

If the sunny days have you planning for summer, we've got an exciting opportunity you don't want to miss! ⚙️
If you work with 9 to 11 year olds over the summer months, get in touch with our team to discuss our FREE cross-community programme.



OUR Generation Spaces to Be

Are you working with children
age 9 - 11 years over the
summer months?

Would you like to take part in
our FREE cross-community
programme as part of your
summer scheme?

PlayBoard NI, the lead organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of children and young people's play in Northern Ireland, is delighted to be part of *OUR Generation*, a project supported by PEACEPLUS, managed by Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It is a partnership led by Action Mental Health and brings together the expertise of nine partner organisations all working towards impactful initiatives under the PEACEPLUS investment area of 'Mental Health and Well-being.'



PlayBoard's *Spaces to Be* Programme champions the child's right to play as a means of promoting positive mental health, building resilience and positively addressing difference.

For further information, please contact
Roberta Johnson via email:
Roberta.Johnson@playboard.co.uk

www.playboard.org/resources/our-generation

A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

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



Training Support Courses for Parents/Carers and Autistic Adults: **We want to hear from you!**

Autism NI provides a range of training support courses to parents/carers and autistic adults across NI.

Due to ever-increasing demand, we will be expanding our support course provision, including creating on-demand webinars on a range of topics. As part of this ongoing development, we would like to find out more about the needs of the autism community, to help us design courses that effectively meet these needs.

If you are an autistic adult or a parent/carer of an autistic person, we would be really grateful if you can complete the short survey by clicking the link below. The information you provide will help us to expand our support course provision and create effective courses that work for you.

Thank you for your support.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J3NMLFY>



Support Group Schedule May 2025

Hello,

Please find attached the updated support schedule for May. **Please note all groups are subject to change and facilitation so registration is recommended.**

Together with our volunteers we continue to provide our Support Group meetings in person and online.

To find out when your next Support Group meeting is scheduled please go to; **<https://www.autismni.org/support-groups>** or alternatively view the below images for schedule below.

Sign up is available via the link above and is necessary to receive all the details to join your meeting. **Registrations is advised to receive up to date notices!!**

If you have any queries regarding our Support Group Network, upcoming meetings or would like to learn more about the work we do, please contact us via email; supportgroup@autismni.org or calling; 028 90 401729 (Opt 1).

[Support Group Meetings](#)



Lexcel



You may be aware that those granted refugee status (only) were, until recently, able to backdate their claim for Child Benefit to the date they made their asylum claim. This could result in large lump sum payments which were extremely helpful for families starting to rebuild their life after a positive decision.

Unfortunately, for those granted refugee status from 7 April 2025, this is no longer possible. We have updated our [Refugee Move On Guide](#) to reflect the changes, summarised below. Please advise all new refugees (granted from 7 January 2025 – 7 April 2025) to urgently request that their Child Benefit is backdated so they don't miss out on this opportunity. **Law Centre Social Security colleagues have offered to advise and assist – please contact admin@lawcentreni.org if you have come across a case like this.**

The changes:

- **Before 7 April 2025**

If you were granted refugee status **before 7 April 2025**, you can apply for your Child Benefit to be **backdated** to the date you made your asylum claim.

If you have children you should request that HMRC backdates your Child Benefit claim. **You must request this within 3 months of getting your refugee status, otherwise you will not get the back payment.**

- **After 7th April 2025**

However, if you have been granted refugee status **on or after 7th April 2025** your Child Benefit claim will only be backdated to the date you were recorded as a refugee, up to a maximum of 3 months.

[CBTM10140 - Residence and immigration: immigration - exceptions to the general exclusion - HMRC internal manual - GOV.UK](#)

More information:

We are hosting FREE Microsoft Dreamspace Community Workshops this summer and I was wondering if you could forward the info below on to your community colleagues on our behalf. The registration link is at the bottom of this email:-

We are beyond thrilled to invite you to an exclusive, action-packed **FREE** Dream Space camp day at W5 LIFE! ✨

This year's summer camp runs over **multiple dates in July** as follows and is open to community groups with children **aged 8-12**:

- 📅 1st July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 2nd July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 3rd July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 4th July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 7th July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 8th July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 9th July 10:00am-2:00pm
- 📅 10th July 10:00am-2:00pm

