior citizens group. They started up 20 years ago with 4 members and there are now 25 active members from the local community. The group worked on making prints and sculptures and they really exceeded the communities and indeed their own expectations with the success of their work.

A Social Housing Enterprise Programme supported event, saw the opening of The Welcome House (Resurgam Trust-Lisburn) whose primary aim is to create an inclusive and safe community which welcomes all regardless of difference.

Ballymacash Regeneration Network delivered a wellbeing project which addressed both physical and mental wellness within the community. This programme was delivered over a five month period and included many events such as self-empowerment workshops, zumba, coffee and connect mornings, flower arranging, art workshops and relaxation technique sessions.

# LISBURN/CASTLEREACH

AREA REPORT



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£15,265**



## COMMUNITY COHESION

**£16,862**

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**6**

PROJECTS

**13**

PROJECTS

## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

**17**

MEETINGS



**6**

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£39,878**

FUNDING AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

**£8,676**

FUNDING AWARDED



# SOUTH ANTRIM

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Launch of the Portrush Flyer by Monkstown Community Association. Local kids attended a workshop with the artist and were invited to the official launch.

Under the theme of re-imagining the Bawnmore Residents Association engaged with the local community, young people, Clanmill, Choice and Radius housing to create and develop a community mural on the 140ft wall at Toys R Us at Bawnmore Avenue, Newtownabbey.

The Neillsbrook Community Development Group hosted a Health and Well-Being day in the community. This incorporated a mental health talk; pharmacy health checks and a healthy snack available throughout the day. This catered for the whole community.

# SOUTH ANTRIM

AREA REPORT

5

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£20,130

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£15,910

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

18

PROJECTS

9

PROJECTS



9

COMMUNITY LETS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

21

MEETINGS



5

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£1,000

FUNDING  
AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£41,000

FUNDING AWARDED



# MID & EAST ANTRIM

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Carrickfergus Rugby Football Club's cohesion supported project involved children and young people from Carrickfergus and helped them to engage in cultural crafts.

Young people from Carrickfergus and Larne on the final trip of the For Your Freedom & Ours Shared History Educational Campaign, as part of Peace IV Local Area Networks visit to the Ulster Aviation Society.

Friends of the Somme group wanted to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Air Force. The project has had a positive impact, bringing everyone within the community together. The event held discussions around the sacrifices made by airmen/women and communities during the First and Second World War.

# MID & EAST ANTRIM

AREA REPORT

4

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£11,797

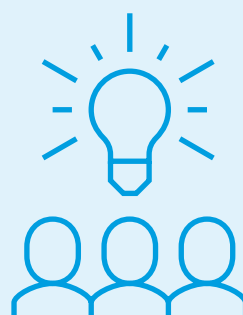
## COMMUNITY COHESION

£21,630

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

9  
PROJECTS

8  
PROJECTS



6

COMMUNITY LETS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

9

MEETINGS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£8,100

FUNDING  
AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£59,157

FUNDING AWARDED



17



PARTNERSHIPS

# CAUSEWAY

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Armooy Community Association's Community Cohesion project supported by the Housing Executive, promoted the launch of Miniversity, which was a unique cross community programme that allowed children from different schools to learn about the vast variety of different careers available in a fun and interesting way whilst building on their IT skills.

As part of The Craic in the Glack Community Festival there was sports training held, that promoted a healthy lifestyle whilst also having fun.

A cross community event that promoted participation in the Coleraine 50+ Forum and encouraged other groups to engage in charity work.

# CAUSEWAY

## AREA REPORT



### COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£19,818**

### COMMUNITY COHESION

**£39,432**  
INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**15** PROJECTS

**9** PROJECTS




### INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

**12** MEETINGS



**6** PARTNERSHIPS



### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£5,000**

FUNDING  
AWARDED



### COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

**£5,000**  
FUNDING AWARDED



# WEST

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Members of Clady Community Group including staff and volunteers and three local church leaders attending the launch of the Clady Cross Community Festival 10K run at the cutting of the official tape.

Caw Nelson Drive Action Group working with the Healthy Kidz social enterprise staff and two local cross community primary schools, delivering community cohesion and cross community "Healthy Kidz" programmes over a 12 week period, encouraging primary school children to take part in and enjoy more healthy physical activities on a day to day basis.

Local youth club members of the Fountain estate working with local artists as part of the New Gate Cross Community Festival spraying musical symbols onto a wall at the side of their new North West Cultural Partnership Band Forum premises.

