NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

Inner South Belfast and Botanic areas

Newsletter - Twenty-seventh Edition, 2026













Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

This newsletter brings you information on events and services from Inner South Belfast and the Holylands. Includes fantastic highlights of good relations work delivered by a range of organisations.

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Safety For All In Our Changing Community

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS Inner South Belfast and Botanic areas

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Ár nAbhainn, Ár Scealtaí / Our River, Our Stories

Did you know: the Ormeau Road Gasworks was opened in 1822 to provide Belfast with gas for street lighting, domestic and industrial use. Prior to the opening of the Gasworks, Belfast's streetlights were glass bowls filled with whale oil and rush wicks which had to be lit manually. This task was the responsibility of the Belfast Charitable Society, operating from Clifton House.





Last year, the urban Lagan River was designated as a Heritage Place under the National Lottery Heritage Fund's flagship Heritage Places programme. The grant holder, Maritime Trust Belfast, is working in partnership with LORAG, EastSide Partnership and Sailortown Regeneration to deliver a community capacity building project, reconnecting communities to the river and Belfast's maritime heritage. The LORAG staff member recruited to deliver this project is the new heritage engagement officer, Damon Henry.

Different areas of the waterfront will have different aspirations. For LORAG, success looks like a healthy, living river. LORAG wants to ensure that the current construction sites along the riverbank become cohesive community assets and encourage people from Inner South Belfast and beyond to spend time along the River Lagan.

LORAG also wants to unlock the potential of the McConnell's Weir, including the welly boots in the middle of the river, and make them a community-based river access point, so the community is not simply active around the river, but on it.

The process by which this will be achieved and what exactly the final result will look like is for the community to decide. LORAG will be holding multiple events over the lifetime of the project for community members to bring ideas to the table and ensure that, when residents look into the Lagan, they see their own reflection looking back.

Alongside the potential for the river, LORAG wants to work alongside the community and area neighbours to unlock the potential of the Gasworks site. The Gasworks is a huge part of Belfast's story and is currently criminally underused. While its value as a heritage site is obvious to all, it could be said that its value as a community asset, as a space for the community to spend time and enjoy, is not being recognised at a statutory level.

Féile na hAbhann proves that the Gaswork's best days may still be ahead, at the heart of the community, and showcases how interweaving the past with aspirations for the future can revitalise spaces and ensure their use for years to come.

Despite all the rich history in Inner South, the most vital and yet underappreciated assets are the memories and stories of the community that call it their home. All those intangible links, stories of times past and of people no longer with us, of streets that have moved, changed names or disappeared altogether, are what gives an area its character, and underline its resilience. This project is an opportunity to collect those memories and ensure they remain in our social consciousness as we move into the future. There will be many opportunities to engage with this project and share these stories with one another over the course of the next two years.

In the meantime, consider this a direct ask to reach out to Damon: heritageengagement@lorag.org with stories, jokes, memories or ideas of how you think these could best be shared and preserved for generations to come. The past changes as people and places do. To capture the essence of this relationship, this change, is to move forward with a better understanding of where you're going. As they say, quite appropriately, as Gaelige: 'Más maith leat breac a fháil, caithfidh tú eisteacht le fuaim na habhann.' (If you want to catch the trout, you have to listen to the sound of the river').

Creating Cohesive Community

CREATING COHESIVE COMMUNITY
Safety For All In Our Changing Community









Engaged Citizens

October 2026 saw the completion of LORAG's Wider University and Lower Ormeau Engaged Citizens programme funded by Belfast City Council's Community Recovery Fund. This has been an extensive programme comprising

Strand one

- Delivery of ten workshops/ conversations facilitated by four different groups/facilitators on community cohesion/good neighbourliness/counteracting far right misinformation and disinformation
- Production of a Report It! booklet and good neighbour guide
- Delivery of an intercultural, intergenerational music project with Botanic Primary School and LORAG's Older and Active group
- Developing a LORAG choir which launched at Féile na hAbhann and which will be reactivated this December for Winter Wonderland



Strand two

- Hosting four community Iftar meals during Ramadan 2026.
- International Women's Day
- Coffee morning to mark and celebrate Refugee Week
- Intercultural event as part of LORAG's Halloween delivery

Summer Solstice yoga



LORAG delivered a sunrise yoga at the summer solstice in Gairdín Abhann. Money was raised for Médecins Sans Frontières this time. Thank you, Orla, for delivering this class for free, allowing us to raise £135 for this charity which does such important work in war zones across the globe.

Celebrate Local Nature Day

A festival celebrating nature took place on 23rd July 2026 in Gairdín Abhann which 81 participants attended. This was a fun, chilled day preparing the ground for Féile na hAbhann. Participants enjoyed a barbecue, s'mores, music, art, a gardening activity alongside games and exercise for parents and kids. Some comments include:

'Amazing, well organised and friendly'

'Nice, chilled out afternoon good to get outdoors for a few hours'

'(I liked) 'community spirit + cohesion'



Other Activities

Participants from Gairdín Abhann teamed up with the walking group again. The group walked to Native Coffee by the river where they enjoyed a nature based art workshop and produced some amazing work.

Through Belfast Festival at Queen's, LORAG was able to invite members of our migrant community to Orchestra Baobab from Senegal – an inspiring performance.

LORAG hosted Clanmil on 23rd October 2026 as it handed over keys to new tenants at the building on the corner of Shaftesbury Avenue. This was a great opportunity to meet new residents coming into the area and inform them about all LORAG has to offer.

LORAG has been working with Reclaim the Agenda and Forward South Partnership to deliver workshops focused on violence against women and girls. The women's group and men's group will host a workshop focussing on this subject area. LORAG will host a play – produced by Kabosh - called Reunion - which looks at the impact of domestic violence on older victims and their families. This will take place in LORAG on 24th November 2026.

Féile na hAbhann 2026

This was a sensational year for Féile na hAbhann (Festival of the River), which brings together the communities of Lower Ormeau, the Market and Short Strand. Over 22,000 people attended the various events.

The festival grew rapidly this year for two reasons:

- Enhanced Belfast City Council funding allowed an extension of diversionary activities for young people: 25th July-15th August 2026 and for a wider range of activities
- Belfast hosted Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2026. This gave Féile na hAbhann an elevated platform and increased awareness of the potential of culture as a tool for community regeneration, capacity building and peace building. It developed an audience for street festival events.

By transforming familiar public spaces into places of celebration, welcome and shared experience, Féile na hAbhann showed the power of sport and culture to strengthen good relations and animate spaces. The success of the programme reflects the commitment of local community partners, artists, volunteers, funders and residents who worked together to create events that were open, inclusive and rooted in community pride.

A key strength of the festival was its ability to bring together long-established residents, new families, young people, older people and visitors to the city. The atmosphere throughout was relaxed, welcoming and family-focused, with people able to take part in performances, enjoy live entertainment, learn more about local culture and connect with others in a safe, friendly setting.

Féile na Abhann was evaluated by an external consultant who noted that: '…The feedback across all activities was massively positive. There were strikingly high ratings given to feelings of safety, enjoyment of the events, participants feelings about their communities and the new connections they made.'





Féile na hAbhann 2026 delivered:

Youth activities

- Weekend soccer tournament: 25th-26th July in Ormeau Park which 18 teams from across the region participated in
- Youth workshops: 25th July–15th August which included arts and water sports programmes culminating in a currach boat race between Short Strand, the Market and Lower Ormeau.
- Family dance night in the Market: 7th August 2026
- Evening diversionary outreach and activities: 25th July–15th August.

The aims of the youth activities were to:

- Reduce unstructured time and provide positive diversion from anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Engage at-risk young people, promote teamwork, wellbeing and cross community interaction.