Get involved this summer:

- Unleash the Fun: Get ready to dive into a world of digital adventures with Sphero Robots, Minecraft Education, and Micro:bits! Plus, let your creativity soar with awesome arts and crafts. 🚀
- Expert Guidance: Our fantastic Dream Space team will lead the way, ensuring an unforgettable and inspiring experience. 🤖
- Perfect for Ages 8-12: Tailored activities for young explorers. 📺 *(Please note, the camp is not suitable for those under 8, the team reserve the right to question ages on arrival. Exceptions can be made for the upper age limit please add a note to the registration form if you wish to bring children 12+)*

Important Details:

- Timing: The camp runs from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** on the selected dates above.
- Group Size: We need a **minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 participants per group**.
- Supervision: **Community group leaders must attend to supervise**, with a minimum of 1 adult per 8 children.
- Date Selection: You must select the date(s) you wish to attend. Participants may be selected to attend multiple dates or individual dates, subject to popularity. You do not need to be able to attend all dates to be considered for the camp.
- Lunch: Please bring a **nut-free packed lunch**.
- Location: Dream Space at W5 LIFE, Odyssey Place (2 Queens Quay, Belfast, BT3 9QQ).
- Parking: We can validate your parking at W5. Just take a ticket at The Odyssey carpark barrier.
- Admission to W5: Not included, but you can add it at an additional cost per attendee.
- You must provide your own transport to and from W5 LIFE

Ready to Join the Adventure?

Fill out our expression of interest form to secure your spot > [Dream Space Summer Camp - Registration of Interest](#) ✨

Hurry, the form closes on **25th May 2025 at 5pm**. Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Successful applicants will be notified shortly after.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Julia Carson
Education Industry Liaison
Tel: 44 28 9592 0163
Julia.carson@theodyssey.co.uk



[Dream Space Summer Camp - Registration of Interest](#)

DIGITAL ARTS ACADEMY SUMMER 2025



**GOOD RELATIONS DIGITAL ARTS
PROGRAMMES FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 9-12**



**Belfast
City Council**

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

BEAM CREATIVE NETWORK **DRAMA & ART** SUMMER CLUBS 2025



**FREE GOOD RELATIONS
ART & DRAMA PROGRAMMES
FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 9-12**



**Belfast
City Council**

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

50 Years: Hope for the Future

Fri 30th May, 9.15am-4pm
Titanic Belfast

Women's Aid
BELFAST & LISBURN



belfastwomensaid.org.uk
028 9066 6049

Belfast Community Day

ovacome..
The ovarian cancer support charity

27th June 2025 11am-2pm

The Black Mountain Shared Community Space,
280 Ballygomartin Road,
Belfast,
BT13 3NG

A free lunch and learn to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and
the work Ovacome are doing to health inequalities

For anyone who works with underserved communities

Contact l.waters@ovacome.org.uk to book your place.



**HOME
START**
North Belfast



HOME-START NORTH BELFAST FAMILY GROUP

Home-Start North Belfast are in the Christian Fellowship Hall every Wednesday throughout May offering a morning of fun and interaction, personal development, sensory play. Free healthy Breakfast for everyone.

Contact us today to find out more.

info@homestartnb.org.uk
07739004151

North Belfast
Christian Fellowship
246 Antrim Road

7/14/21/28
MAY
Ti9.30/11.30

Charity no. XR34994
174 Trust Duncannon Avenue, BELFAST, BT14 6BP

HAPPY DAYS CAR WASH



Wheels needing a good scrub? Let us take care of it!

All contributions greatly appreciated & will go toward our summer scheme!

When?
Thursday 22nd May 2025
11am-2pm

Where?
Happy Days McSweeney
Building
31 Henry Place

RESPONDING TO RACISM AND CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING TRAINING

We are excited to offer a **FREE** half-day training session for youth professionals, practitioners, youth workers, and volunteers, aimed at equipping them with skills to help young people tackle issues related to racism.



The session will cover the following key areas, including:

- Key terminology
- What is and isn't racism
- How to respond to racism using scenario-based training
- Managing young people viewing racist content and misinformation online

22 MAY 2025

SENATE ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

CHOICE OF A MORNING SESSION: 9.30AM-12PM
OR AN AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:30-4PM

TEA, COFFEE & SHORTBREAD PROVIDED

SIGN-UP TO ONE OF THE SESSIONS ON
EVENTBRITE USING THE QR CODE!



