



## Family Support Hubs Newsletter



***Edition 1/2026***

***March 2026***

[https://cypsp.hscni.net/download/391/family-support-hubs/47783/fshnewsletter\\_eastermar2026b.pdf](https://cypsp.hscni.net/download/391/family-support-hubs/47783/fshnewsletter_eastermar2026b.pdf)

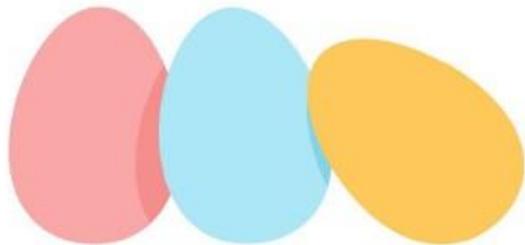


If you have any information you would like to share across our Locality Planning Group members in Belfast please email:  
[LocalityPlanning@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:LocalityPlanning@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



# Children & Young People's Resource Pack

Easter 2026 Edition



## Hop into Easter with the new edition of Children & Young People's Resource Pack! 🐰❤️

Packed with eggcellent crafts, wellbeing tools, disability and bereavement support, safety tips and so much more — it's full of ideas to make the season fun, colourful and supportive for everyone.

Download your free copy at:

<https://cypsp.hscni.net/download/426/cyp-resource-pack/47763/cyp-resource-pack-easter-2026.pdf>

(Note: Newsletter will download directly to your device. Look out for the pop-up box and click on open file when it appears).



**Belfast**  
City Council



We started the process of developing the new Good Relations Strategy in April 2025, undertaking extensive consultation and engagement with a range of stakeholders across many sectors. We carried out 400 engagements in total, involving the general public, community organisations, statutory and governmental representatives, funded groups and Elected Members. The consultation methods involved:

- An online survey
- Focus groups
- One-to-one meetings on request
- Completing the circle event to discuss findings with consultees
- Consideration of the draft by the Shared City Partnership and by the Council

In February 2026, Council agreed to run an 8-week public consultation exercise. The consultation runs from 3 March to 5 May. Following this, a revised strategy will be presented to Council for adoption. In consideration of the draft strategy, we are keen to hear your views.

<https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/gr-strategy2026>



**happy days**

# OPEN EVENING

Are you aged 19+ living with a moderate learning disability and/or autism? Are you ready to be part of something great? Say no more!  
We are hosting our annual open evening for prospective new participants!

**WHEN?**  
25TH MARCH 2026  
6PM-8PM

**WHERE?**  
HAPPY DAYS, MCSWEENEY BUILDING, 31 HENRY PLACE BT15 2AY

If you are not able to attend during this time, get in contact to organise a visit:

🌐 [susie.vint@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:susie.vint@ashtoncentre.com) 📞 07946417238



**"The factual and statistical information that was shared in the learning was brilliant. The education resources that will be used with young people is also very valuable."**

- Teacher, Belfast

**FREE Gaming and gambling harm prevention workshops for Education professionals in Northern Ireland.**

To register, scan the **QR code** or **click the link**.



[Friday 27th March 2026, 15:30-17:30](#)

**Topics covered:**

- Gaming and gambling harm
- Blurred lines between gaming and gambling
- Influences on young people
- How to spot the signs of harm
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Where to get help and support



For more info about us and our training please visit [www.ygam.org](http://www.ygam.org)





**Groundwork is working with Rowntree's for a third year to deliver the Free the Fund Community Grant Programme – an exciting initiative that supports adult wellbeing by mobilising community action to create better places, improve prospects and bring about positive change.**

[Rowntree's – Free the Fund Community Grant Programme - Groundwork](#)

Grants are available through the Rowntree Free the Fund Community Grant to support summer activities for adults aged 21 to 65 in local communities across the UK and Ireland.

Four awards of up to **£10,000 each** are being offered to organisations delivering projects that improve outdoor spaces or create opportunities for community participation. The funding is intended to enhance local environments and support activities that contribute to wellbeing and social connection.

Projects must focus on outdoor activity spaces or initiatives that benefit local people within the specified age group. Eligible uses include transforming community gardens, improving shared outdoor areas or purchasing equipment for arts, theatre, music and sport.