Comments from evaluation forms include:

- 'Thank you, it's the best run tournament we have been to and no problems across any game…. Credit to the clubs. Well done.'
- 'We love playing against new teams and are not afraid to travel. We love the fact that our team players are from different backgrounds.'
- 'A great experience for kids. Always proud of Ballymena.'
- 'It's always good playing with other local teams and making new friends is always good'
- 'Very well-organised tournament – lots of football played - good competition.'





Flagship events

- A Twilight Market on the Lagan Walkway Friday 31st July 5pm–10pm with cultural events in An Droichead garden
- A Family Fun Day on Saturday 1st of August from 12.00–4.00 pm on the Walkway and in the Gasworks site.

These events included live music, dance performances, art workshops, animal touch experiences, music activities and much more.

The aims of these flagship events were to:

- Provide a highly visible, inclusive and attractive alternative to ASB during peak risk days
- Promote positive cultural expression through diverse activities
- Bring community together in a shared space, increasing community cohesion.

Comments from the evaluation include:

- 'I enjoy seeing all different types of cultures come together as one and enjoy a brilliant event together. It has made me feel a great sense of pride for my community.'
- 'I spoke to people that I had never met before from the road, and also visitors to the city.'
- 'I think it's fabulous how my community can organise this great event. I'm beyond proud.'
- 'It has shown my community is vibrant, diverse and buzzing.'
- 'There was a feeling of solidarity and positivity.'

Cultural expression through music, storytelling and dance.

- Tales of the River: An Droichead garden: 1st August
- Song and Story Night: Verner Street stage: 6th August
- Trad nights: Verner Street stage: 7-8th August:
- An Droichead children's performances Verner Street stage: 6th- 9th August

The programme at the Verner Street stage, in partnership with Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, formed an important part of Féile na hAbhann's wider good relations work.

The aims of the cultural expression programme were to:

- Promote positive cultural expression through traditional music storytelling, incorporating young peoples' voices and experiences.
- Strengthen community belonging and provide a structured evening alternative for community engagement, that attracts both young people and adults to reduce the likelihood of ASB.



Comments from the evaluation include:

- 'The Story of the River – great to see all ages enjoy the culture and the atmosphere.'
- 'It gave me a stronger sense of belonging.'
- 'This is what Belfast is all about – community spirit.'
- 'I love the fact that everyone from different backgrounds came together'.
- 'So positive.'
- 'Proud to be working class and where I'm from.'

As Féile na hAbhann continues to grow, the Verner Street events provide a strong example of how culture, music and community leadership can bring people together, support positive relationships and help build a more connected Belfast.





Youth Project

LORAG is delighted to introduce Michael McAllister as LORAG's new youth coordinator. Michael has a strong background in youth work and comes with a commitment to continuing and developing the work of the youth project.



He will be focused on ensuring that young people continue to have access to positive activities, opportunities, support and a safe space where they can feel valued, listened to and supported.

This year to date, LORAG youth project has continued to expand its programme of activities and opportunities for young people. We have delivered a cross-border youth programme in partnership with Crumlin, Lower Advancing Youth in Dublin. This has given young people the opportunity to meet others, experience different communities and develop positive relationships.

The youth project currently operates at least six youth sessions every week, including four dedicated girls' programmes, a young lads' programme and popular Friday Football sessions.

These programmes provide young people with a safe and welcoming environment to socialise, take part in positive activities, develop new skills and access support around issues that matter to them.

LORAG youth project also offers Sunday drop-in sessions, providing an additional informal opportunity for young people to call in, meet friends, engage with youth workers and take part in activities in a safe and supportive environment.

The aim is to continue building on this provision, ensuring that young people have a strong voice in shaping the services and activities available to them and that LORAG remains a positive, accessible and supportive place for all young people in our community.

The LORAG youth project provides a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for children and young people in our community to meet, make friends, have fun and access support.

The youth provision is needs-led, meaning we listen to young people and develop activities and programmes around the issues, interests and challenges that matter to them.

Opening of Happy Women's Group



Huge comhghairdeas/congratulations to Happy Women's Group for a joyous launch on 18th September 2026.

A welcome to Lower Ormeau too from your new neighbours. The room was overflowing with good wishes from group members, politicians, neighbours and well-wishers. Official ribbon cutting was done by Belfast mayor Róis-Máire Donnelly (with lots of helpers!). Happy Women's Group is a black and minority ethnic led charity organisation of women and girls. The organisation will be offering a wide variety of activity including poetry, personal development programmes, cooking programmes, health sessions, self-defence, language classes and much more. Wishing this organisation all the best going forward and looking forward to partnership working.

Gairdín Abhann/River Garden



Gairdín Abhann consists of a garden, shed and polytunnel. It is located on the Lagan Walkway beside the Lockhouse.

Three groups meet regularly in the garden:

- Woodwork group (Mondays 10.30 am-12.30 pm)
- Men's group (Tuesdays 10.00 am-4.00 pm)
- Garden group (Wednesdays 10.30 am-12.00 pm) (closing soon for the winter).

Residents are welcome at any of these groups.

The men's group has made an amazing teach na gráinneoige/ hedgehog house (complete with two rooms!!) which will be donated to Scoil an Droichid in November 2026. Let's hope that the house makes a local (Irish speaking?!) hedgehog very happy!! The men are also working on a house for LORAG's creche area – the children came for a sneak preview and were delighted!

The woodwork group made amazing bodhráns during the summer. Thanks to Cormac Saunders for facilitating over a five week period – participants were delighted with the results.

The garden group is working with Divergent Growth to deliver a soil remediation project. The land in Gairdín Abhann is lightly contaminated. The remediation project is introducing nature-based solutions to remediate contaminated soil, restore biodiversity, and create a long-term ecological asset for the community.

Gairdín Abhann has recently been constituted by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. This means the group is now an independent charity – great progress. LORAG wishes the group all the very best going forward

Contact Heather at: hfloyd@lorag.org if you are interested in any of these groups.

Competiton Winner



Congratulations to Anne Clinton who won the quiz from Neighbourhood Matters edition 26.

LORAG programme director Gerad Rice pulled her name out and she was presented with her vouchers a couple of days later… who will win this edition?



End of year events

Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group (LORAG) is looking forward to delivering its end of year events:

• Winter Wonderland: 5th December 2026: 1-4 pm

• Older people's Christmas dinner: 6th December 2026

Contact: hfloyd@lorag.org for details.

Upcoming Health Programme at LORAG

LORAG, alongside the Healthy Living Centre Alliance, will deliver its third chronic pain programme from January to March 2027. This valuable programme supports participants in managing chronic pain and improving their quality of life.

For information, contact Charlene on: 028 9031 2377.



Mornington Community Project

Situated on the Lower Ormeau Road, Mornington Community Project exists to nurture families through every stage of life by creating safe, welcoming spaces where people can access support, build meaningful relationships and integrate together. This is achieved through a wide range of programmes.

Nurturing Programme



Mornington's Nurturing Families programme continues to support parents and carers in south Belfast to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and enhance wellbeing. This year that has included offering practical parenting courses, one to one support and creating spaces to socially gather. The Women Together programme met weekly to share and support one another and even enjoyed a family residential to Corrymeela in August.

Parent and Toddler: Wednesdays 10-11.30 am
Parenting Puzzle: starting Thursday 7th January
Talking Teens: starting Tuesday 14th January
Under 55s women's Tai Chi: Mondays 6.30-8.00pm
Email: AnneMckay@morningtoncommunityproject.com

Cozy Hub Foodbank

Mornington operates a weekly Cozy Hub/ Drop-in service. This has become a welcoming space that provides fresh food, tea and coffee. Service users are also provided with a bag of food essentials and referral into the south Belfast food bank. This has become a safe space for those who need it most in the community and on average Mornington delivers 50 meals and bags every week.