# WEST

## AREA REPORT

**18** HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£20,280**

### COMMUNITY COHESION

**£154,947**

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**40** PROJECTS

**6** PROJECTS



**24** COMMUNITY LETS

### INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

**10**

MEETINGS



**3** PARTNERSHIPS



### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£111,919**

FUNDING AWARDED



### COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

**£41,115**

FUNDING AWARDED



# MID ULSTER

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

The Housing Executive in partnership with Howard Street Primary School worked with artist Fiona Stewart's to form the Bohemian Tree Design. She worked with Year 5 pupils from Howard Primary School to transform a piece of wall on the site of the former linen mill café, now known as Apple Jacks. The project was aimed at re-imaging a very unsightly wall near the school and replacing it with a more positive and educational image that shows the history of the Linen Mill industry in Moygashel.

Derrytresk Community Group used support from the Housing Executive's Community Grant Scheme to run a First Aid Course over two days in the local community centre. The funding from the Housing Executive was used to bring in a First Aid instructor to train 12 residents in the rural area. Parents, sports coaches and local youth club staff all found the training to be invaluable and are now more confident in responding to an emergency situation.

The Housing Executive supported Culnady Rural Development Group and local artist Fiona Stewart to bring people of all ages together to reimagine an area that had been blighted by antisocial graffiti. Children from the local primary school, youth groups and clubs worked with senior citizens to create stunning pieces of art that really captures the spirit of the village.

# MID ULSTER

AREA REPORT

5

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£19,250

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£53,519

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

25

PROJECTS

14



PROJECTS



2

COMMUNITY LETS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

14

MEETINGS



5

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£2,000

FUNDING  
AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£11,000

FUNDING AWARDED



# NORTH DOWN & ARDS

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

East End Resident's Association delivered a "For Your Freedom and Ours" project supported by the Housing Executive that explored the history of the Polish squadron of pilots who were fighting for the freedom of people in Northern Ireland during the Second World War.

Ballywalter Community Association's Community Cohesion project supported by the Housing Executive has brought people of different backgrounds and ages together to re-image a mural in the village's Peace and Memorial Garden.

Hollywood Residents Association's Hollywood Walk of Fame, Community Cohesion project supported by the Housing Executive, helped to transform one of the town's subways. The colourful artwork took 5 months to complete and involved bringing youth groups across Hollywood together.

# NORTH DOWN & ARDS

AREA REPORT

4

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£16,322

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£70,776

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

15

PROJECTS

7

PROJECTS



16

COMMUNITY LETS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

18

MEETINGS



6

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£49,500

FUNDING AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£13,334

FUNDING AWARDED



# SOUTH DOWN

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Carnagat Community Association's Community Cohesion project, supported by the Housing Executive, held a series of events throughout the summer to engage with young people in the local area. This project helped families and young people to overcome isolation during the long summer break.

Gawn Rowan Hamilton, John Lynas and Charlie Rowan Hamilton from Killyleagh Community Association with Housing Executive Good Relations Officer Sean Brennan at the opening of the Killyleagh Summer Festival. The Community Cohesion project supported by the Housing Executive held at Killyleagh Castle had something for everyone and was attended by around 5,000 people.

The Community Safety funded 'Respect' project, supported by the Housing Executive, teaches young people about the devastating consequences that crime and ASB have on their health, safety, well-being and on their communities. Topics covered include gangs, guns, knife crime, criminal damage, substance misuse, hate crime and bullying. 'Respect' involves young people in real decisions to help them stay safe in & out of the classroom. It aimed to equip young people to consider options and make informed choices.

# SOUTH DOWN

AREA REPORT

8

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£10,940

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£35,346

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

15

PROJECTS

4

PROJECTS



4  
COMMUNITY LETS

## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

25

MEETINGS



7

PARTNERSHIPS



## COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

£25,000

FUNDING AWARDED



# SOUTH

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Community Intercultural Programme delivered a 5 day intercultural summer scheme in Portadown. The event attracted 750 young people from 12 different cultural backgrounds. It was a great opportunity for the young people to build relations with other young people from a different ethnicity or religion. There was also an opportunity for the young people to develop civic leadership skills and be able to volunteer at future events. These types of skills are transferable and may help them in the future.

The Futures Project is a Peace IV SEUPB funded programme, delivered in partnership with the Housing Executive, Belfast Met and Start 360. It is for 16 -24 year olds who are not in employment or training. Participants from the Futures Programme attended the Housing Executive Annual Staff Conference where they showcased a video outlining their experience on the Futures Programme.