Activities supported may cover arts and crafts, dance, music, gardening, sports and fitness. Example projects include running a summer art festival, supporting a wheelchair basketball club or upgrading facilities for team sports.

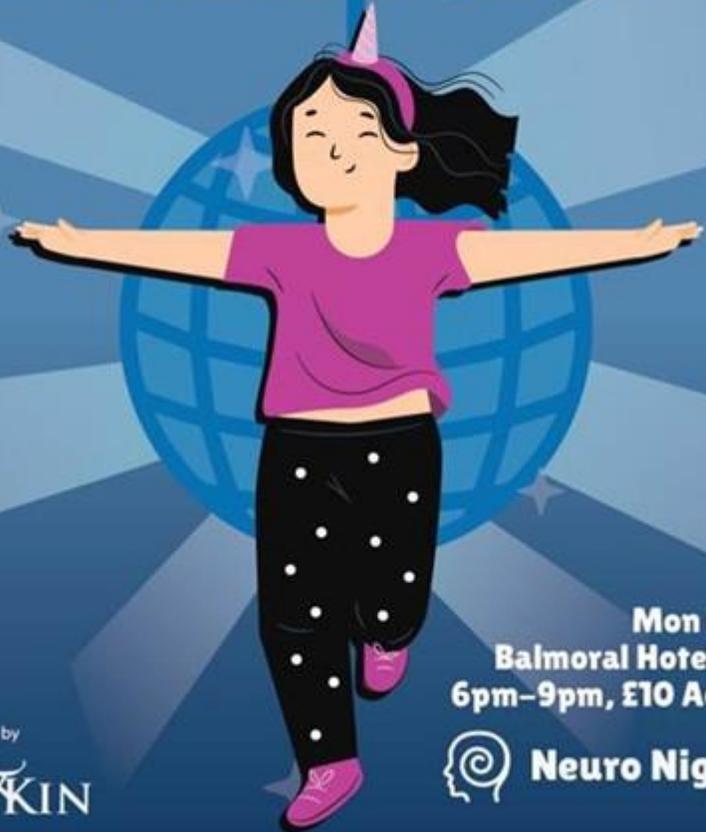
Applications are open to registered charities, social enterprises, not-for-profit organisations, hospices, sports clubs and social housing providers. All applicants must be based in the UK or Ireland.

The grants are intended to support projects that deliver clear community benefit and encourage participation through accessible activities.

**The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026 (17:00).**

visit [wired-different.co.uk](http://wired-different.co.uk) for tickets

# Under 18s Disco For Neurodivergent U18



Mon 6th April  
Balmoral Hotel, Belfast  
6pm-9pm, £10 Admission

Proudly Supported by

**KITH & KIN**  
FINANCIAL WELLBEING

 **Neuro Night Club**



Belfast Health and  
Social Care Trust  
caring supporting improving together



## HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

Susan supports people seeking international protection across Belfast. Help is available to overcome barriers accessing health services, understand the health care system in Northern Ireland and build individual and community capacity.

### Support offered:

- ✓ **Personalised Support**  
Help individuals and families access Health and Social Care
- ✓ **Signposting**  
Guidance to health, wellbeing, and community services
- ✓ **Promoting Inclusion**  
Encourage integration and a sense of belonging

 07795 953090

 [susan.gilchrist@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:susan.gilchrist@belfasttrust.hscni.net)



# Sighted guide training

I'm reaching out from Guide Dogs to offer our **free Sighted Guide Training** to Active Belfast, as well as any partner organisations, community groups, or volunteers you work with across your programmes.

As your mission focuses on helping people in Belfast become more active and healthier through partnership working, this training may support those efforts by building confidence in including people with sight loss in physical activity, wellbeing initiatives, and community events.

The training covers key topics such as:

- Sighted guiding techniques
- Common eye conditions
- Communication barriers
- Emotional consequences of sight loss
- Access rights
- Practical guiding skills (in face-to-face sessions)

**Matt Campbell**  
**Sighted Guide Training Officer (Northern Ireland)**

Call Guide Dogs: 0800 781 1444

Direct Mobile: 07901 103565

We offer both online and in-person delivery.

