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Annual Report **2024-25**

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum



Working for the regeneration of disadvantaged and divided communities

Vision

“A confident, thriving, diverse community.”

Mission

“Working for the social, economic and physical regeneration of the community and creating the conditions for the removal of the physical and mental barriers that divide us.”





Chairperson

Paul Little

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

Human rights groups, trade unions and anti-poverty campaigners have taken The Executive Office and the Department for Communities to the High Court for their failure to deliver an Anti-Poverty Strategy in the North.

The agreement to produce an Anti-Poverty Strategy was part of the Good Friday Agreement and passed into law by the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Disadvantaged working class communities suffered more than others from 30 years of political and sectarian conflict. The development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy in 1998 would have opened the prospect of a 'peace dividend' for those communities tackling economic and social deprivation.

The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) is the main body taking the legal case. CAJ took a similar legal case in 2015 and the High Court concluded that the NI Executive had breached its duties under the 1998 legislation by its failure to adopt an anti-poverty strategy.

The Department for Communities is reviewing the neighbourhood renewal strategy. This is a government strategy, originally introduced by the Labour Government, to reduce the gap between poor communities and more affluent communities in England and Wales. It was targeted at the top 10% most deprived communities. It was exported to the North without any additional funding. The initial investment of £24 million has been sliced down to £18 million today due to cuts and wages freezes for staff.

A new strategy to tackle poverty in the top 10% most deprived communities will require substantially more than £18

million or £24 million of funding if it is to make the impact that is needed. Albert Einstein is often quoted saying: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results". If government expects community groups to tackle deep-rooted poverty on a shoestring they will be sadly mistaken. Of course, the social and economic regeneration of disadvantaged communities is not the sole responsibility of the Department for Communities. All government departments, statutory agencies and local councils have a role to play.

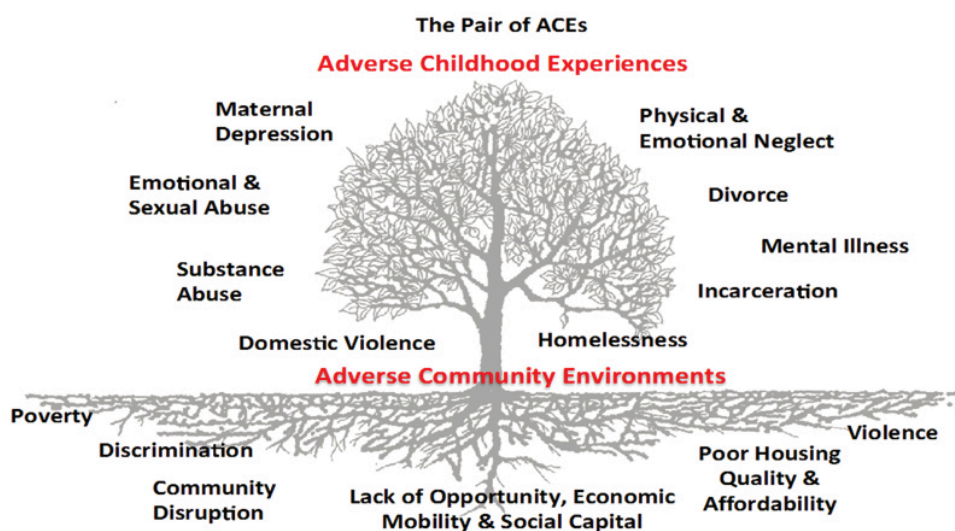
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum congratulates Belfast City Council for its decision to invest £1.45 million for a Cliftonville Community Enterprise centre in this area. This investment has the potential to act as a catalyst for the regeneration of this community. It is a small but important step forward.

During 2024 Belfast witnessed the ugly scenes of openly racist attacks on the city's ethnic minority residents. Communities across the city rallied in support of our ethnic minority residents. Locally we established an anti-racist campaign and we plan for this to develop in the years ahead.

This Annual Report 2024-25 outlines our work over the last year in terms of regeneration, peace building and working with children and young people. On behalf of the management committee we would like to express our gratitude to our staff, sessional workers and particularly our volunteers who have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for residents in the Cliftonville area.

Thank you.

“Chronically Unsafe ...”



Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

If your child was born in the Waterworks ward they are less likely to excel in education and gain good qualifications, less likely to get a good, well paid job and less likely to live well into their eighties.

They are more likely to begin life in a family with no or low qualifications, suffer from poor and over crowded housing, have no job or a low paid job and have a health problem. You are also more likely to live close to an interface dividing the two main communities here.

The Waterworks ward covers the lower Cliftonville area of North Belfast. According to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) it is the No.1 most deprived ward in the North.