Fridays 11.30–1.30 pm
Email: Clairebell@morningtoncommunityproject.com

Women's Over 55s Programme

This programme has continued to run on a weekly basis striving to improve the visibility and inclusion of women in this age group. What began as Tai Chi classes on a Wednesday has now progressed to include a Monday night health and wellbeing programme with workshops in cooking, gardening, crafts and singing.

Wednesday: **Tai Chi 6:30-8pm**
Monday nights: **Health and wellbeing programme: 6:30-8pm**
Email: BridDuffy@morningtoncommunityproject.com

Pop-ups @ Mornington







Mornington's pop-up cafés have offered an inclusive space that responds to a wide range of local needs. This year the café space has offered out peer support groups and pop-up workshops as well as other events throughout the year. This has included a teenage pop-up afterschool and summer scheme, a craft café, repair workshops, networking breakfasts, drama workshops, lego learning sessions and much more.

Teen café: Wednesdays 4-6pm
Check out socials for more info on upcoming pop-ups
Email: ErinThompson@morningtoncommunityproject.com



Around the Table

Around the Table is Mornington's newest programme supported by Belfast City Council and the Police and Community Safety Partnership. This is a newly formed men's group stemming from those that attend the cozy hub, with the intention of expanding the offering to include a range of physical, wellbeing and social activities. This started with table tennis but has progressed to include ESOL classes, advocacy and advice sessions and cookery or repair workshops and more.

Mondays: table tennis drop-in 2-4pm

Friday: advocacy and health and social care drop-ins 11:30-1:30pm

More information will be available via socials and email.
Email: ErinThompson@morningtoncommunityproject.com

Find us on instagram and Facebook: morningtoncommunityproject or Pop-Ups at Mornington



The John Murray Lockhouse



April 2026



August 2026



October 2026

Work on refurbishing the John Murray Lockhouse started in February 2026. Adjacent sites have been secured and brought into use as a thriving community garden – Gairdín Abhann - complete with a polytunnel and sheds. The space is bringing people together, supporting health and wellbeing and making the most of limited green space within the local area.

Plans are also progressing for the former pump station site, which will provide a dedicated community boat store with direct access to the River Lagan — reconnecting local people with the water in a meaningful and practical way.

Looking further ahead, even more ambitious ideas are taking shape, including proposals to restore the historic lock itself as a cold-water swimming pool, creating a unique and accessible space for outdoor recreation, health, and wellbeing.

At the heart of the wider vision is the transformation of the Lockhouse into a Healthy Living Hub – a welcoming space designed to improve health outcomes and create new opportunities for the community. A new café will act as a gateway into the wider project, connecting visitors to a range of activities, services, and community support.

The main building works are expected to be completed by 2027, marking a significant milestone that will coincide with LORAG celebrating 40 years of service to the community — including 25 years managing and developing Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre.

Ageing Well at LORAG

LORAG offers a range of services to support and engage our older community. The weekly Older and Active sessions take place every Thursday from 10am to 12.30pm, currently welcoming 37 participants, most of whom attend regularly.

The programme offers a variety of activities, including exercise, boccia, bingo and a freshly prepared lunch each week, creating opportunities for friendship, fun and social connection.

Over recent months, Older and Active has been working alongside cultural organisation MayWe. Participants have been creating art for an exciting art exhibition in Belfast, bringing together older peoples' groups from across the city to showcase their creativity.

Participants have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their artistic side through pottery, felt-making, crocheting and clay work.

The clay sessions, in particular, have sparked great enthusiasm, with participants drawing inspiration from old buildings and houses that hold special memories for them.

Over the past few weeks these memories have been brought to life by creating beautiful clay models of traditional thatched houses, the Titanic and a very colourful igloo, which will be proudly displayed at the exhibition.

Looking ahead, the group is eagerly anticipating the annual pensioners' Christmas dinner in December, which is expected to welcome around 80 older people for a wonderful festive gathering.

If you would like to take part in the activities or simply pop in for a bowl of soup and a friendly chat, you will be very welcome! For more information, contact Charlene or Geraldine on 028 9031 2377.





Lower Ormeau

Shaftesbury Fitness Suite

Shaftesbury Healthy Living Centre serves the local and wider communities of south Belfast. There is a great, friendly gym to help the community stay fit and healthy. Coaches deliver exercise and health programmes as well as outreach activities and walking groups.

The gym delivers 14 fitness classes each week which include pilates, yoga and social sports. The gym is well equipped with cardio machines, Stairmaster, dumbbell racks and a dedicated weights area.

Health programmes form a large part of service delivery. These include:

- **Healthwise (see below)** a 12 week free scheme which the public can join with a referral from their GP. LORAG has been running the scheme for over 12 years.
- **Strength and balance** (referrals from the Trust falls prevention team).
- **Pulmonary maintenance** (referrals from rehab teams).

Social sports is a more relaxed social activity - just drop-in and play badminton/table tennis/ pickle ball. Social sports is a great addition to the timetable. The Wednesday walking group is a popular event and walkers went on some great trips last summer (heritage tours of Belfast /City Hall/Titanic centre and coastal trips, with more planned for this year.









Health and fitness at Shaftesbury centre

LORAG delivers the Healthwise physical activity referral programme which GPs refer people into. This is a free 12-week programme aimed at encouraging a more active lifestyle for participants.

Healthwise supports participants with different conditions and fitness levels. This involves level three (physical activity referral) and level four (pulmonary rehabilitation) coaches adapting exercise programmes to suit the individual, delivering both one to one and group sessions. Group classes such as strength and balance (falls prevention) help participants with mobility. The pulmonary maintenance group helps with breathing and everyday activities.

SHAFTESBURY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

Hire charges

	off-peak per hour	peak per hour
Main Hall	£24	£32
3G FULL Pitch	£35	£45
3G 1/2 Pitch	£20	£25
Dance Studio	£20.00	
Social Area	£20.00	
Committee Room	£15.00	
Therapy Rooms	£10.00	



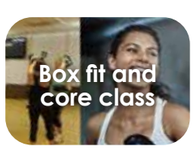
Some popular fitness classes













CLASS TIMETABLE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
STRENGTH &TONE@10AM POWERPLUS 30@ 5.30PM BODYHIIT/BOXFIT 6.10PM ZUMBA 7PM	YOGA @ 10AM PILATES @ 11.15AM EXPRESS CIRCUIT PLUS CORE 5.30PM	CARDIOACTIVE @10AM WALKING GROUP@1PM FREESTYLE PUMP &CORE @5.30PM	LADIES SMALL GROUP GYM WORKOUT @9.15AM BODY RESET@10AM TRX&KETTLEBELLS@5.30PM BOOTCAMP@ 6.10PM STRENGTH/CARDIO&CORE YOGA @7PM	PILATES @9.30AM SOCIAL SPORTS @10.30AM

Donegall Pass





2026 Donegall Pass Summer Diversionary Scheme

Donegall Pass Residents Association and partners staged a very successful summer community diversionary programme funded by Belfast City Council through Greater Village Regeneration Trust from 8th to 14th July 2026.

A coordination group consisting of: Donegall Pass Residents Association, Donegall Pass Community Enterprises, Donegall Pass Women's Group, South Belfast Alternatives, South Belfast Young Conquerors Flute Band and Elm Court Residents was set up to develop the programme. This was facilitated by local community activists and historians.







Some highlights include:

- A historical and interesting workshop in Sandy Row Orange Hall on the history of this Orange District.
- A cultural heritage and walking tour of Donegall Pass. This proved very interesting as it discussed The Troubles and the effects this had on the local community.
- A historical tour of the Act Initiative Inside Out exhibition in Long Kesh
- A 50th anniversary photographic exhibition to celebrate the South Belfast Young Conquerors Flute Band. It was interesting looking at the photographs from 1976 to the present and the number of people who have come through this band's ranks.