Edgarstown Residents Association Cohesion funded intergenerational project, offered the perfect opportunity for young and old to come together and learn about one another and gain some mutual respect for each other.

# SOUTH

AREA REPORT



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**£24,457**



## COMMUNITY COHESION

**£10,500**  
INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

**27**  
PROJECTS

**13**

PROJECTS

## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

**24**

MEETINGS

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**£38,000**

FUNDING AWARDED

**7**

PARTNERSHIPS

## COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER

**£37,756**

FUNDING AWARDED



# SOUTH WEST

## AREA REPORT



Clockwise from top:-

Omagh Men's Shed is a project for men to share skills, socialise and connect with the wider community. It is a place for members to be themselves, a place to work at their own pace, a place to exchange ideas and learn, and a place to support each other and build friendships.

Fox Park Community Association's Community Cohesion garden project. The new garden will offer people living in the rural area a warm welcome and a chance to make new friends with a new picnic area for the community to share.

Community Cohesion project, supported by the Housing Executive, was part of the week long Flive Festival and attended by post primary schools within Fermanagh. 'Green and Blue' is a moving and thought-provoking play which aims to humanise the police officers working on both sides of the Irish border during the Troubles. The show explores the isolation, pain and at times humorous elements of life experienced by the individuals who patrolled the border during the height of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

# SOUTH WEST

AREA REPORT

8

HOUSING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK  
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

£19,999

## COMMUNITY COHESION

£23,100

INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY

14

PROJECTS

10



PROJECTS



5

COMMUNITY LETS



## INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

34



MEETINGS

3

PARTNERSHIPS



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

£27,000

FUNDING AWARDED



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

OVER

£27,000

FUNDING AWARDED



# 2018-19

## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

This year showed continued growth and success for all areas of Supporting Communities' work.

▶ GROUP WORK

▶ FUNDING SERVICES

▶ TRAINING & INFO

▶ DIGITAL INCLUSION

▶ SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

▶ BUSINESS SUPPORT



**Supporting™  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

Empowering  
Society

### WE SUPPORTED



**542**  
ACTIVE  
GROUPS



**220**  
INTER-AGENCY  
MEETINGS



**168**  
ESTATE  
INSPECTIONS

### WE HELPED GROUPS SECURE

**£865,167.58**

TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND  
SUSTAIN THEIR WORK

### SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

**98%**

OF ACCREDITED TRAINING  
PARTICIPANTS WERE HAPPY  
WITH THEIR COURSES

**100%**

OF DIGITAL INCLUSION  
STUDENTS SAID WE HAD A  
POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR  
LIVES



Read the full report online: [www.supportingcommunities.org](http://www.supportingcommunities.org)

# 2018-19

## OUR YEAR IN QUOTES

I really enjoyed all of the Community Capacity Building courses. I was apprehensive about getting back into education and completing assignments again, but we were able to work with the trainer as a group on each assignment which was brilliant – it even helped us plan new ideas for our centre.

- Doreen Minford, Whiteabbey Management Committee



The digital inclusion sessions with the trainer were great. She showed me how to create folders for all our women's group classes and how to tidy-up my documents which are now so easily accessed.

We also went over spreadsheets, how to add columns and cells. All very useful when creating lists for classes. Very informative session.

- Rose, Granaghan Women's Group



Our group would like to thank all the administrative staff for supporting us with their services.

We have also had excellent financial support throughout the years.

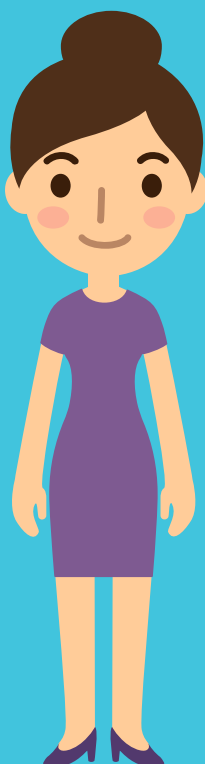
- Windsor Residents Association



Our Community Development Officer has been great coming down to us. The regular meetings with her really help.

I need a deadline to work to and Orla gives me leads to try for new funding streams which are well suited for our project.

- Ailish Teague, Life Change Changes Lives



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# DISABILITY FORUM

## REPORT 2018/2019

### Membership Recruitment

The Forum recruited two new members representing Belfast and Mid and East Antrim to ensure that the Forum continues to be geographically representative as well as pan-disability.