Homelessness is a major problem in this area. There is also a lack of good quality, affordable housing. Homelessness affects families but also individuals and young people. We have 3 and 4 generations of one family living in the same house. It is a world apart from the leafy semis with a large garden.

The area is also home to an increasing number of flats, apartments and low quality accommodation. The area has a high number of old 3 story properties. These are easily turned into flats and

HMOs (Housing in Multiple Occupation). There is a high number of low quality private landlord accommodation.

However, not all low quality accommodation is in the private sector.

Poor quality and over crowded housing is a major contributor to low education attainment, stress, poor mental health and a barrier to securing decent

employment opportunities.

We work with young people who have Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). According to a Queen's University report on mental health in NI (October, 2020): "There was a clear association with deprivation, with young people in the least deprived areas more likely to have experienced no ACEs compared to those in the most deprived (59.9% vs 36.0%)".

This means that children, young people and their families are living in what health professionals have referred to as "Chronically Unsafe Community Environments". These issues take place in a context where armed gangs remain active and organised crime gangs/drug gangs target and exploit disadvantaged communities. Crime and anti-social behaviour is high. Interface conflict, while not constant, is a regular event.

Now that the NI Executive has been re-established there is a need for an anti-poverty strategy that tackles the deep rooted problems that exist in the Cliftonville area. The anti-poverty strategy needs to join up to dots in terms of health, housing and economic investment needed in disadvantaged communities.

Should a child born in this area not have the same life chances as a child born in more affluent areas?

Our Outcomes

Our Strategy works to achieve three outcomes: 1. Regeneration; 2. Peace Building and Good Relations; and 3. Children and Young People.

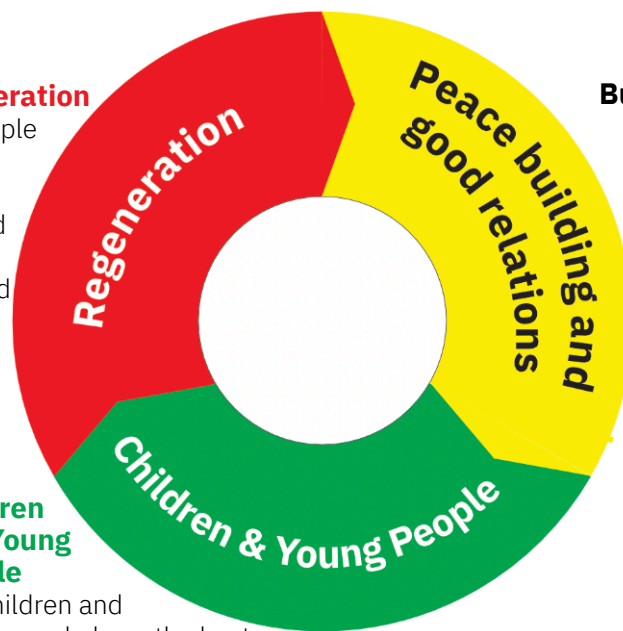
Outcomes are the quality of life conditions we want for the children, adults and families who live in our community. These outcomes do not stand alone — they are all inter-connected. All our work programmes must contribute to one or more of our outcomes and ideally they contribute to all three outcomes.

Regeneration

Our people have decent jobs and a good standard of living

Children and Young People

Our children and young people have the best start in life



Peace Building and Good Relations

Our community is peaceful, shared and diverse

Indicators

Indicators help us measure if we are making a difference to the quality of life conditions we want for the children, adults and families who live in our community

Regeneration

% of people with low or no qualifications

% of economically inactive residents

Children and Young People

% of pupils attaining 5 GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths

Rate of Child Poverty

Peace Building and Good Relations

No. of hate crimes

No. of interfaces/peace walls

% of people who feel very comfortable sharing space with people from a different community background.

% of local residents who would like to see peace walls removed now or in near future

Programmes

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum has a number of work programmes or projects which contribute to the 3 outcomes above.

The projects are:

- Personal Youth Development Project
- Let Youth Lead Project
- Imagine Peace Barriers Project
- Cliftonville Enterprise Centre
- Community Organising/ Capacity Building Project
- Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
- Girdwood Shared Youth Space

Performance Measures

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
# Participants (by target groups e.g youth, residents, women, families)	% Common measures Retention, ratios, staff turnover rate, % of staff fully trained, unit cost, customer satisfaction
# Activities (by type of activity)	% Activity specific measures % completing activity, % of actions meeting standards, % attending from target groups
Is anyone better off?	
# # # <div>Point in time vs. Two point comparison measures</div> #	% Skills/Knowledge % Attitude/Opinion % Behaviour % Circumstance

Each programme has Performance Measures that answer: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

The following pages show how we are making a difference in the local community.

Cliftonville Community Enterprise gets the go ahead



located in the Waterworks ward.

