



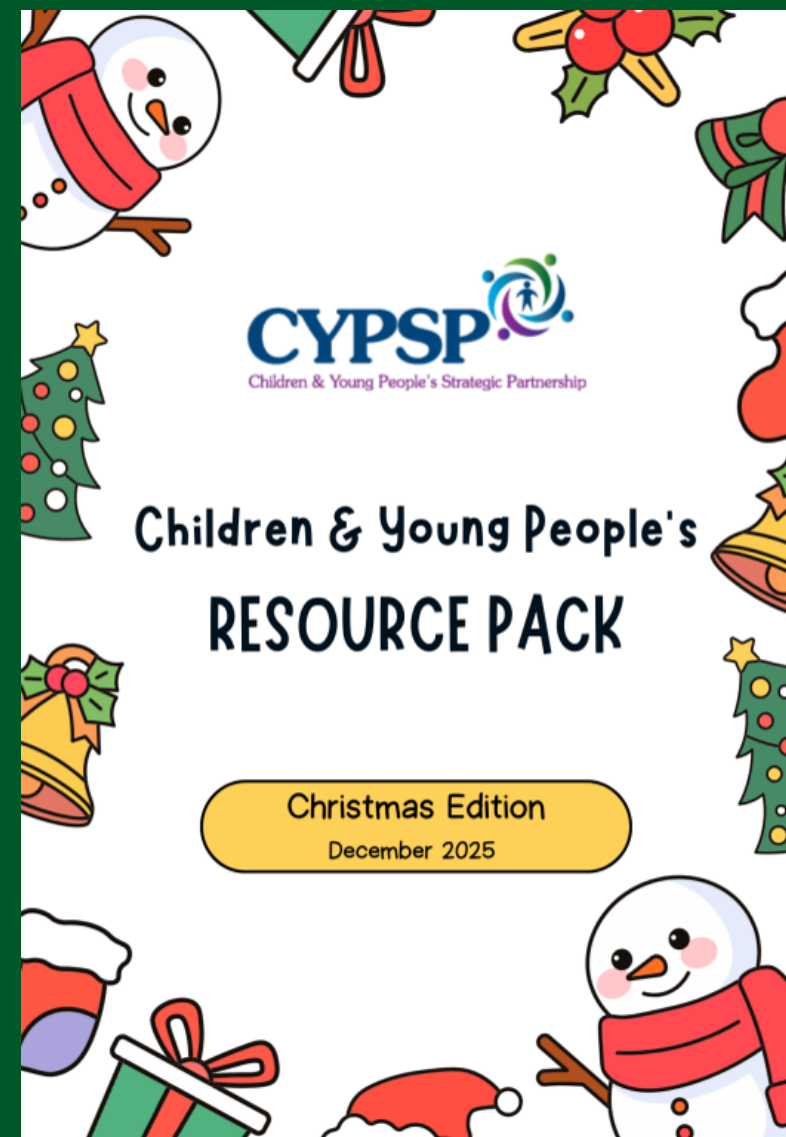
**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from
Belfast Locality Planning**

If you have any information you would like to share across our Locality Planning Group members in Belfast please email:

LocalityPlanning@belfasttrust.hscni.net



<https://cypsp.hscni.net/download/391/family-support-hubs/47245/fsh-newsletter-dec2025.pdf>



<https://cypsp.hscni.net/download/426/cyp-resource-pack/47234/children-young-peoples-resource-pack-christmas-dec-25.pdf>



South Belfast Winter Support Plan 25/26

Contact Strategic Health Officer
Emily Keenan
emily.keenan@forwardsouth.org

I am sharing with you that Forward South Partnership has held a soft launch of the **South Belfast Winter Support Plan 2025/2026** at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd December, with the official launch scheduled for Thursday, 19th December 2025. The South Belfast Winter Plan is a coordinated support plan that integrates health and wellbeing across all aspects of our work, highlighting the well-defined pathways to supportive services including service access, signposting, and referrals to employment, health, education, housing, food provision, and warm spaces

We will be starting to distribute hard copies of the plan to local community focus points over the next week. If you would like to receive some hard copies, please directly contact myself and I can organise this.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Thanks very much

Emily

Hints and tips for an inclusive Christmas

Christmas is a magical and joyful time but for many autistic people the Christmas period can be very challenging.

Here are some hint and tips that may help you plan for your Christmas celebrations!