[Guide Dogs Sighted Guide Training](#)



Changing lives Initiative are running a range of 6 workshops to support parents with children with ADHD and/or Autism behaviours.

Children do not need to have received a diagnosis.

The workshops are free. There is no childcare available. Parents can simply sign in using the QR code via Event brite.

All workshops being held in Greenway Women's Centre, 19 Greenway, Cregagh Road Belfast, BT6 0DT.

<p><b>17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>April</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Thinking Outside the Box: How Different Brains Grow &amp; Learn</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 
<p><b>24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>April</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Sensory SOS: Practical Strategies for Kids Who Feel Everything</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>May</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Social Smarts Helping Your Child Build Meaningful Connections</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 
<p><b>8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>May</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Calm &amp; Connected: Helping Kids Understand and Manage Emotions</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>May</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Stop! Think! Act! Helping Kids with Self-Control</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 
<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>May</b></p>	<p><b>10:30AM -11.30AM</b> Attention HQ: Helping Kids Tune In and Stay on Track</p>	<p><b>SCAN ME</b></p> 

# New Pilot Programme to Invest in Grassroots Football in NI

£9 million fund aims to enhance access and participation across Northern Ireland



Grants are now available to support investment in grassroots football facilities in Northern Ireland through the new Pilot Programme of the Northern Ireland Football Fund. The pilot, announced by Communities Minister Gordon Lyons, aims to:

- Increase the availability of facilities to support current and future participation, especially for women and girls.
- Improve the accessibility of facilities for disabled users.
- Upgrade and enhance the facility to develop a safe, inclusive and attractive venue.
- Provide an insight into the diversity of need across the grassroots sector, gaining an understanding of demand and assessing the capacity of applicants to deliver projects effectively.
- Test key aspects of the Programme design to inform the development of the main Programme.

A total of six projects will be funded, with grants ranging from £500,000 to £1.5 million in two funding streams.

Stream One is open to grassroots clubs that own or plan to own their facility, while Stream Two is open to councils, either applying alone or with a partner club. Councils will be contacted with further information.

Under Stream One, eligible items include full-sized grass and artificial grass pitches, LED floodlighting, club rooms, changing facilities and facilities for disabled players and spectators.

**The deadlines for applications are 15 April 2026 (Stream One)**

**[The Northern Ireland Football Fund Stream 1 - Grassroots Facilities Programme \(Pilot\) | Department for Communities](#)  
and 29 April 2026 (Stream Two).**

**FREE**

# OCN COURSE



EIGHT WEEK  
LEVEL TWO IN  
HORTICULTURE

- PLANT PROPAGATION
- GROWING VEGETABLES
- GARDEN MAINTENANCE

**10 AM to 12PM**  
**Starting April 29th**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Send us a message or  
call 028 90391028 to sign up





BELFAST CITY OF SANCTUARY

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

*Join us at the Belfast City of Sanctuary AGM 2026  
to reflect, connect, and shape a more welcoming Belfast!*



The Great Hall,  
Queen's University Belfast



Wednesday, 03 June 2026  
10:00am - 01:00pm

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER



[BelfastCityofSanctuary.com](https://www.BelfastCityofSanctuary.com)

[belfastcityofsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:belfastcityofsanctuary@gmail.com)

## Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

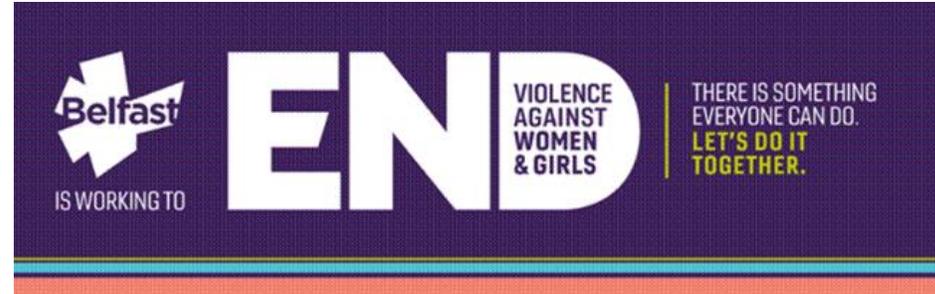
EVAWG in public and open spaces - seminar and workshop

Belfast City Council is supporting The Executive Office's Strategic Direction to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG). Belfast Healthy Cities and QUB are working with us to explore ending violence against women and girls in open and public spaces.