The Waterworks ward is the No.1 most deprived ward in the North of Ireland out of 464 wards. The area has suffered from a sharp rise in poverty in the past 10 years. To tackle this situation economic capital investment is needed and there has been none for more than 20 years.

The Cliftonville Community Enterprise is a first step in the long

road to turn around the poverty and disadvantage in this area.

Cliftonville Community Forum is currently involved in training and employability projects. We have supported people from the Cliftonville and surrounding areas through training, with job applications, their interviews and seen them secure employment.

Breaking down the barriers to employment for people living in deprived neighbourhoods does not mean simply providing training. Many of our participants face major issues in terms of their own confidence and anxiety. We address issues affecting their mental health, trauma and also issues of addiction to drugs and alcohol.

The development of Cliftonville Community Enterprise will see this work move to a new level. This centre will be a very modest size. However, it should allow us to begin to turn the curve on poverty and disadvantage in this area.

Plans for a Cliftonville Community Enterprise on Cliftonpark Avenue have been given the green light.

The project has secured £1.45 million funding from Belfast City Council's Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund.

The Community Enterprise aims to support long term unemployed males, women living in poverty and young people from disadvantaged families into training and employment. The centre will also provide child care places as demand for these facilities are high in this area.

The enterprise centre will work with local people to support them to learn, make and sell. This means providing training, space and equipment to enable people to move into the labour market and increase economic activity within the local community. Critically it also means supporting them to increase their confidence and help them overcome the barriers to employment and enterprise.

Cliftonville Community Enterprise will be

Members of Cliftonville Community Forum staff holding plans for the Cliftonville Community Enterprise at the site

Stand Up To Racism campaign



Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum organised an anti-racism campaign in the aftermath of the anti-migrant and anti-Muslim riots in Belfast in August 2024.

Local ethnic minority residents learning English language in Cliftonville Community Centre

A public meeting was organised and it was decided to set up a Stand Up To Racism campaign. The meeting was well represented by local people and local residents from a variety of ethnic community backgrounds including the local Muslim community.

The campaign worked on a short term action plan which included a public advertising campaign. Posters have been displayed in local shops and on hardboard posters erected on lampposts on the Cliftonville, Antrim and Oldpark Roads.

The campaign is a collaboration with the local Northern Ireland Muslim Cultural Association, who support local Muslim residents in the area, Cliftonville Community Centre and ourselves. This has allowed us to support ethnic minority residents in times of need or when facing racist or hate crimes. A racist attack took place on a house in the area recently.

We organised English language classes

Participant says:

“Since my mother started attending the regular English classes, I have realised that she has made a lot of improvements when it comes to understanding and speaking in English.

“The family friendly environment that the classes provide along with the teacher allowed my mother to have a lot of enthusiasm and the courage to learn, especially in a non-judgmental place where my mother felt confident to express herself”.

for Muslim women which lasted for 10 weeks to the end of December 2024 and were attended weekly by 25 women. We are hoping that these classes can be continued into 2025.

Other activities have been planned in 2025 including a ‘Meet the Neighbour’ event, an ‘Identity through Art’ youth programme.

The Stand Up To Racism campaign meetings take place every fortnight. It will expand its work in 2025.

Girdwood Shared Youth project

The 2023/24 year was one of dynamic community engagement and meaningful youth work. We continued our efforts through various programmes and youth drop-ins, despite facing challenges.

Occasional instances of anti-social behaviour along the Cliftonpark Avenue Interface affected the regular attendance of some young people, particularly those coming from Lower Oldpark and Shankill areas.

The early closure of the Alloa Street entrance by Belfast City Council, aimed at dispersing crowds, left parents and young people feeling unsafe as they had to navigate through groups of young people engaged in anti-social behaviour activities to access an entrance further up Cliftonpark Avenue.



Young people receiving their Level 2 Youth Work certificates

well as weekly off-site trips.

We successfully recruited 46 young people from both sides of the community, focusing on Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark, and Lower Shankill. The programme received excellent feedback from young people and parents alike.

Despite the challenges at the interface, 54% of participants were new registrations. The Summer programme enabled us to maintain contact with young people during the school holidays and continue crucial cross-community work.

Given the ongoing challenges at the interface, we also implemented a senior planned intervention programme over the summer.

Feedback from the Summer Programme

“A big thank you to all the staff. My child had a fabulous time and looking forward to September” — Parent (Lower Oldpark)

“Thank you all very much. My son is going to miss it” — Parent (Shankill)

“Thank you all so much, kids loved it all” — Parent (Kinnaird)

“Thank you so much. My daughter had a great summer” — Parent (Shankill)

Despite these hurdles, 2023/24 was filled with fun and learning for many young people across the interface. We remain committed to making Girdwood Youth Space a safe and welcoming environment by offering a range of activities, projects, cross-community trips, and residentials. We also invested in our young leaders, providing various training opportunities to enhance their skills.