A huge turnout of local families and children attended the 11th July Donegall Pass cultural day festival. This consisted of a barbecue, music, inflatables, games, face painting, band pole making, stilt walkers, jugglers, kids' play bus, doughnuts and candy floss, a bubble show. This is very important for the area to enable such a selection of activities so that there is something for every child to participate in and feel included.

This year local pensioners were included. Residents from the Elm Court sheltered dwellings were invited.

The 11th night cultural bonfire was another huge success for the community. There was no anti-social behaviour as bonfire collectors took responsibility for health and safety. Donegall Pass Residents Association is committed to self-regulation of its community bonfire which has always been a success.

In conclusion, Belfast City Council 2026 summer diversionary scheme achieved its objectives:

- Engagement of young people in a range of activities that they were interested in.
- Structured, focused cultural activities diverted young people from anti-social behaviour.
- Young people took ownership of activities and helped to deliver and create a successful programme.
- The festival achieved inclusiveness for all age groups and ethnic backgrounds in the community.
- There was no sectarian or anti-social behaviour reported during this period at the interfaces between Donegall Pass, The Market and the Ormeau Road.

It is hoped that Belfast City Council will find this scheme successful and will continue funding it. Donegall Pass Residents Association wishes to express immense thanks to South Belfast Alternatives - without their assistance, knowledge and contacts, this summer diversionary scheme would not have been a success.

A big thank you also to Greater Village Regeneration Trust for promoting and coordinating this scheme across all the community groups in south Belfast.

A New Future for the Former Donegall Pass Police Station

The former police station in Donegall Pass has stood vacant since 2012. The proposed Donegall Pass Good Relations Hub offers an opportunity to bring this prominent site back into use as a welcoming shared space for Donegall Pass, Inner South Belfast and beyond.

The Hub is an initiative of The Executive Office's Urban Villages programme. Plans include flexible community and exhibition space, meeting rooms, a social enterprise café and commercial kitchen, accommodation for community organisations, an inclusive childcare facility and new social housing. Together, these facilities will create a place where people from different backgrounds can meet, learn, access support and participate in community life.

A revised business case has been developed, updating the evidence of need, refining the design, examining long-term sustainability and reviewing how the project will be delivered. Recent Donegall Pass Community Enterprises (DPCE) research has highlighted the continuing need for neutral shared space, affordable childcare and opportunities for meaningful contact between communities.



Belfast City Council is confirmed as the project management partner, with Clanmil Housing delivering the housing element. DPCE is preparing for its future role through organisational development and programmes focused on good relations, culture, heritage and inclusion.

The immediate priority is securing approval of the business case. Subject to approval, the project will move into further design, technical assessment and consultation, with a planning application anticipated in early 2027 and the Hub expected to open in 2030. There is still a long way to go, but the plans offer real hope of transforming a long-vacant site into a welcoming place that contributes positively to the future of Donegall Pass and south Belfast.



What's in a Name?

In August 2026, we welcomed Queen's University Belfast researcher Dr Frances Kane to Home Church for a fascinating evening exploring the origins and meanings of local place names.

Dr Kane explained how place names can reveal much about an area's landscape, history and communities. Belfast, for example, comes from the Irish Béal Feirste, meaning "the mouth of the sandy ford", referring to a tidal ford near where the River Lagan and River Farset meet.

The talk sparked plenty of interest and discussion, with audience members particularly keen to explore the stories behind Donegall Pass's own street names. We hope to arrange a follow-up session, so keep an eye on our social media for updates.

Pass, Present and Future: The Donegall Pass Community Archive

Work is under way to build the Donegall Pass Community Archive — a growing record of the people, places and stories that have shaped the area.

The archive will capture Donegall Pass's past while reflecting the community as it is today and how it continues to change. We are collecting photographs, documents, memories, and other materials connected to the development of the area and the lives of its residents.

If you have something that could help tell the story of Donegall Pass, we would love to hear from you. You do not necessarily have to give the original item to the archive — please get in touch to discuss how it could be shared or copied.

We have already begun bringing the collection to life through our weekly Throwback Thursday posts on social media. New material will also be added as our Belfast Stories project progresses.

Our long-term ambition is for the archive to be accessible within the Donegall Pass Good Relations Hub — telling the story of the community, in the community.

Brand-new and Improved Website

The DPCE brand-new website is now live, making it easier to discover what the organisation does, explore projects and keep up with the latest news from Donegall Pass.

Developed by Stripy Paint with support from Urban Villages, the new site gives DPCE a fresh online home. Take a look at dpce.org.uk — and, as with anything new, there may still be a few gremlins hiding in the works. If you spot one, please let us know!

DPCE has also been developing its social media channels to share its work and the latest goings-on across Donegall Pass.

Follow us on:
Instagram: @donegallpass_ce
Facebook: Donegall Pass Community Enterprises
TikTok: @donegallpassce

The Pass: Stories Worth Keeping

DPCE has secured £10,000 from Belfast City Council's Belfast Stories Community Grants programme for The Pass: Root, Branch & Beacon, a new community storytelling and archiving project.

This project will work with people who live in, have lived in, worked in or have another connection with Donegall Pass. We want to gather the everyday memories that make a place: stories of families, neighbours, streets, shops, schools, businesses, food, work and community life. Residents will be invited to bring photographs, letters and other items to informal scanning sessions, where digital copies can be made and the originals returned immediately. We will also record stories about the area's long-established communities, its Chinese heritage, its changing population and people's memories of the former police station.

The material collected will begin a lasting digital community archive and help shape future exhibitions and storytelling within the Donegall Pass Good Relations Hub. The aim is to ensure that the new Hub carries the voices, memories and experiences of the people who have made the Pass what it is.

We are looking for volunteers to help gather, record, organise and preserve these stories. No previous archiving experience is needed - just curiosity, care and an interest in people and place! To get involved, email: info@dpce.org.uk.

A Latte to Talk About!

Since June, DPCE has been hosting a community coffee morning on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 11.30am at the DPCE offices.

It is an informal opportunity for local residents, businesses, community organisations and agencies to meet, make connections and hear what is happening across the area. There are no presentations, no formal agenda and no need to book - just drop in, have a cup of tea, grab a scone and join the conversation.

Whether you live locally, run a business, work in the area or simply want to build stronger connections with the Donegall Pass community, you will be very welcome.

Put the last Friday of every month in your diary and come along!

Fairy Wishing Well

In DonegalL Pass, the corner at the bottom of Vernon Street was being used as a fly tip area with people dumping all sorts of rubbish. Donegall Pass Residents Association (DPRA) received so many complaints from residents living around this area. They asked if the DPRA could do something about it.

Local children came up with the idea of a fairy tree and wishing well garden. DPRA contacted the Housing Executive and as you can see, the children's proposal and ideas are now being made into reality.





Ulster Scots Festival

A successful Ulster Scots Fringe Festival was held in Donegall Pass from 1st to 7th August 2026. This was delivered by the Belfast Bands Forum.



Donegall Pass

Celebrating 30 Years of Donegall Pass Community Forum

Residents, volunteers, staff, friends, political representatives and partner organisations came together for a special anniversary dinner to celebrate 30 years of Donegall Pass Community Forum and mark Elaine Mansfield's retirement after 20 years managing the Forum.