### Consultations

The Disability Housing Forum provided feedback on the following:

- DRILL - Four Nations Research Project
- Department for Communities - Rethinking Social Housing
- Department for Communities - The Future of Home Sales Scheme
- Housing Executive - Community Involvement Strategy
- Department of Health - Reform of Adult Social Care

In addition the Forum participated in the Housing Day video, and the Community Involvement strategy launch event.



### Workplan

The Forum continues to work to an agreed workplan which is renewed and amended annually.

### Housing Executive Disability Action Plan

The Housing Executive Disability Action Plan and various measures related to it are included within the Forum's workplan.

### Central Housing Forum

Disability Housing Forum members continue to represent the Forum on the Central Housing Forum and the Housing Policy Panel.

### Training

The Disability Housing Forum attended "How the Assembly works" training at Parliament Buildings, Stormont.



# RURAL RESIDENTS' FORUM

REPORT 2018/2019

## Meeting the Rural Social Housing target:

The Rural Residents Forum (RRF) is made up of residents and tenants of rural housing estates from across NI. The forum is facilitated by the Rural Community Network (RCN) Northern Ireland and meets monthly.

The focus of the RRF over the past two years has been on raising awareness of the missed target for new build social housing in rural regions. We have worked hard to bring the issue to the attention of the Housing Executive, Housing Associations facilitated by NIFHA, all five political party spokespeople, Department for Communities officials and a discussion with a delegation to the all -party group on housing as well as talking to local councils. We produced a briefing paper in which we identified some of the barriers to the development of new housing in rural areas and we sought to alert officials and those with influence to see what they could do to alleviate some of the barriers faced by rural communities.

Year	Rural new build target	Actual units started	Difference
2014-15	190	119	-71
2015-16	147	148	+1
2016-17	166	84	-82
2017-18	189	144	-45
2018-19	212	129	-83
Total	904	624	-280

It is important that the demand for new build social housing in rural communities, which is greater than the annual target set, is achieved to meet the housing needs of rural citizens, benefit the rural economy and contribute to sustainable development across the region. The table above shows how the target for new build social housing in rural NI has been consistently missed in four out of the last five years. The RRF, are concerned that social and affordable housing in many rural areas has become a rarity and the very fabric of many of our towns and villages is threatened as rural dwellers are forced to find housing in towns and cities. Without a specific commitment to a rural new build target there would be a risk that the need for social housing in rural communities could be easily ignored and remain unaddressed.

One of the barriers to the development of new social housing in rural -areas identified by the RRF is a lack of awareness of the social housing system. In areas where social housing has been owner occupied and there is little tradition of social housing people are less likely to come forward to put their name down on the waiting list. Communities are unsure as to how they might go about identifying a local need for social housing and, raising awareness of the potential for its development. The Rural Residents Forum produced a leaflet to help rural dwellers and community groups to explain the purpose of social housing and to understand the process of enabling social and affordable housing needs to be identified in their area.

In September 2018 the Housing Executive ran an event with Mid

Ulster Council on planning and housing issues in the Mid Ulster Council area which highlighted a need to provide more social housing in the area. Over 70 people attended the meeting and we presented our work on the issue of Rural Social Housing to the event. Subsequently we have been part of the Mid Ulster councils housing forum which highlights issues for rural dwellers.

Earlier in the year RCN took part in a Housing Strategic Insights Innovation Lab which sought answers to the question How do we ensure every household has access to good quality and sustainable homes that are appropriate for their needs? In which we were the sole rural voice. It was a valuable exercise to be involved in and it helped that we had the knowledge of the issues facing the RRF when we attended it.

Other work undertaken by the RRF was facilitated with grant aid from the Housing Executive Cohesion Fund which supported 14 youth leaders, teachers and volunteers to take part in 'JUSTus' training to understand diversity and difference. The programme trained youth facilitators to have conversations with young people living in their community that explores identity and how our sense of identity can bring us together or bring us into conflict with one another. Each participant then undertook delivery of at least 1 course in their own youth setting. The project supports the youth leaders after they deliver this course and supports them with further rollout.

RRF and RCN staff delivered awareness of the Rural Needs Act development training to staff in the Housing Executive and took part in the production of a training video.

In September 2018 we hosted Professor Peter Roberts, Chair of the Housing Executive, in RCNs offices and residents had a chance to hear directly from him about his vision and ambitions for the Housing Executive. Tenants and residents spoke of their concerns and experiences across rural NI. Professor Roberts has a keen interest in rural issues and we had a good discussion with him on the work of the forum.