Community Safety Community Fair

Project
Can Do!



**St Michael's
Church of Ireland,**
Craven Street, Shankill Road,
Belfast, BT15 1JJ



Tuesday 20th May
10.30am - 12.30pm



McDonald Centre
Seaview Stadium,
St Vincent Street, Belfast
BT15 3QG



Tuesday 27th May
10.30am - 12.30pm

**Join us and a range of organisations
as we explore how we can feel safer
in our communities and surroundings.**

**Information Sessions on keeping you & your family
safe online, keeping safe at home and in the
community.**

**Freebies // Information & Advice // Refreshments
and lots more!**

FREE EVENT!



For more info contact us at
northernireland@roc.uk.com or 02890351020

■ safetynets.study

Is there something you'd like to share about your experience with benefits?

We're looking for **parents and carers of under-18s** to share their experiences of **how social security differs across the four nations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**



What's Involved?

- Join an online discussion with other parents and carers in receipt of social security, across the UK.
- Share your experiences and discuss what needs to change
- Receive £50 in Love2Shop vouchers for each workshop you attend

Who Can Take Part?

- Parents/carers with a child under 18
- Living in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland
- In receipt of at least one main UK benefit (e.g. Universal Credit, Tax Credits, PIP) or asylum support schemes

This research is being conducted by the **Safety Nets** research project: We are a **team of six universities**, two **policy partners** and a **panel of Experts by Experience**, who bring vital lived experience of the social security system across all four countries of the UK.

The research team is independent of any government department and taking part in the workshops will not affect your benefits.

Interested, or want to know more?

Scan code with phone now to express your interest – no commitment needed.

Any questions?

Email safety-nets-project@york.ac.uk

Text/call Uisce on 07552 285828

Website safetynets.study/take-part



Forthspring
Inter Community Group



YOUTH CLUB

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
6 - 8.30PM

Bring a friend

ART • FUN • GAMES

Forthspring
Inter Community Group

£2 ENTRY

FAMILY FUN DAY

- > BALLOON MODELLING
- > FACE PAINTING
- > BOUNCEY CASTLES
- > GO KARTS
- > MANICURES + NAILS
- > PETTING ZOO

SATURDAY
JUNE 21
@12PM TO 3PM





Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department für

Infrastruktur

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

08 May 2025

The Travel to and from School by Pupils in Northern Ireland 2023/24 report is published

The Travel to and from School by Pupils in Northern Ireland 2023/24 report has been published today.

This report, produced by the Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), presents findings from the 2023/24 Continuous Household Survey (CHS).

[Travel to school research | Department for Infrastructure](#)



Hear me, See me, Know me

A workshop for parents of children who are being assessed or are diagnosed as autistic-delivered by Elaine McGreevy- Speech & Language Therapist

- Support communication preferences
- Understand sensory experiences & attention
- Communicate with a child/young person in distress

Wednesday 28th May
7pm-8.30pm on Zoom
Call NOW to book your place

0808 8020 400





Community Health
and Wellbeing

May's North Belfast Menopause Café Mindfulness Walk and coffee

Date: Wednesday 21st May

Time: 11 - 12.30

Venue: Waterworks and café @ The Duncairn, Duncairn Avenue, BT14 6BP

Next **North Belfast Menopause Café** will be on

Wednesday 21st May

Meeting at 11am (roughly finishing at 12.30)

@ Waterworks and followed by coffee & cake at The Café (The Duncairn).

May's menopause café will be a mindfulness walk around the Waterworks, followed by coffee and cake at The Duncairn Café.

To book a place, please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0qcAnKfuEQ>

EXERCISE CLASSES

Come along and get fitter with like minded local people!



TUESDAY 5.30 - 6.15PM
THURSDAY 9.30AM - 10.30AM
THURSDAY 5.30 - 6.15PM

£1 per class

**No need to book
Just turn up**

Accupuncture Clinic



All welcome

**Mondays
11.30-12.30pm**

**JOIN
US
COACH
CLAIRE
LOGAN**

ZUMBA CLASS

**Wednesdays
6-7PM**

All welcome!
£1 per class

Last Wednesday of every month
12 - 2pm
Forthspring, 373 Springfield Road



FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH



Midweek Mingle

Wednesdays nights just got awesome.