The evening was an opportunity to reflect on three decades of supporting local people, building relationships and creating opportunities. We proudly acknowledged our founders, Harry Todd and Ken Orr, who, alongside Stephanie Greene, established the Forum in 1996. Their commitment to Donegall Pass helped lay the foundations for the community work that continues today. We also paid tribute to Elaine for her dedication, leadership and service over the past two decades. We wish her a very happy retirement and are delighted that she will continue to contribute her knowledge and experience as a committee member.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the celebration so special, and to our staff, volunteers, committee members, funders and partners for their continued support. Here's to the next chapter for Elaine - and the next 30 years for the Forum!

A Summer of Fun in Our Community Garden

Our community garden provided a welcoming space for children to enjoy this summer, hosting visits from the Sólás summer scheme for children with special educational needs and Belfast City Council's summer scheme children. We also hosted a day with the Kidz Farm and had our End of Summer BBQ with facepainting, balloon modelling and bouncy castles.

It was lovely to see the garden being used by local children and groups, bringing people together and making the most of this wonderful community space.





Apsley Street Mural: Funded by The Linen Quarter Bid

Did you know that The Pass Loning (or Pass Loanen) was the original historical name for Donegall Pass? Dating back to the late 1700s, it was created as a shortcut through Lord Donegall's private woodland.

The Scots derived word "loning" simply means a lane or pathway. Long before Donegall Pass became the vibrant community we know today, it was a peaceful rural escape on the edge of Belfast, where wealthy families built impressive country homes such as Cromac House.

As Belfast grew into an industrial city during the 1800s, the woodland disappeared and the lane transformed into a bustling neighbourhood, with rows of homes built for the workers who helped shape the city's future.

This rich local history inspired our latest community artwork, The Pass Loning, created by our wonderful Playlist for Life group in partnership with the talented Dean from Visual Waste Belfast. The mural celebrates not only the history of Donegall Pass but also the memories of growing up and stories that make our community so special today. It has been a fantastic opportunity for participants to connect, share experiences and leave a lasting legacy for everyone to enjoy.

A huge thank you to Dean for bringing the group's ideas to life, and to everyone who took part in creating this beautiful piece of community art. Take a moment to stop by, have a look, and celebrate the history, creativity and community spirit of Donegall Pass.





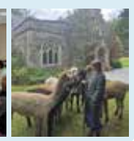
Women's Health Group Activities

Our Women's Health Group provides a welcoming and supportive space for women in our community to connect, learn and focus on their wellbeing.

Through a range of activities, discussions and health-focused sessions, the group encourages women to share experiences, build friendships and access helpful information in a relaxed and friendly environment. It is wonderful to see women coming together, supporting one another and taking part in activities that promote physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages - Donegall Pass Community Forum - for new activities coming soon. If you would like to get involved give us a call on 028 9032 6256.







Social Supermarket: The Larder

The Larder supports local individuals and families from The Market, Lower Ormeau and Donegall Pass by offering affordable access to food and everyday essentials, helping household budgets go further.

As part of the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership initiative, it provides a vital local response to the pressures facing households across the area. Rising energy and food costs are making it increasingly difficult for many people to afford the essentials, and our social supermarket helps ease this pressure by offering practical, affordable support.

More than a place to shop, our social supermarket is a welcoming, respectful space where people can connect with others and access additional support with dignity.

We have a large fridge, two freezers and shelves stocked with non-perishable food and everyday essentials. Support is available for six months, with a fortnightly shop costing £10 and including up to 24 items. For counting purposes, two packets of pasta count as one item, two bags of rice count as one item, and two tins count as one item. The larder is open to anyone living in the three areas and is not means tested. To use the larder please contact the relevant organisation in your area:

Donegall Pass Community Forum: Charlie: 028 9032 6256.

Market Development Association: 028 90312272.

LORAG: 028 9031 2377.

The Market

St Malachy's GAC Looks to the Future with Ambitious Youth Development Plans



St Malachy's Gaelic Athletic Association (GAC) is laying the foundations for an ambitious new chapter, with plans underway to rebuild a strong and sustainable youth structure that can serve children and families across the local community for generations to come.

While the club currently has no formally registered youth teams, a significant amount of work has already been taking place behind the scenes to create a pathway for young people into Gaelic games.

One of the main building blocks has been the introduction of a dedicated coach into the local primary school, delivering Gaelic games sessions on a weekly basis throughout the academic year. The aim is to give children regular exposure to the sport while strengthening the connection between the school, the community and St Malachy's GAC.

The club has established weekly fundamentals sessions for children born in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. These sessions provide a fun, friendly and supportive environment where young people can develop movement skills, confidence and an early love of Gaelic sport.

Further evidence of the appetite for Gaelic Games within the area has come through the success of the club's summer Cúl Camps. Strong participation numbers have shown that there is real interest among local children and families in accessing Gaelic games within their own community.

The camps have also provided young people with opportunities to experience a range of Gaelic sports, including Gaelic football, hurling, camogie and handball, while making new friends and enjoying a positive week of activity. The response to the camps has given the club further confidence that there is a strong foundation on which to build a permanent youth structure.

The long-term aim is to create a clear pathway from school and community participation into registered St Malachy's youth teams. At the younger age groups, the emphasis will remain on enjoyment and accessibility, with a manageable commitment for families through weekly training and opportunities to take part in regular blitzes.

Central to these plans will be the development of coaches and volunteers from within the community. The club is preparing a Parent-to-Coach programme designed to encourage parents and residents to become involved, build confidence and develop the skills and qualifications needed to support future teams.

St Malachy's GAC also recognises the importance of ensuring that its youth structure reflects the communities it serves. The club spans three working-class communities and wants its future youth provision to be inclusive, accessible and representative of families from across all three areas.

Irish culture, language and heritage will form an important part of the club's future youth development. The aim is to create opportunities for young people and families to engage with the wider cultural traditions connected to Gaelic Games, helping to strengthen identity, community connection and a sense of belonging within the club.

The timing is particularly significant as St Malachy's celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2026. While the anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect proudly on the club's history, it will also be used as a platform to look firmly towards the future.

For St Malachy's GAC, the ambition is clear: to build a youth structure that gives local children the opportunity to play, belong and develop within their community, while ensuring the club remains a strong and vibrant part of local life for the next generation.



Market STEAM scheme



The Market Development Association (MDA) Queen's Community and Place (QCAP) STEAM scheme 2026 provided local young people from The Market with an exciting opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics through a week of hands-on learning experiences delivered in partnership between the MDA and QCAP.

The programme aimed to broaden educational horizons, increase confidence, and encourage young people to consider future pathways into further and higher education. Throughout the week, participants engaged in a range of interactive activities and visits, including medical simulation training, marine biology studies, robotics and engineering workshops, archaeology and local heritage activities, and a cinema experience connected to creative learning. These activities allowed the young participants to experience university facilities, meet academic staff and researchers, and develop new skills in a supportive and engaging environment.

A key strength of the scheme was its focus on experiential learning, enabling young people to explore real-world applications of STEAM subjects while building teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. The programme also strengthened links between local families, MDA and Queen's University Belfast, helping to raise aspirations and reduce barriers to educational participation.

The week concluded with a graduation celebration at Queen's University, where participants and their families came together to recognise the achievements of the young people and celebrate their successful completion of the programme. The 2026 STEAM scheme once again demonstrated the value of community-university partnership working in creating meaningful educational opportunities for local children and young people.



The Holyland

At Queen's, student safety and wellbeing are a priority.

Whether students are new to Belfast or returning for another year, the university wants you to feel confident, informed and supported — on campus, at home and out in the city.

That's why Queen's has developed a range of student safety initiatives to help keep students safe and supported throughout the year.

The Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA) and Forward South Partnership (FSP) have launch a Belfast City Council funded community project to help prevent violence against women and girls

We know that violence against women and girls is a serious problem in the north of Ireland. Everyone is welcomed to learn together and develop understanding and awareness. We invite you to join workshops happening over the next few months in different locations across the Holyland and Lower Ormeau.