Finally we responded to a number of key strategic consultation and pre consultation processes on Homelessness, Future of the House Sales Scheme; The classification of Housing Associations in NI, as well as taking part in a rurally focused workshop as part of the independent review of the Personal Independent Payments process.

It has been a year of change within the Rural Residents Forum. At the beginning of the New Year we said goodbye to Susan Welsh one of our longest serving members who had given us fantastic insight into the lives of rural residents and who was always shrewd and forthright in her views. Susan's contributions to the forum and her dedication to the work we do has been outstanding and we will miss her.

So with these changes we opened spaces for new representatives to join the forum and we received nominations from Newtownhamilton, Newtownards and Loughmacrory. We are delighted to report a really good spread of representation from across rural NI and we are always open to seeking out new faces and new voices to add to the forum.

# YOUTH FORUM

## REPORT 2018/2019

The partnership between Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) and the Housing Executive has continued to grow throughout 2018/19 with some exciting new developments. This partnership allows young people to have a voice by engaging and empowering them to be at the core of what the Housing Executive do. Some of our highlights to date include:

- The establishment of a shadow youth forum who have spent time building their capacity in order to increase their knowledge of the Housing Executive and its core functions. This has been done through awareness training sessions and direct engagement with Housing Executive staff.
- NIYF staff and youth representatives continue to attend Central Housing Forum meetings, Strategic Cohesion meetings, are part of the Welfare Reform and Digital Inclusion working groups.
- Young people attended the Make an Impact Community Conference in October; one young person presented on the importance of involving, listening and learning from young people, 5 others hosted an information stand and networked with community representatives.
- Young people also attended the launch of the Community Involvement Strategy in December and this gave them an insight into their role and the importance of getting involved within their local communities and working together to make positive change.
- NIYF worked in partnership with the Housing Executive Futures staff and hosted 2 young people on placement within the organisation.
- NIYF carried out several consultations with young people on behalf of the Housing Executive this included issues raised at Central Housing Forum, Welfare Reform issues, rent rebate scheme, tenancy support packs and the testing of the Policy in Practice NI version of the benefits calculator.



NIYF look forward to continuing to support the Housing Executive and have prioritised their relationship with the Housing Executive with a view to developing it further and working in partnership on issues of strategic relevance to both young people and the Housing Executive.

# STRATEGIC COHESION FORUM

REPORT 2018/2019

Established in September 2016, the Strategic Cohesion Forum (SCF) works in partnership with the Housing Executive to shape and inform their Community Cohesion Strategy.

At a strategic level the Strategic Cohesion Forum acts as a critical friend to the Housing Executive

- Proactively collaborating with communities and other agencies to shape and influence the Community Cohesion Strategy across Northern Ireland
- Providing a collective voice for Cohesion issues
- Proactively promoting Community Cohesion in the wider arena
- Challenging and influencing Policy at a local and strategic level
- Informing thinking for policy development
- Positively influencing, supporting and promoting communities across the five theme of Cohesion

Fundamentally the Strategic Cohesion Forum oversees the delivery and implementation of the Community Cohesion Strategy. Their 2-year Action Plan identified short, medium and long term objectives under the five key themes of the Community Cohesion Strategy

- Integration and Segregation
- Race Relations
- Communities in Transition
- Interface Areas
- Flags, Emblems and Sectional Symbols

In addition the Strategic Cohesion Forum ...

- is represented on the Ministerial Panel – Housing Thematic sub group
- has developed a closer working relationship with the cohesion team having met with Good Relations Officers, to gain a greater understanding of their work and the challenges they face to explore opportunities for the Strategic Cohesion Forum can provide support.

The SCF visited Ballymun as a good practice visit to look at how regeneration can be the catalyst to build good relations and to assess the impact on the community. The visit included an overview of an extensive range of services available to the community addressing unemployment, infrastructure, social isolation and rebuilding communities. The itinerary included attending a Civil Alliance meeting, visiting Ballymun Job Centre, Social Innovation Hub, Innovate Dublin and Future IT project looking at skills initiatives and digital employability.

During this reporting period, the SCF has continued to raise its profile with a wider representation from different agencies/groups and an increased engagement with NIHE staff, particularly those ‘on the ground’ officers. This is incrementally disseminating the aims and objectives of the SCF. Given that we are nearing the end of our 2-year Action Plan, it is hoped that we will be in a better position to be more ambitious about what the SCF can achieve over the forthcoming years.

The Forum’s Chairman Dr. William Mitchell said “we are delighted to be able to support the Housing Executive to proactively engage with and support communities.”





This document is available in  
alternative formats.  
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**Housing**  
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