Our 2024 Shared Summer Programme for 7-12-year-olds ran for six weeks, featuring both on-site activities at the Girdwood Youth Space and the pitch, as

Age	Cross-community activity
7 to 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Junior Drop-in ● Fun-fit ● Shared Summer Programme
12 to 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermediate Drop-in ● Shared Activities ● Cross-community projects/residential/cultural awareness.
14 to 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior Drop-In ● Cross-community projects ● Good Relations Projects/Cultural Awareness. ● Cross-community trips/residentials
16 to 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peer Mentoring Training ● Leadership Training ● Youth Work Training ● Life-Skills and CV building

Peace Building and Good Relations

Girdwood Shared Youth project

Girdwood Youth Space Project T:BUC Theme: Our Shared Community

Performance Measures — April 2023-March 2024

How much did we do?



3,012

Young people participated in Shared Youth Drop-in

615

Young people engaged through Shared Detached Youth Workers

253

Young people undergoing peace building/good relations

How well did we do it?



33% PUL

(Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist)

63% CNR

(Catholic, Nationalist, Republican)

100%

of participants come from the top 10% most deprived communities

99%

of participants feel the programme helped them

100%

of participants said they were treated well during the programme

Is anyone better off?

% of participants whose knowledgeable of different traditions and backgrounds has increased



98%
Increased

% of participants whose attitude towards people from a different religious background has improved



86%
Improved

% of participants likely to attend an event in an area associated with another community



89%
Likely

The planned intervention programme aimed to keep local young people away from the interface while fostering positive relationships and engaging in good relations work. We recruited 15 young people from Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark, and Lower Shankill and engaged them in a six-week programme of off-site trips.

The programme was well-received, keeping participants away from the interface on Friday evenings and leading to further development work throughout the year.

We strongly believe in investing in our young people and developing an informed and efficient staff team, ideally comprising individuals who have come up through our programmes and have first-hand experience of the area's challenges.

In 2023/24, eight participants over the age of 18 completed their OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. Half of these young people are now working as young leaders for the project, and this new qualification has significantly impacted their knowledge,

ABOVE: The Girdwood Youth Space Project Scorecard 2023-24



Young people enjoying the shared summer programme

confidence, and ability to engage with young people.

We tailor all our projects and activities to meet young people's needs, guiding them on an age-appropriate, individualised cross-community journey.

Imagine Peace Barriers Project



The Imagine Peace Barriers Project is celebrating a decade of bridging divides and fostering positive change within our communities.

ABOVE: Cross-community fun day in Girdwood Community Hub

The Imagine Peace Barriers Project is a partnership between the Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) and the Lower Oldpark Community Association (LOCA) and funded by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI). The project has been at the forefront of transforming the relationships between communities affected by the peace walls and physical barriers. Over the past ten years, we have focused on creating a safer, more connected future by engaging local residents and providing a platform for change.

Our Approach

Building Relationships and Changing Attitudes. At the heart of our work are three key areas:

1. Community Consultations: We listen to residents' concerns and ideas.



2. Relationship Building: We bring people together through shared activities and conversations.

3. Creating Attitudinal Change: We focus on changing mindsets to pave the way for lasting peace.

Over the years, we have launched numerous programmes and initiatives to bring our communities closer. One of our exciting projects is the Imagine Shared Space project. This ambitious plan envisions a cross-community social enterprise with a soft play area, a café, and multi-purpose rooms. We are now working on a business plan and developing concept designs, which will soon be shared with the community for feedback.

Our Work in 2024

In 2024, we continued to strengthen our work within the community, creating opportunities for people to come together, share experiences, and work towards positive change.

Women's and Men's Groups

Our Women's and Men's Groups meet weekly, offering a range of opportunities for members. Participants receive support, take part in personal and community development activities.

Summer Programme

Summer can be an especially challenging time for women, particularly with added childcare commitments during the school holidays. To address these challenges, we delivered a five-week summer programme aimed at providing activities

Imagine Peace Barriers Project

for women and their children. The programme included arts and crafts sessions, trips, and other activities designed to promote community engagement, learning, and fun for all ages.

Cross-Community Family Day

In August, we hosted a Cross-Community Family Day at John Hewitt Park, with the support of LOCA and CCRF. The

event was a great success, attracting families from both communities who came together to enjoy a day of activities, and fun.

Women Leading Together

One of our 2024 highlights was the Women Leading Together event. We brought together women from Lower Oldpark, Lower Cliftonville, and surrounding areas to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities to promote peace and reconciliation. We explored key themes like identity, belonging, and living on an interface. The event proved to be a valuable platform for women to connect, learn, and work towards building stronger, more inclusive communities.