These friendly, interactive sessions are designed to be sensitive to people's experiences. Participants will learn about different kinds of abuse, such as controlling behaviour, sexual harassment, misogyny, blaming victims, online abuse, and harmful attitudes. The workshops will also teach how to recognise warning signs, understand what consent means, feel confident to act safely as a bystander, and find the right support if needed.

These sessions aim to help everyone build their understanding gradually, ask questions in a safe space, and see how these issues can affect everyday life. It also allows facilitators to adapt to new needs and to focus on practical ways individuals and organisations can stand up against harmful behaviour and help make the community safer for everyone. If you are interested in taking part, email Chloe (Chloe@forwardsouth.org).







Holyland Winter Festival
This year's Holyland Winter Festival will take place from 30th November to 4th December.

Come together to celebrate our lively community and show care for our planet. We'll enjoy creative activities that brighten up every corner, share music that brings us all closer, and focus on spreading happiness and peace to make our world a better place.

This year, there will be an evening of music in the beautiful Wildflower Alley and a fun activity creating plant bulb lasagne in the Holyland Gardens, among many other activities! On Friday 4th December, join us for singing Christmas carols in the Holyland as we come together with people from different backgrounds to enjoy the festive spirit and share some cheer!

Everyone is welcome, and we're excited to celebrate with you!

Events will take place at:
- Chinese Welfare Association
- City Church
- Botanic Primary School
- Happy Women's Group
- Northern Ireland Somali Association
- Wildflower Alley
- Holyland Community Gardens....and more!

Keep an eye on Forward South Partnership social media for updates on events, or email Chloe: Chloe@forwardsouth.org.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

STUDENT SAFETY

Stay Safe. Stay Supported. Stay Connected.

At Queen's, student safety and wellbeing are a priority. Whether students are new to Belfast or returning for another year, the university wants you to feel confident, informed and supported — on campus, at home and out in the city. That's why Queen's has developed a range of student safety initiatives to help keep you safe and supported throughout the year.













Inner South Health and Wellbeing

INNER SOUTH Healthy Living Partnership

Family Support Hub

What is the Family Support Hub?
The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people/ parents/carers. This includes community, voluntary and statutory family support services.

The Hub aims to connect families to services they need at a time when they need them. We work in partnership with each family to find the best service.

How does it work?
You or any family member can complete a referral form

A referral can also be made by someone working on your behalf e.g.: school, health visitor, GP

Once we receive your referral we will call you to discuss how best to support you and your family.



Your local Family Support Hub is located at:
Shaftesbury Healthy Living Centre.
T: **028 9031 2377** or E: **mmcdonagh@lorag.org**

If you wish to make a self-referral, please email Michelle at mmcdonagh@lorag.org or call 07956 749172, providing your name and telephone number and Michelle will give you a call to discuss how The Hub can support you.

SHAFTESBURY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

Belfast Family Support Hub Network

SouthBelfastOne

South Belfast 1 Family Support Hub

Overview

The South Belfast 1 Family Support Hub continues to play a vital role in connecting local families with appropriate services and support, tailored to their individual needs.

During the period April 2025 to March 2026, the South Belfast 1 Family Support Hub experienced significant growth in both the number of referrals received and the number of services successfully facilitated. This increase demonstrates the continued value of the Hub within the local community, while also highlighting the growing range of needs and challenges faced by local families.

During 2025/26, the Hub received a total of 377 referrals, compared with 303 referrals the previous year. This represents an increase of 74 referrals, or 24%, demonstrating the continued and increasing demand for family support services within the local community.

The annual target for referrals was 180. With 377 referrals received, the Hub achieved 209% of its annual target, reflecting the significant level of need for family support across the local area.

The Hub's referral activity during the year demonstrates the breadth and scale of support provided:

- 398 parents were referred into the Hub
- 178 children benefited from support through the Family Support Hub
- Referrals generated 666 individual service requests (e.g. housing/family support)
- The Hub successfully facilitated 694 interventions, ensuring that families were connected with appropriate support based on their individual circumstances and needs.

These figures demonstrate the Hub's continued importance in responding to the needs of local families and providing access to a wide range of services and opportunities for support.

Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Reflections on time spent in Inner South Belfast

As my time working in the Inner South area comes to a close, I have been reflecting on my year as the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal coordinator.

When I started in the role, I knew I would have the opportunity to work with communities across the area, but I didn't realise just how much I would learn from the people I would meet along the way. Over the past year I've had the privilege of working with residents, community groups, statutory organisations and local representatives who care deeply about their neighbourhoods and are constantly striving to make them better places for everyone.

Some of my favourite moments have been the conversations I've had with local people, whether at meetings, workshops, community events or simply over a cup of tea. Those conversations have given me a real appreciation of the passion, commitment and resilience that exists across Inner South Belfast.

The role has also reinforced something I have always believed: meaningful change happens when people come together. I've seen first-hand the value of collaboration and the difference that can be made when communities and organisations work towards a shared goal.

I will soon be returning to university to begin my postgraduate studies in law. While I'm excited for this next chapter, it is certainly bittersweet to be saying goodbye to a role and an area that has taught me so much in such a short space of time.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me throughout the year. I've genuinely enjoyed working with you all, and I leave with great memories, valuable experience and a real appreciation for the work that continues to take place across Inner South.

I wish everyone continued success and look forward to seeing the progress of the many projects, partnerships and community initiatives that make this area such a special place.

Caroline Brown
Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

Pain Support

Better Days

LORAG is happy to announce a continuation of the Better Days Pain Support Programme this autumn.



Starting on the 12th of October from 12-2pm, this 8-week programme will provide opportunities for people living with chronic pain to learn how to manage pain, as well as improving sleep and overall quality of life. The programme will see a series of specialist sessions including input delivered by pharmacists and physiotherapists, alongside some mindfulness activities including pilates and breathwork. This programme is open to anyone living with chronic pain, and participants can sign up either through self-referral by following the link attached below.
Numbers are limited so please book in!

www.hlcalliance.org/help/book-now



What is the law on e-scooters?

Currently in the UK, you can legally buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place it can be used is on private land.

The reason for this is that e-scooters are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Infrastructure and are subject to the same legal requirement as other vehicles, such as MOT, licencing, tax and insurance. Because they don't always have number plates, signalling ability or visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

What happens if I am stopped by the police?

The police will advise you on the law and may ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may, however, still penalise you depending on the seriousness of the offence. If caught riding an e-scooter, fines you may receive can include:

- Be prosecuted for no driving licence which can result in a fine of £1000 plus 3-6 penalty points
- A Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance, with a £200 fine and six penalty points

Other offences which may result in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink driving offences.

To find out more, visit **www.psni.police.uk/escooters**

psni.police.uk
Report online. Call 101. In an emergency call 999
we care we listen we act

October 2026

KING'S TRUST COURSES

All our courses are free to attend and don't impact benefits. We also reimburse transport costs and cover childcare (subject to application)

GET STARTED

Get Started with Sport
Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 28 September
Dates: 5 - 9 October
Location: Belfast
In partnership with Ulster GAA, Ulster Rugby and IFA, this five-day programme will support young people to have the opportunity to develop practical skills across all three sports, gain a better understanding of what inclusion in sports looks like, and learn from industry professionals.

Explore volunteering and career opportunities within the sports sector while developing valuable employability skills.

Get Started with Photography
Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 12 October
Dates: 19 - 23 October
Location: Belfast
Use a professional camera, learn about light, framing, focus, exposure, and editing.
Get tips from a professional photographer and learn about pathways into a career in photography!