Please join us to consider the research evidence, lived experience and practical actions. The workshop will support practitioners and public bodies to:

1. Understand current evidence on EVAWG and safety of public spaces
2. Reflect on local lived experiences
3. Develop a shared understanding and strengthen cross sector collaboration
4. Identify short-, medium-, and longer-term priorities for action

Register to attend by contacting [endviolence@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:endviolence@belfastcity.gov.uk)



**On the day**

***Tuesday 31 March***

***Registration from 9.30am, start at 10am.***

***Finish at 1pm with lunch.***

***PWC (Price Waterhouse Coopers), Merchant Square, 20-22 Wellington Place, Belfast, BT1 6GE***

Let us know if you would like to be added to the EVAWG mailing list which we will use to advise you of relevant information, events and projects; capacity building and collaboration opportunities; and funding availability. We may also invite you to give us your views on how we are doing, and to design future activities.

Register to attend at [endviolence@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:endviolence@belfastcity.gov.uk)



## Fostering comes to Belfast

**We are in your area now -  
Let's talk fostering!**

**There are local children and young people in your community in need of safe and loving foster homes.**

Chat to us about fostering opportunities that can work with your life. Discover how you can make a difference and give a child a brighter future.

HSC NI foster carers receive:

- training and development
- 24/7 support
- financial allowances



**0800 0720 137**



[adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net](https://adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net)

# Job and Training Opportunities



**AutismNI**  
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

**Build your confidence and skills:**

**Upcoming Autism Training Courses**

[Upcoming autism training for professionals](#)



**Children  
in Northern  
Ireland**

**27**  
MAR

**TRAUMA & THE HELPING PROFESSIONAL**  
FEATURED

**TIME**  
Friday  
10:00am  
-  
4:00pm

**TRAINER**



**FIONA ANDERSON**

[Trauma & the Helping Professional - CiNI](#)

# Job and Training Opportunities

## Family Support Worker



### BLACKIE RIVER COMMUNITY GROUPS

Employer Location: Published

## Job description

The role of the Family Support Worker FSW is to offer personal and practical support to families children aged 0 to 3 years and their significant carers. To do this, the FSW will conduct home visits as well as facilitating relevant activities in line with the Sure Start programme. The aim is to support local families, promoting the holistic development of children aged and supporting their parents in their parenting role by enhancing their self-confidence and self-esteem, and linking them into a wider social and community network.

## Responsibilities

- To carry out a number of home visits from a caseload.
- Establish good relationships with families referred to the scheme.
- To promote the benefits of play for children's learning and development through creative approaches.
- Also be responsible to helping to plan and deliver parenting programmes in group setting within the Beechmount Sure Start area.

## Skills and Qualifications

### Essential Skills

- Minimum Level 3 in Child Care Learning and Development or Health and Social Care or equivalent.
- Effective communication skills.

## Further Information

Location: Beechmount Sure Start.

# Job and Training Opportunities



## Upper Springfield Development Trust: Newhill Youth & Community Centre

Newhill Youth & Community Centre wishes to recruit the following sessional workers:

**Job Title:** SEND ASSISTANT YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER X 4  
**Location:** Newhill Youth & Community Centre 261 Whiterock Road, BT12 7SX  
**Hours:** 4 hrs per week Tuesday & Wednesday 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm  
**Salary:** £15 PER HOUR  
**Duration:** 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2026 – 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2027

Newhill Youth & Community Centre work directly with children and young people to develop their social education by providing programmes of activities which enhance opportunities to learn and grow. These sessional worker posts are intended to support Newhill Youth & Community with the delivery of the Families Together Programme. The 'Families Together Programme' will provide much-needed support for socially isolated families with SEND children by providing them with the same access to community activities that other families enjoy. The programme will provide a much-needed weekly afterschool social space for SEND children on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, creating enhanced opportunities for community connection and increased access to safe play spaces to participate, socialize and get support.