Our Peace, Our Future

This programme is another example of our commitment to empowering communities. This community learning programme for adults is designed to equip participants with the skills needed to lead positive change within their communities. The programme includes workshops, facilitated discussions on identity and good relations, history talks, and a residential.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Imagine Peace Barriers Project

Performance Measures — April 2024-December 2024

How much did we do?



980

People took part in Peace Barriers Programmes and activities

348

Hours of Programmes and activities

193

Residents were engaged in door-to-door work

How well did we do it?



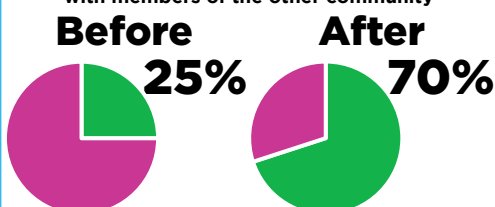
58% CNR
(Catholic, Nationalist, Republican)

38% PUL
(Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist)

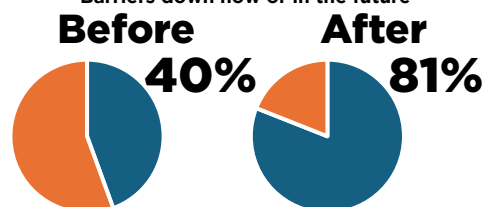
4% Other

Is anyone better off?

% of participants who engage often or frequently with members of the other community



% of participants who would like to see Peace Barriers down now or in the future



ABOVE: Imagine Peace Barriers Project Scorecard 2024

Together

In response to ongoing concerns about anti-social behaviour (ASB) in both communities, we hosted a cross-community consultation on ASB in October.

Based on the feedback we received, we have now set up a hotline for residents to report ASB incidents. During Halloween — a time when ASB typically spikes — our Women's and Men's Groups organised a stall at the interface, offering free tea, coffee, and treats to residents and young people. This initiative increased footfall in the area and we are pleased to report that there were no ASB incidents this year.

Our Plans for the Future

We are excited to keep building on the work we are already doing and look forward to increasing our activities. We're launching a Peace Barriers Residents Forum — a safe space for people to connect, learn, and tackle the challenges of living near peace barriers. We are also planning monthly 'Meet the Neighbour' events to help residents from both sides of the interface to connect. There are lots of ways to get involved. Keep an eye out for our flyers and follow us on social media for all the latest updates!

Let Youth Lead: Empowering Young People



The Let Youth Lead (LYL) programme continues to make a transformative impact on young people and families in the Cliftonville area, fostering a safe, inclusive, and vibrant space for personal and community development.

Over the past year, the programme has achieved significant milestones, thanks to the dedication of young leaders, staff, and our newly established volunteer group of 12 local young people.

Youth-Led Success: Christmas Community Event

In December 2024, our youth committee organised one of the largest Christmas community events to date with more than 200 attending, hosted at the Girdwood Community Hub. The event was entirely youth-led by a youth committee of 15 young people from the area around Girdwood. The event showcased the incredible leadership, creativity, and organisational skills of our young participants.

Activities included Santa's grotto, bilingual arts and crafts, storytelling, and

ABOVE: Senior youth members celebrating another successful cross-community programme

What they said:

"I have learned about other's religion...the project is fun" –
participant, aged 9

"My favourite thing about the project is all the people you get to know" –
participant, aged 10

"I have got to meet a lot of people from different communities" –
participant, aged 11

"Thank you for everything you've done. My kids love it" – *parent*

"I feel more confident now after doing things I haven't done before" –
participant, 14

"The youth workers listen to you, not like some teachers" – *participant, aged 13*

cultural showcases, drawing families from diverse backgrounds. This event not only spread festive joy but also highlighted the potential of young people to take

Let Youth Lead project

ownership of community initiatives. The event was free to local families and young people.

Planning for the next community event is already underway. We are excited to create an even more inclusive and engaging experience and hope to see even greater participation from the community, coming together to enjoy, support, and celebrate what we can achieve as a united and vibrant Cliftonville.

Strengthening Communities

This year, we delivered two family day trips as part of good relations work in strengthening communities. The trips were to Jungle NI Christmas Wonderland event. The outing provided shared experiences that brought families closer together. More than 100 parents and children attended. Feedback from attendees highlighted the value of creating moments of joy and respite during challenging times.

Growing Community Engagement

The establishment of a new volunteer group has been a game-changer for Let Youth Lead. This group of 12 passionate young people, all local residents, have been instrumental in supporting programme activities, enhancing our reach, and fostering a deeper sense of community ownership. Their involvement has not only enriched the programme but has also served as a bridge to increased engagement with parents, families, and other community members.

By fostering trust and mutual respect, these young volunteers have become ambassadors for the positive change we aim to achieve.