Get Started with PSNI
Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 19 October
Dates: 2 - 6 October
Location: Various
Learn about the range of opportunities available with the PSNI, including officer roles. Get an introduction to the different areas of policing and the Student Officer training.

GET HIRED

Get Hired in Hospitality
Age: 18-30
Dates: 19 - 20 October
Location: Belfast
Gain valuable insight into the skills needed to get a job in hospitality, and receive ongoing support to apply and interview for jobs in the sector.

EXPLORE+

Age: 16-24
Dates: Starting November
Location: Belfast
A six-month personal development programme. Take part in a range of activities on areas such as employability skills, good relations, citizenship, and positive progression. Opportunities to gain qualifications, identify strengths, and receive 1:1 support to help you progress towards your goals!

TEAM

Age: 16-25
Dates: Starting late September
Location: NWRC, Derry/Londonderry
A 12-week personal development programme. Gain valuable skills and experience, earn a qualification, boost confidence, and work towards your next steps.

ENTERPRISE

Age: 18-30
Dates: Available year round
Location: Online with 1:1 support
Take part in expert-led workshops on finance, marketing, business planning, sales, and more. Get support to build a business plan and access grants to help you launch your business.

GET READY

Get Ready for a Career using AI
Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 1 October
Dates: 12 - 23 October
Location: Belfast
Explore exciting digital career paths and build in-demand skills. Learn the fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence with the Microsoft AI Skills Passport.

Get Ready for Careers in Health and Social Care
Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 28 September
Dates: 5 - 16 October
Location: Belfast
Gain insight into a wide variety of careers in Health & Social Care. Get relevant experience through practical activities, and get support to help you progress into work.

Work towards an OCN Level 2 Award in Employability and Health & Social Care and an RQF qualification in First Aid at Work.

DROP IN

Drop in to chat to our friendly staff and find out about our programmes. Get money back for your travel in by bus or train.

King's Trust Belfast Centre
6E Weavers Business Park,
Belfast, BT12 5GH
21 May, 1pm - 3pm
18 June, 1pm -3pm

Free parking is available at our centre, or we are easily walkable from Grand Central Station.

King's Trust

USEFUL INFO

All our courses:
- are free to attend
- don't impact benefits

We also:
- reimburse transport costs
- cover childcare costs *(subject to application)*

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Connected Community Care
Empowering Local Wellbeing



What is Connected Community Care?

Connected Community Care is a social prescribing service which enables you to take an active role in your health and wellbeing. Using a comprehensive holistic needs assessment, a local wellbeing coordinator can work with you to identify main concerns and help address these through meaningful conversations, and connections to local support services. Connected Community Care has four wellbeing coordinators across the city – north, east, south, and west Belfast.

How Can We Help?

Wellbeing Coordinators support:
- People who are at high risk of developing a chronic condition.
- People with chronic health conditions.
- People who feel socially isolated and lonely.

Types of support we can offer:

Social Support

Client was referred to service for social support. Client had mental health problems and as such struggled with the upkeep of their home. This client was aged under 25, which made them eligible for a referral to MACS, who provided housing and wellbeing support. To help this client integrate socially they were referred to volunteering opportunities with Volunteer Now. This allowed the client to feel a sense of fulfilment and personal growth. Client was concerned about childcare arrangements when volunteering. A referral to Sure Start addressed this issue and helped them access affordable local childcare.

Self Management Programmes

Client was referred to service for self-management support. Client had chronic pain which was greatly impacting their daily activities. Referred client to Versus Arthritis for pain management course, support, and advice. To address the emotional distress caused by their condition, this client was referred for emotional wellness courses hosted by the Recovery College. Client was signposted to yoga classes in their local area to support with stress and anxiety.

Emotional Support

Client was referred to service for emotional support. As a result of Covid19 pandemic restrictions this client became socially isolated and withdrawn. This client was referred to Red Cross Befriending service for one-to-one emotional support. This service connected the client to a volunteer who visits weekly for an hour for coffee and on occasion accompanies them on a shopping trip. For peace of mind this client was referred to a Good Morning service who provide daily check in calls, alerting the next of kin should an issue arise. To help the client manage more difficult emotional issues they were referred for six sessions of counselling.

What do we offer?

- A single point of contact to access local health and wellbeing support services.
- Face to face visits at a convenient time and place for you.
- Person-centred support based on your individual needs.
- A holistic needs assessment which explores a range of factors that impact your health and wellbeing.
- Facilitate connections to support services in your local area.
- Follow up contact to ensure you accessed the services mentioned.
- Collate feedback to demonstrate the impact of the service to influence local community planning structures.

Am I Eligible?

- Must be aged 18 or over.
- Must be registered with a GP in the Belfast area.

How Can I Access Connected Community Care?

You can self-refer to the Service by contacting: referral@ccchub.co.uk or 028 9590 1407 OR alternatively, ask your GP (or social worker if you have one) for a referral to the Connected Community Care Service.



By signing up to PSNI Connect you can be in direct contact with the neighbourhood officers working in your area. We will share information about the work we are doing along with crime prevention tips and traffic disruption.

You can tell us what impacts you, share feedback and help shape local policing priorities. We will listen and we will be able to provide a more targeted, responsive service for our local communities as a result.

Get involved, sign up today, and when you do sign up you can decide which information you want to receive from us and which information you're not interested in.

To sign up to your local PSNI Connect, or to find out more, scan the QR code or visit **www.psniconnect.co.uk**

Scan to sign up

Any contact will be private, it won't be seen by anyone else in your community and therefore won't receive any unwanted comments.

report online psni.police.uk

People 1st
First for Health and Social Care

Apply Now
www.people-1st.co.uk

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE LEVEL 5

STARTING 10TH NOVEMBER 2026

Level 5 NCFE CACHE Diploma in Health & Social Care
Adult Management Pathway OR
Adults Residential Management Pathway



Online Class: 6.30pm-9.30pm
Delivered: via zoom monthly
Price: £1350 plus VAT

Funding available for Belfast City Council residents. Terms apply.

Contact Cathy Mc Garvey for more information:
c.mcgarvey@people-1st.co.uk

Quiz

1. When was the Belfast Gasworks opened?
2. What was the original name for Donegall Pass?
3. Where will the new Donegall Pass Good Relations Hub be located?
4. What big birthday did Donegall Pass Community Forum celebrate recently?
5. Where did Féile na hAbhann's weekend soccer tournament take place?
6. When does the Cozy Hub in Mornington Community Project take place?
7. What programme did the Market Development Association deliver with local young people?
8. When will Holyland Winter Festival take place?
9. What camps did St. Malachy's GAC deliver this summer?
10. Where did summer solstice yoga take place?

£50 PRIZE Voucher for Dunnes Stores
Send answers to: hfloyd@lorag.org.
Names will be put in a hat for everyone who submits ten correct answers.

Frása an Lae

Neighbourhood Matters includes a Frása an Lae spot every edition – a simple phrase in Irish and Arabic. Thank you, Awsan, for your help!

Irish: Tá an aimsir deas

Phonics: Ta an aymshir jas

Arabic: الطقس جميل

Phonetics: At-taqs jameel

English: The weather is nice



Better Days
Pain Support Programme

Supporting people to self-manage their pain and live better and happier lives

Do you live with chronic pain?