[Click here to download our Hints and Tips for an autism inclusive Christmas resource](#)



Hints and tips for an autism inclusive Christmas





This year again, **Habitat ReStore Lisburn** launched a Christmas Toy store, in partnership with Lisburn & Castlereagh Council to ensure families on a budget, or those who want a greener Christmas, could access low-cost toys.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the local people donating their pre-loved toys and have a range of good quality toys still available. We wanted to reach out in case they may be of benefit to your organisation to **come and select at no cost.**

Your organisation can come along to the **Habitat ReStore Lisburn** from **Wednesday 17th December** until **Tuesday 23rd December** between **9.30 - 4pm** to view and select toys available. On arrival, please ask to speak to a ReStore Manager or Supervisor.

Jan Lindsay

Programme Manager

Habitat for Humanity Ireland
Lisburn Office

Riverside Centre, Young Street
Lisburn, BT27 5EA

Direct Line: +44 28 92 635 637

Mobile: +44 7766 257576

Office: +44 28 92 635 635

habitatireland.org

Drogheda Office

Unit 8, Donore Industrial Park

Drogheda, A92 HFY7

Office: +353 41 213 9894



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Pousté

[Support While Waiting Grant Scheme
2025/2026 | Department of Health](#)

Minister Nesbitt launched the Department of Health Support While Waiting Grant Scheme.

The Scheme offers grants of £5,000 to £30,000 to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations delivering community-based initiatives that strengthen wellbeing, resilience and self-management. These may include mental health support, practical assistance, peer programmes, and activities designed to help individuals maintain their health while awaiting treatment.

The Scheme will be open for applications from today Thursday 4th December and will close at noon on Friday 30th January.



Free parent/carer support courses available

Autism NI has released new parent/carer support courses, with topics including:

- Sleep
- Supporting your young child with a learning disability
- School-related anxiety

These courses are supported by the Public Health Agency through the CLEAR project. There are dates available in each Health Trust area across NI - please select the course date that matches your location.

Courses are delivered online via Zoom in the evenings. Sessions include the ability to interact and ask questions, so you can get the support that you need.

We also have our on-demand 'Understanding Autism' webinar that is available for you to access whenever suits your schedule!

Parent/Carer Support Courses



Live and On-Demand options available



[Autism training and support courses for parents and carers | Autism NI](#)



Parent Well

A source of inspiration



Staying **Safer & Smarter** Online

*Content *Contact *Conduct *Consequences
Supporting children 11yrs & over to stay safer online



Small group information
session for parents

Thursday 8th January 2026
10–11.30am on Zoom



To book your place call
0808 8020 400



www.eani.org.uk/admissions

**CLOSES AT
12 NOON
21 JAN 2026**

**Pre-School & Primary 1
Online Applications for
September 2026 are
now open via
eacconnect**

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>



preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk
primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk



Applying for a Pre-School or Primary 1 place for September 2026

What documents do I need to apply?



Birth certificates are required when applying for **Pre-School or Primary 1** places

Read the Admissions Criteria for each pre-school setting or primary school you are listing to find out if any supporting documentation should be included in your child's application



eacconnect



Pre-School and Primary One Applications



<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent>



Translation Support Tool

You can access the application and support resources in multiple languages by clicking on the 'ReachDeck' icon.



eacconnect

What to do if you're unhappy

We hope that you enjoy coming to DART and find it helpful.

Our workers will try to help you in a way that feels OK for you. If you're worried about something, it's best to talk to the person who's working with you – they'll listen and try to sort things out quickly. But if you're still unhappy, tell the person you spoke to and they'll arrange for you to see their manager.

We will do all we can to put things right as soon as possible.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or worries about DART, you can contact us at:

NSPCC NI Hub, The Lanyon Building, Jennymount Business Park, North Derby Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN email: nihubadmin@nspcc.org.uk and Tele: 02820 441650.



Need to talk?

Childline is here for you

If you feel you need to talk, Childline is here to listen. It's a free, confidential helpline for young people and it's available 24/7 – online and on the phone.

childline.org.uk
0800 1111

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

©NSPCC 2019. Registered charity England and Wales 216401, Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 384. Photography by Tom Hall. The children pictured are models and the NSPCC practitioner is Danielle Adcock-Halls. J20221075.

Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)

A guide for children

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



NSPCC

Working together to support you and your child

We understand that now is a difficult time for you because you may be dealing with your own feelings. And we believe that you have a vital role to play in supporting your child following their experience of domestic abuse.