The SEND Assistant Youth Support Sessional Worker will support the delivery of high-quality support to the children within the setting, ensuring that all standards are maintained in accordance with the requirements of relevant statutory and regulatory bodies governing childcare and youth work provision. The post holder will organise and deliver a stimulating and diverse programme of play and educational activities within programme, with a strong emphasis on speech, language and communication, as well as play development. The post holder will provide support, guidance, and relevant information to parents and carers.

We are seeking expressions of interest for 4 x sessional workers at 4 hours per week to work on this exciting pilot project.

Closing date for receipt of CV's is Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March at 1.00 pm

Please return completed CV to:  
[Marie-Therese.Coogan@usdt.co.uk](mailto:Marie-Therese.Coogan@usdt.co.uk)

The selection panel reserves the right to enhance the short-listing criteria in order to facilitate manageable shortlists.

The Upper Springfield Development Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

# Job and Training Opportunities



## JOB DESCRIPTION

**JOB TITLE:** SEND ASSISTANT YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER: INCLUDEUS2 AFTERSCHOOL CLUB  
**RESPONSIBLE TO:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER  
**BASED AT:** Newhill Youth & Community Centre, 261 Whiterock Road, BT12 7SX  
**SESSIONAL HOURS:** SESSIONAL WORKER 4 x HOURS PER WEEK (56 WEEK PILOT PROJECT)  
**SALARY:** £15 PER HOUR  
**DURATION OF PROJECT:** 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2026 – 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2027

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## KEY TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To implement a child-centred and welcoming environment to all children within the setting.
2. To ensure the overall safety and wellbeing of the children is maintained.
3. To ensure each child is observed and individual plans are made to meet all children's developmental needs.
4. To provide a safe, stimulating, and varied programme of play and learning opportunities for children, suitable to the children's age and stage of development.
5. To establish effective and empowering partnerships with parents, enabling them to support and maximise their children's development through the provision of guidance and advice on child development.



6. To promote children's emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development, always working in the best interests of the child while ensuring the maintenance and continuous improvement of a welcoming, inclusive, environment.
7. To ensure a good standard of hygiene and safety and observe all relevant health and safety rules and guidelines.
8. Implement USDT Newhill's Safeguarding Policy and work with young people to safeguard their welfare and the welfare of others.
9. Assist with administrative duties within the project with effective communication.

**There are a number of standard duties and responsibilities that all employees irrespective of their role and level of seniority within Newhill Youth & Community Association are expected to be familiar with and adhere to:**

- To participate in all relevant training when required
- To observe all relevant health & safety rules and regulations
- To promote and comply with all policies on diversity and equality both in the delivery of services and treatment of others
- To ensure confidentiality at all times, only releasing confidential information obtained during the course of employment to those acting in an official capacity and in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act and amendments
- To comply with protocols on the appropriate use of telephone, e-mail and internet facilities
- To comply with the principles of risk management in relation to individual and corporate responsibilities
- To observe and adhere to all Policies & Procedures
- To carry out any other relevant tasks, which may from time-to-time, be required

*The concept of team working means that a flexible approach to work areas is required from the post holder. The work areas identified above are not exhaustive and only represent current principle tasks. The post holder may therefore be required to carry out other duties as determined by USDT from time to time.*



## PERSONNEL SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Interview/Application
<b>Qualifications</b>		
OCN Level 2 community Youth Work or working towards completion / Or NVQ Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education or equivalent or be willing to work towards completion / Or Level 3 Teaching Assistant or will working towards completion	Essential	CV
<i>*Similar relevant qualifications not on the above list maybe considered by the shortlisting panel</i>		
<b>Experience</b>		
A minimum of 1 years' experience in either a paid or voluntary capacity working with children and young people in a SEND setting.	Essential	CV
<b>Knowledge &amp; Skills</b>		
Demonstrates knowledge of child development	Essential	CV
Demonstrates knowledge of child protection issues and procedures	Essential	CV
Demonstrates an understanding of the importance of play and the importance of parental involvement	Essential	CV
<b>Personal Qualities</b>		
Strong commitment to young people	Essential	CV
Team player	Essential	CV
Approachable, accepting of others	Essential	CV