"My pain had overwhelmed me and I had lost my confidence and drive.
This course has built my confidence and improved my motivation and self-worth.
I am now more confident in being able to manage my own pain and I have a more positive outlook"
Carole, 53, Belfast

For more information contact
Natasha Moore | Pain Programme Co-ordinator
E: nmoore@lorag.org | T: 028 90312377 ext.2
M: 07939 406277

Better Days
Pain Support Programme

Topics include:

- Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing
- Sleep
- Pain Toolkit
- Self Care
- Understanding Pain
- Pharmacist Session
- Relaxation & Breathing
- Gentle Movement & Exercise
- Nutrition
- Peer Led Session

For more information please contact us.
Details overleaf

HSC Public Health Agency — Project supported by the PHA
HSC Health and Social Care Board

Community Safety

Key Disturbance Contact Numbers
Please see below key contact numbers for reporting unacceptable levels of noise or disturbance locally. We are urging residents to report as much as possible to ensure we can follow this up and get the right resources into the area to support the community.

Noise from a house or premises contact:
Noise Control, Belfast City Council
Tel: 028 9037 3006

Operating Hours
Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5pm
Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 8pm – 4am

You can also follow up your phone call with an email to envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk

Noise and or Disturbance coming from the Street and or Road contact:

PSNI
Tel: 101 Non Emergency
Tel: 999 Emergency

Often the phone lines are busy. If the community are able to use online reporting for non-emergency reports it is much more efficient and less time consuming or frustrating for them.

www.psni.police.uk/report *(or Google PSNI online report).*

PSNI Officers in the area

LISBURN ROAD - Constable Jacqueline Mallon
E-mail: jacqueline.mallon@psni.police.uk - M: 07971933507

DONEGALL PASS & SANDY ROW *(shared)*
Constable Peter Shannon / Constable Tommy Stewart
E-mail: peter.shannon@psni.police.uk - M: 07557261941
E-mail: tommy.stewart@psni.police.uk - M: 07971932660

BOTANIC AVENUE & DUBLIN ROAD *(shared)*
Constable Simon Madden / Constable Ryan Corry
E-mail: simon.madden@psni.police.uk - M: 07917602192
E-mail: ryan.corry@psni.police.uk - M: 07890020814

ORMEAU - Constable Darren Watson
E-mail: darren.watson@psni.police.uk - M: 07795152403

LOWER ORMEAU & MARKET AREA
Sergeant Tara Creehan — tel: 07500 112823; e: Tara.Creelan@psni.police.uk
Constable Phil Barnes — tel: 07786 853011; e: Philip.Barnes@psni.police.uk
Constable Julie Halliday — tel: 07393 144032. e: Julie.Halliday@psni.police.uk

HOLYLAND - Constable Davy Reynolds
E-mail: david.reynolds@psni.police.uk

Disturbance from a HMO can also be reported to:
Belfast City Council HMO Regulations
Tel: 028 9027 0414

If you have a complaint about a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) please contact the number above – Belfast City Council has regulations in place for all HMOs.

If you have difficulty in reporting noise and/or disturbance contact:

BCC Anti Social Behaviour Officer: Keith Addy
Tel: 07876 686660 E: AddyK@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Call 101 from any phone for a non-emergency

Always call 999 if there is an emergency or you are in danger

Neighbourhood Matters - Directory

Medical

G.Ps: Out of Hours Tel: 028 9079 6220

Botanic Medical Centre
51 Botanic Avenue Belfast, BT7 1JL
Tel: 028 9032 0919

Ormeau Health Centre
120 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2EB
Tel: 028 9064 2914

University Street Surgery
142-144 University St, Belfast, BT7 1HH
Tel: 028 9031 1118

Kensington Medical Centre
15a Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 5JJ
Tel: 028 9032 5679

Pharmacies

Medicare-Fitzroy Pharmacy
126 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2EB
Tel: 028 9023 0170

Botanic Pharmacy
98 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JR
Tel: 028 9032 5509

Harrison Healthcare
40E Donegall Pass, Belfast BT7 1BS
Tel: 028 9032 0059

Fullarton Pharmacy
Unit 6, St. Georges Market, Oxford St,
Belfast, BT1 3LA
Tel: 028 9023 3101

Hospitals

Royal Victoria Hospital and City Hospital
Tel: 028 9032 9241
Accident and Emergency (A&E) only available at Royal Victoria Hospital

University Complaints Line

Ulster University 028 9536 5368
Queen's University 028 9097 5219

For noise disturbances please ensure Council's Noise Team are also called on **028 9037 3006**

Police Service

PSNI - South Belfast
Crimestoppers Telephone Number
Tel: 0800 555 1111

Non Emergency Telephone: Tel: 101

Housing

Housing Rights Service
Tel: 028 9024 5640

NI Housing Executive
Tel: 03448 920900

Clanmill Housing
Tel: 028 9087 6000

Choice Housing
Tel: 0300 111 2211

Radius Housing Association
Tel: 028 9042 8314

Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council
Tel: 028 9032 0202

Births, Deaths, Marriages
Tel: 028 9027 0274

Community Safety
Tel: 028 9032 0202

Street Cleansing/Litter
Tel: 028 9027 0230

Bulky Household Waste and Special Collections
Tel: 028 9027 0230

Dog Control & Animal Welfare
Tel: 028 9027 0431

Noise Control
(out of hours available)
Tel: 028 9037 3006

Places of Worship

St Malachy's Church
24 Alfred St, Belfast BT2 8EN
Tel: 028 9032 1713

City Church
12-24 University Ave, Belfast, BT7 1GY
Tel: 028 9023 8443

All Saints Church
University Street, Belfast, BT7 1LB
Tel: 028 9031 4114

Kingham Church for the Deaf
13 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7
Tel: 028 9032 2588

Iglesia ni Cristo Belfast
2-4 University Avenue
Belfast, BT7 1GY

Christ Embassy Church Belfast
Meet every Sunday from 9am at:
Holiday Inn, 22 Ormeau Avenue,
Belfast, BT2 8HS
Tel: 07962 166354

Northern Ireland Muslim Family Association
7 Rugby Road, Belfast, BT7 1PS
Islamic Centre Tel: 028 9031 5784

Belfast Islamic Centre
13-19 University Rd,
Belfast, BT7 1NA
Tel: 028 9066 4465

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church
77 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL
Tel: 028 9023 5075

Elim Pentecostal Church
77 Donegall Pass, Belfast BT7 1DR
Tel: 028 9086 9569

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Donegall Pass, Belfast, BT7 1BU
Tel: 028 9032 1583

Community Organisations

LORAG (Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group)
Shaftesbury Community & Recreation Centre,
97 Balfour Avenue,
Belfast, BT7 2EW
Tel: 028 9031 2377

Lower Ormeau Youth Hub
River Terrace, Belfast,
BT7 2EN
Tel: 028 9031 2377

An Droichead
20 Cooke Street,
Belfast, BT7 2EP
Tel: 028 9028 8818

Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI); South & East Belfast
26a Beechfield Street
Belfast, BT5 4EQ
Tel: 028 9045 6889
Email: mg@crjireland.org

Mornington Community Project
117 Ormeau Road, Belfast,
BT7 1SH
Email: AnneMckay@
morningtoncommunityproject.com

Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
143a University Street,
Belfast, BT7 1HP
Tel: 028 9024 6699

African & Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland
1st Floor 9 Lower Crescent,
Belfast, BT7 1NR
Tel: 028 9043 4090

Chinese Welfare Association
Chinese Resource Centre,
1 Stranmillis Embankment,
Belfast, BT7 1GB
Tel: 028 9028 8277

Donegall Pass Community Forum
Donegall Pass Community Forum
2nd Floor CRI Building
165-169 Donegall Pass,
Belfast BT7 1DT
Tel: 028 9032 6256

Market Development Association
Market Community Centre
1 Market Street,
Belfast BT1 3JD
Tel: 028 9031 2272

Northern Ireland Somali Association
185A Ormeau Road,
Belfast BT7 1SQ
Tel: 028 9020 1359 / 07454 775666

South Belfast Alternatives
33 Donegall Pass,
BT7 1DQ
Tel: 028 9031 5763 / 07415 461287