Children often need time to make sense of the work we are doing. To keep on top of things, it will be helpful if you let us know about your child's reaction to the work, or about any changes in their behaviour or about any other significant events.

This'll help us to work together, getting better support to you both.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or worries about DART, you can contact us at:
NSPCC NI Hub, The Lanyon Building, Jennymount Business Park, North Derby Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN email: nihubadmin@nspcc.org.uk and Tele: 02820 441650

Where to get support

If you have any worries about a child, the NSPCC helpline offers advice and support 24 hours a day. You don't have to say who you are. And the sooner you call, the sooner it's off your mind.

Call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

©NSPCC 2019. Registered charity England and Wales 216401, Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 384.
Photography by Tom Hull. The children pictured are models and the NSPCC practitioner is Hayley Davies. JJ0221075.

NSPCC

Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)

Information for mothers

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Remember these selection criteria

- ▶ Children must be aged 7-14.
- ▶ The programme works with one mother and one child at a time. If there is more than one child, you could ask the mother if she'd like to work through the programme again at a later stage with the other children.
- ▶ The perpetrator of domestic abuse must not be living within the family home, and must no longer be in a relationship with the mother. This is because it's important that mothers and their children feel safe enough to take part in the programme.

Get in touch

If you know a family who could benefit from attending DART, or for more information, contact:

NSPCC NI Hub, The Lanyon Building,
Jennymount Business Park, North Derby
Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN email:
nihubadmin@nspcc.org.uk and Tele: 02820
441650

Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)

Information for Professionals

Helping children and families recover
from domestic abuse.

Free downloadable resources from Child Bereavement UK



childbereavementuk.org/when-someone-special-dies-leaflets



Childhood vaccinations

This webinar session is aimed at community and voluntary staff working with children. The webinar aims to cover:

- the importance of childhood vaccination
- an overview of the childhood vaccination schedule in Northern Ireland
- information regarding the introduction of the changes to the childhood vaccination schedule commencing January 2026

- [Register your interest – Fill in form](#)

**WEDNESDAY 21ST
JANUARY 2025 1PM – 2PM**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 374 367 293 014 29

Passcode: GN3Qz2J5

**TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY
2025 1PM – 2PM**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 365 127 165 462 22

Passcode: Rm3UY3UP

**PARENTS
SAY**

Homework
times are
often
stressful.

My child is
often
angry.
What can I
do?

Supporting parents

of children 2-11, in South Belfast
**Windsor Women's Centre,
136-144 Broadway, BT12 6HY**
Five weeks programme

**Thursdays
10-11.15am**

Why is
my child
not
listening
to me?

Getting my
child to
school on
time is
difficult.

Five weeks

Programme

Start January 8th To

February - 5th 2026



We help you
find new ways
to support your
child's
happiness.

To sign up, contact:

Christine-07724701039

Leah-07740545129

BARNARD'S

Jobs and Training Opportunities

Please see below information on upcoming programmes @ Girdwood Community Hub on behalf of Belfast Metropolitan College.

Feel free to share with users groups and residents who may be interested.

Contact and registration details are at the bottom of this email.

Step Up Women Returners Access Programme – OCN NI Level 1 Award in Business Administration, January 2026

This programme is open to unemployed or economically inactive women who wish to build confidence, refresh skills, and gain qualifications in areas of economic demand. Through job coaching and mentorship, support will be provided to create progression pathways including to further and higher education or employment.

The course will start on **Wednesday 14th January 2026 and run through to Thursday 16th April 2026**, with breaks for mid-term and Easter. Classes are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 1pm.

The course will take place at **Girdwood Community Hub, 10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6EG.**

Travel and childcare support may be available where applicable and evidenced.

The OCN NI Level 1 Award in Business Administration is designed to provide learners with the necessary basic skills and knowledge to work within a business administration role. It provides an introduction in a range of subjects in the administration sector such as office administrator skills, using email/spreadsheet software and arranging meetings/travel. Learners also have the opportunity to develop core skills in areas such as teamwork and customer service.

Alongside the qualification, participants will have weekly mentoring and coaching sessions designed to help them address softer skills and to set and work towards goals for their future careers.

Additionally, visits from employers, recruitment agencies and other support organisations will help participants get employment ready.

For further enquiries, contact Step Up stepup@belfastmet.ac.uk