6 PM



A weekly gathering of women in a chilled environment. We'll have a yarn, drink some tea and generally put the world to rights. #magic

Different activities each week to include art, bingo, quizzes, and seasonal crafts.



Children with a Disability Holiday Grant Scheme
2025-26

Subject to confirmation of funding the Childcare Partnership is administering the Bright Start Children with a Disability Holiday Grant Scheme. This is a Department of Education scheme, supported through the Northern Ireland Executive Programme for Affordable and Integrated Childcare – Bright Start. The purpose of this grant scheme is to provide financial support to registered childcare providers to enable them to provide **additional childcare during holiday periods** to support children with disabilities.

Providers must currently provide services to children with disabilities and must demonstrate their previous experience and capabilities for providing such services, particularly during Holiday periods. Private Providers are not eligible for this Grant Scheme.

The application is only available on-line. To complete the application please click on the following link:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/ZUA0TEqHby>

*The deadline for submission is **4:00pm on Monday 26th May 2025.***

If you have any queries please contact Kirstein Arbuckle (028) 9536 1064, Email:

Kirstein.Arbuckle@hscni.net

Floating Support Service



Making A Positive Difference By
Empowering People And Communities

FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICE

Our Floating Support Service will provide support and assistance to families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Floating Support will support service users to obtain and sustain accommodation within the community in the long term.

Type Of Support We Can Offer:

- Securing and/or maintaining a tenancy.
- Transitioning to a new tenancy.
- Moving on from supported accommodation.
- Finding suitable accommodation.
- Applying for accommodation via social or private landlords.
- Understanding the terms of your tenancy - rights and responsibilities in partnership with your landlord.
- Support to maintain safety and security of dwelling.
- Support in setting up and maintaining home or tenancy.
- Support in managing finances, maximising income and accessing benefits.
- Signposting and accessing other support services.
- Support into education, employment, or training.



- Developing domestic/ daily living skills.
- Developing social skills.
- Support in establishing social contacts and activities within the community, to promote emotional well-being and alleviate social isolation.

Who Is Eligible To Apply:

- Men and women with dependent children.
- Require support to maintain your independence and tenancy.
- Be willing to engage with the service and the support provided.

How To Make A Referral:

T: 028 9075 2310

E: homelesservices@arkhousing.co.uk

This service is available to families living in the **Greater Belfast** area.

Training and Employment Opportunities

ROGRAMME • EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME • EMPLOYABIL



YOUTH START

Empowering Futures on Springfield Road

The YouthStart Programme supports young people aged 16–24 build skills, boost confidence, and improve employability. Whether it's landing your dream job or starting a career, we're here to support your next step.

- Training Allowance £20 p/w
- Industry Qualifications
- 1-1 Mentoring
- Travel Expenses Paid

FIND US ON   

 Funded by UK Government

ROGRAMME • EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME • EMPLOYABIL

THE JOURNEY

PHASE ONE:

Phase one focuses on personal development and wellbeing. Participants join a 2-week induction, create a Personal Action Plan, and engage in activities like group sessions, community challenges, and outdoor pursuits. Each participant is paired with a YouthStart Mentor for ongoing support. This phase addresses barriers to engagement and employment through personalized support and referrals to specialist services, helping participants build confidence, motivation, and active citizenship.




PHASE TWO:


In phase two, participants build skills and gain qualifications to prepare for employment. With support from tutors and mentors, they develop employability, digital, and personal skills while addressing past barriers. Participants complete qualifications in ICT (Essential Skills ICT), Employability (Award in Employability Skills), and Numeracy (Award in Managing Personal Finances), boosting confidence and readiness for the workforce.

PHASE THREE:

Phase three focuses on employment through an individualized employment academy approach. Participants receive industry-specific training, hear from guest speakers, visit employers, and attend a jobs club and fair. Training covers qualifications like CSR, Forklift, SIA, and Youth Work, tailored to sectors with high growth potential. Employer engagement ensures training aligns with job market needs. Participants explore career pathways, learn about workplace environments, and prepare for interviews. Workshops led by the Health & Wellbeing Officer focus on managing workplace stress, rights at work, and achieving work-life balance, equipping participants with the skills and confidence to sustain long-term employment.