Let Youth Lead project

Performance Measures — April 2023-March 2024

How much did we do?



1,665

Young people engaged by detached workers

2,474

Young people attending good relations drop-ins

220

People attend good relations Christmas event organised by young people

How well did we do it?



18% PUL

(Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist)

76% CNR

(Catholic, Nationalist, Republican)

6% Other

Street Detached

65% Male | 35% Female

Good Relations Drop-in

40% Male | 60% Female

Is anyone better off?

% of participants who are more favourable towards people from a different religious background



80%

More favourable

% of people who have improved knowledge about cultural traditions and backgrounds



74%

Improved

% of participants likely to attend an event in an area associated with another community



84%

More Likely

ABOVE: The Let Youth Lead Project Scorecard 2023-24

A Safe and Inclusive Space

Let Youth Lead remains a cornerstone for young people in Cliftonville, offering a safe and welcoming environment where they can express themselves, develop leadership skills, and build meaningful relationships. Through weekly drop-ins, detached youth work, and good relations sessions, we continue to inspire confidence and break down barriers between different communities.

Activities are intentionally designed to be inclusive, encouraging participation from young people of all backgrounds, cultures, and abilities, with a particular emphasis on promoting diversity and mutual understanding.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we aim to build on the momentum of these successes by expanding our programmes, enhancing community involvement, and continuing to empower young people to take the lead in creating a brighter, shared future.

Let Youth Lead would not be possible without the support of our staff, volunteers, and the wider community. Together, we are fostering a sense of belonging, resilience, and hope for the future.

Personal Youth Development Programme

The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) is a 2-year personal development and employability programme which ran from March 2023 to December 2024. It is designed to empower young people aged 16-25 in Cliftonville and surrounding areas of North Belfast.

Funded by the International Fund for Ireland, the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) supports individuals in overcoming multifaceted barriers to education and employment.

By adopting a holistic approach, the Personal Youth Development Programme fosters good relations, provides comprehensive career guidance, and offers opportunities for young people to raise their aspirations, unlock their potential, and achieve their goals.

The Personal Youth Development Programme's supportive environment allows the young people to explore and engage in new experiences, which encourages self-expression and teamwork. Young people learn soft skills such as communication, time management, problem-solving, collaboration and leadership through a variety of programmes. These programmes include personal and social development, good relations, employability and enterprise training and social action projects.

Good relations initiatives foster respect and understanding, building stronger ties with people from diverse backgrounds.

The young people who participated in the Personal Youth Development Programme made significant progress across several key areas, gaining valuable skills, confidence, and direction for their future.

Through the support provided 58% of enrolled participants have progressed into further training, education or employment. 88% of participants experienced growth in their self-



ABOVE: Personal Youth Development Programme participants visiting Stormont

confidence, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Through work experience, the Personal Youth Development Programme helped participants build practical skills directly applicable to future employment. For example, completing OCN Level 1 & Level 2 Youth Work allowed for theory to be put into practice in youth work setting.

This was done through work experience in youth projects as well as paid work experience in New Ground coffee which

YOLO provides tailored support to a maximum of 15 young people at a time, offering:

- Personal development workshops
- Cultural awareness sessions and visits
- Day trips for team building
- One-on-one mentorship
- Health and wellbeing activities
- Accredited courses to boost qualifications
- Bespoke training sessions
- Work tasters and volunteer experiences
- Workplace visits and employer talks
- CV development and interview skills workshops

Personal Youth Development Programme

included customer service training and day-to-day operational skills, preparing them for potential careers in customer service.

Through intensive support, one participant demonstrated significant dedication by completing an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work and gaining valuable work experience.

This person developed hands-on experience across three distinct youth projects, fostering professional development, workplace adaptability, and a deeper understanding of youth work.

The programme's impact was evident, with 60% of participants making significant progress. It also provided vital support to 33% of participants facing significant mental health challenges, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse.

This work is intense and labour intensive. The complex needs which arise from children and young people being raised in poverty requires this type of intervention on a wider scale to provide the support to overcome multifaceted barriers to education and employment.

Personal Youth Development Project

Performance Measures — April 2023-December 2024

How much did we do?



40 Number of project participants
3 Number of sessions per week
57 Number of accreditations received

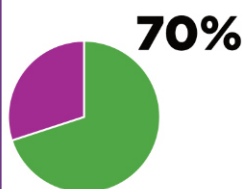
How well did we do it?



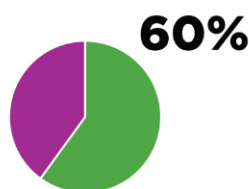
45% of participants completing the PYDP programme
55% of participants disengaged from the PYDP programme
100% of participants come from disadvantaged communities

Is anyone better off?