For further information, please contact us at youth@springvalelearning.com or call us on +44 7485 394456.

FIND US ON   

 Funded by UK Government

Training and Employment Opportunities

MAY 2025

KING'S TRUST COURSES

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

Antrim & Newtownabbey Area

Antrim Library

7 May, 2pm - 4pm

Ballyclare Library

14 May 2pm - 4pm

Rathcoole Library

15 May 11am - 12pm

Greystone Library

15 May 2:30pm - 4pm

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Age: 16-30

Dates: Available year round

Location: Across Northern Ireland

Apply for grants of up to £500 to support you into education or employment. Can be used for course fees, clothing, equipment, license fees, travel cards, and more!

EXPLORE+

Age: 16-24

Dates: Starting June 2025

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

GET HIRED

Get Hired with Health and Social Care

Age: 18-30

Dates: TBC

Location: Belfast

Find out about opportunities in health and social care, and interview for employers with live vacancies in your area

ENTERPRISE

Age: 18-30

Dates: Available year round

Location: Online

Take part in expert-led workshops on finance, marketing, business planning, sales, and more. Get support to build a business plan and grants to launch your business

COMING NEXT MONTH

Get Started with Makeup

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 10 June

Dates: 16 - 20 June

Location: Belfast

Gain practical experience from a professional makeup artist and learn about working in the industry. Work towards Beauty Guilds qualifications

Get Started with DJing

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 24 June

Dates: 30 June - 4 July

Location: Belfast

Explore music production and learn DJ equipment basics, create playlists, and practice mixing. Create a DJ brand and social media marketing

Get into TK Maxx

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 24 June

Dates: 30 June - 25 July

Location: Belfast with job opportunities across NI

Gain four weeks work experience, take part in employability workshops, and receive 1:1 mentor support to help you start a career in retail

USEFUL INFO

All our courses:

- are free to attend
- don't impact benefits

We also:

- reimburse transport costs
- cover childcare costs (subject to application)

CONTACT US

outreachni@kingstrust.org.uk

0800 842 842

kingstrust.org.uk



Training and Employment Opportunities

[Training Courses for Professionals | Autism NI](#)



Upcoming Autism Training Courses: Last chance to book!

Autism NI facilitate a range of CPD certified and accredited training courses, designed to upskill and empower you to support autistic people in your role.

Every business, practitioner and professional will provide services to autistic and neurodivergent people, so everyone has a part to play in building an inclusive society. Whether you work in healthcare, education, early years or the private sector, we have courses that will help you to build your inclusive practice.

All courses are delivered live and include a Q+A, to maximise engagement and ensure you can get the right support and information that you need.

It is the last chance to book our range of courses being delivered in May and June. Don't miss out - book your place below!

[Saturday Club Leader | Barnardo's jobs](#)



Saturday Club Leader

Reference number: 20905

Location: Choices For Children

Contract type: Permanent

Hours: 90 per annum

Salary: £25,492.40 - £29,726.27 FTE

Closing Date: 22 May 2025

Interview Date: Week beginning 2 June 2025

Training and Employment Opportunities

[Suicide First Aid & Mental Health & Wellbeing Courses](#)



UPCOMING TRAINING

	Thursday 10am - 1.00pm Suicide First Aid ONLINE ZOOM	May 15 2025
	Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00pm Discovering Mental Health & Wellbeing ONLINE ZOOM	June 10 2025

These courses are only available to adults aged 18

DISCOVER YOU NI
YOUTH START



YouthStart is now recruiting for two upcoming cohorts at our Springvale Learning and Employment site in Belfast, and we'd greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word to any young people who may benefit.

Start Dates: Cohort 1: Monday, 27th May 2025 / **Cohort 2:** Monday, 23rd June 2025

Who Is It For?

Young people aged **16–24** who are currently not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and are ready to take positive steps toward their future. If you know any young people who could benefit, or if you'd like to make a referral, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

📞 Contact: 07485394456

✉ Email: youth@springvalelearning.com

🌐 Website / Sign-Up Link: https://linktr.ee/youth_start