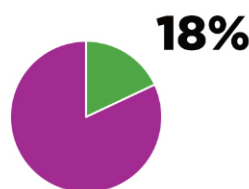
% of young people with increased confidence



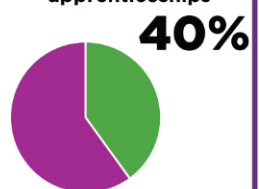
% of young people with increased skills



% of young people progressing to further education and training



% of young people securing employment, self-employment or apprenticeships



ABOVE: Personal Youth Development Project Scorecard 2023-24

RIGHT: Personal Youth Development Programme participants visiting Free



Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in Cliftonville

The Cliftonville area is located in the Waterworks ward in North Belfast. This is one of the top 10% most deprived wards in the North of Ireland.

The area is part of a government programme known as People and Place — the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which aims to tackle poverty and deprivation within the area.

Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership

As part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 36 neighbourhood renewal partnerships were set up by government in the 10% most deprived communities in the North.

The Cliftonville area is part of the Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership. This includes Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, Cliftonville Community Centre, Community Restorative Justice, North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum, Action Mental Health, The Vine Centre, Wishing Well Family Centre, Grace Women's Development Limited, Lower Oldpark Community Association, Cancer Lifeline, Ardoyne Association, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, Marrowbone Community Association and Westland Community Group.

We work closely with these organisations to develop the Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Action Plan 2020-2030— with the aim of regenerating the area.

The outcomes of the action plan are:

Outcome 1. Residents play an active part in economic life

Outcome 2. We live longer, healthier, active lives

Outcome 3. We are a shared community that respects diversity

Outcome 4. We give our children and young people the best start in life

Outcome 5. We live in a safe community

North Belfast Community Partnership

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum also works with the neighbourhood

RIGHT: The Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan 2020-2030 with a Foreword by the Minister for Communities



partnerships across North Belfast and is currently working to develop the North Belfast Community Partnership. North Belfast is the only area of Belfast without an area partnership. The purpose of the new partnership is to provide a voice for North Belfast and to work with local politicians, government departments and statutory agencies to tackle poverty and regenerate North Belfast.

The North Belfast Community Partnership is developing a 5 year plan targeted at regenerating the most deprived communities in North Belfast.

Neighbourhood Renewal Forum

We are also members of the Neighbourhood Renewal Forum made up of the 36 neighbourhood partnerships across the North.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Forum works with the Department for Communities and other government departments to review the current Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. It is looking to develop a new Strategic Framework to tackle poverty and regenerate the top 10% most deprived communities.

New Ground coffee pop-up cafe at Girdwood

New Ground coffee was established in December 2023 with the support of NI Water.

The initiative aimed to provide opportunities for local young people to develop skills, gain qualifications, and access employment in a supportive environment.

More than 30 young people undertook barista training and other industry-related training in order to gain employment. Young people also trained in business planning and marketing and decided to set up New Ground coffee as a pop-up cafe in Girdwood.

20 young people secured employment in cafes and shops. Some lacked direct work experience and the confidence to go straight into employment. This led to the idea of setting up a pop-up cafe in Girdwood.

The name New Ground came from the idea that the Girdwood site was new ground for young people in both communities and it reflected the peace and reconciliation ethos and work of local community groups..

The young people's key achievements were:

- Barista training and certification at introduction and intermediate levels
- Food hygiene certificate
- Health and safety certificate
- Manual handling
- First aid



ABOVE: Lord Mayor, Ryan Murphy launching New Ground coffee in 2024.

Included in the picture is New Ground coffee workers Cadence and Brogan on either side of the Lord Mayor.

Employment Opportunities

Three young people secured their first paid trainee/employment roles as part of the pop-up cafe. Although they were trained baristas they had no previous experience of working in a cafe environment.

They had no experience of attending to customers needs, working the till and the other work of a busy cafe. While at first it was a little daunting, the new staff very quickly learned what needed to be done, how to attend to the needs of customers. With the experience of work their confidence soared.

The success of New Ground coffee highlights the value of targeted initiatives in empowering young people with essential skills and opening pathways to sustainable employment. Continued support for similar projects will further enhance community development and individual growth.

Thank you to our funders

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum would like to acknowledge the support of our funders and thank them.

The International Fund for Ireland

funds the Imagine Peace Barriers Project which is a partnership with Lower Oldpark Community Association; they also fund the Personal Youth Development Project, administered by Rural Action, which is primarily a good relations project and it has key employability outcomes.

The Executive Office funds our good relations work which is focused at the peace and reconciliation centre at the Girdwood Community Hub. This is funded under the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme and is part of the Together: Building A United Community (T: BUC) programme. The North Belfast Programme is managed by the Community Relations Council

Community Relations Council manages the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Fund and works closely with us and other community groups to promote good relations and peace work across North Belfast.

The Department for Communities funds our regeneration work which includes developing a community enterprise, good relations work, and community safety work. This is funded as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy which is targeted at the regeneration of the top 10% most disadvantaged communities in NI.

Co-operation Ireland provides support for small capital items including computers.

National Lottery Awards for All has supported youth activity and the Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plan 2020-2030.

Neighbourly provides funding to support residents in emergency situations.

BBC Children in Need funds our work with children and young people delivered by the Let Youth Lead project and this project works with young people in the most deprived community in NI.

Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade – Reconciliation Fund funds our good relations work in the Girdwood Youth Space.

Belfast City Council funds good relations work with young people in the Girdwood Community Hub. Belfast City Council funds the shared summer programme, the community organising project, the summer intervention project, the local interface project, and a play scheme.

Housing Executive provides us with premises — a 3 story building — to operate from. This building provides us with much needed office space for our staff.

NI Education Authority funds the government's Together: Building A United Community (TBUC) programme and funds our TBUC summer camps for young people.

Community Foundation Ireland provided funding for a cross border project for young people in Belfast and Dundalk. The young people visited Belfast and Dundalk and took part in a residential.

Northern Ireland Water staff participated in the Belfast and East Antrim marathon and raised money through sponsorship for an employability youth project within Cliftonville Community Forum. The funding supported young people as working trainees in New Ground coffee — a pop-up café at Girdwood where they gained real life job skills.

Cash for Kids provides funding to support the children of families in the area struggling with poverty and the Cost of Living crisis.

Financial Statement 2023-24

Income	31/3/24	31/3/23
Belfast City Council	£66,465	£79,355
Children in Need	£21,999	£40,750
Community Relations Council	£87,247	£109,650
International Fund for Ireland	£136,303	£101,020
Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade*	£8,790	£9,089
Education Authority (T-BUC)	£5,670	£4,076
Department for Communities	£241,985	£259,340
Irish Youth Foundation	£3,000	£0,000
Awards for All	£0,000	£9,660
Cash for Kids	£0,000	£2,515
NI Water	£941	£0,000
Other Income	£14,313	£12,871
TOTAL	£586,713	£628,393

Expenditure	31/3/24	31/3/24
Salaries,	£256,773	£260,235
HMRC	£18,180	£19,845
Pension	£12,105	£12,906
Programme & Project Costs	£266,968	£251,594
Service Charges, Room Hire	£525	£225
Postage & Stationery	£1,977	£1,175
Travel	£1,669	£1,770
Water Charges	£809	£647
Insurance	£4,078	£3,624
Gas & Power	£3,924	£4,598
Telephone	£4,432	£2,984
Sundries	£2,250	£1,195
Repairs/Renewals	£7,036	£3,960
Bank fees	£1,093	£921
Professional fees	£650	3,600
Staff Training	£518	£1,960
Depreciation	£1,057	£1,410
Auditors, accountancy fees	£6,300	£5,040
TOTAL	£590,344	£577,689

Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(£3,631)	£50,704
Total Funds brought forward	£283,401	£232,697
Total Funds Carried Forward	£279,770	£283,401

The Auditors: The accounts have been audited by MB McGrady and Company, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, Suite 2B Cadogan House, 322 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GH. The accounts are audited according to the methods and principles of the charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Auditors Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (formerly Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum Limited) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



www.ccrf.org.uk

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Company Limited by
Guarantee Reg. No. NI37612
NI Charity Commission
No. NIC100274

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum would like to thank those community, voluntary, statutory, trade union and private sector organisations and political parties that work with us and we hope to build our relationships with these vital partners.

In particular we would like to thank: Cliftonville Community Centre, North Belfast Interface Network, North Belfast Play Forum, Lower Oldpark Community Association, Lower Shankill Community Association, TDK Community Group, Community Restorative Justice, Ardoyne Youth Enterprises, Vine Centre, Ardoyne Association, GRACE Women's Group, North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum, Cliftonville Men's Shed, North Belfast Play Forum, Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership, North Belfast Community Partnership, Ashton Community Trust, Ligoniel Improvement Association, North Belfast Alternatives, Mount Vernon Community Forum, NICVA, Development Trust NI and Community Places.

We would like to thank local councillors, MLAs, the North Belfast MP and Government Ministers, who have worked with us and for us.

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

List of Directors/Management Committee 2024-2025

Mr Paul Little, Chairperson
Mr Daniel Lavery, Vice-chairperson
Ms Kathleen Quinn, Treasurer
Mr Neil Montgomery
Ms Delores Quinn
Ms Michelle Di Lucia
Ms Kerry Haddock
Ms Jennifer Robinson
Ms Elizabeth Sheppard (resigned 15th January 2024)

Thank you to our Funders

