



footprints
womens centre

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Poleglass

Belfast

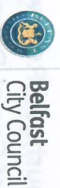
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Footprints Women's Centre



Annual Report 2017

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Mission Statement

'To enable women and children to grow and ensure their voices are heard and that they take their rightful place in a just and equal society.'



Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Annual General Meeting, celebrating not only our 2016/2017 accomplishments, but also 26 years' worth of Footprints Women's Centre achievements.

I am also delighted to introduce myself as Director of Footprints Women's Centre and to have the opportunity to get to know and to work even more closely with Footprints Board, Staff team, volunteers and the women and their families from the Colin Community.

Footprint's is known for its leadership and innovation. We are proud of our reputation, and have worked hard to establish it. My goals are to ensure the continuation of its high quality services which include childcare, support, respite, training, volunteering, advocacy and the new Food store.

I am really looking forward to hearing the views and ideas from members, staff, board and community partners on how we can achieve these goals in developing a new strategic plan, which will be organisational priority in the coming months.

I would like to give a special mention to my predecessor Gillian Gibson, for the barriers she knocked down and the opportunities she built up. She is to be commended for her commitment and devotion to the welfare and safety of women and children over the past twenty-five years. I hope she enjoys her well earned hiatus and wish her the best of luck in this new phase of her career.

Isobel Loughran

Director

Chairperson & Director's Report

Over the last year Footprints Women's Centre has worked incredibly hard at maintaining core services for women and children within the Colin Community. The current funding crisis that prevails within the community based women's sector, exacerbated by the collapse of the local assembly has placed community organisations and women's centres in extreme jeopardy.

In order to protect services within an uncertain funding environment, Footprints Board of Directors has made critical decisions over the last year, that have resulted in the Centre being forced into an unprecedented period of change. These include reviewing staff Terms and Conditions of Employment and implementing cost saving measures and efficiency savings across the whole organisation.

The result is that, at the end of this financial year, we are better placed to withstand the uncertainties that continue to prevail within our sector.

I would like to commend the Board of Directors and the staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that Footprints emerged in the financial year with core services intact. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the Finance Team led by Finance Director, Elizabeth Livingstone who retired this year, leaving the organisation in a more financially secure position that was forecast at the beginning of this Financial Year.

Additionally, I would like to highlight the work of the Centre in the last year. We have continued to grow our membership base which now sits at over 1,000 women. We also secured funding from Urban Villages to deliver an innovative capacity building programme providing personal development, women's empowerment and leadership courses to over 150 women. This programme ran alongside the BBC Children In Need Family Empowerment Project and Crisis Support for women.

Chairperson & Director's Report

In February 2017 we received the exciting news that our application to BCC Children In Need was successful, enabling Footprints to continue to deliver the Family Empowerment Project 2017-2020. This will be an improved Family Empowerment Project which will implement the recommendations of an independent evaluation of the current 3 year pilot project.

As Chairperson I have always supported and encouraged partnerships working with the local community. It therefore gives me great satisfaction to see partnership working taking place through (1) The Urban Villages Programme; Sally Gardens leads our community capacity building project which also includes Scoil Na Fuisgeoige; (2) Colin Early Intervention Project. Footprints this year hosted two 'Strengthening Families' programmes and two Incredible Years programmes; (3) Footprints continues to work collaboratively with Windsor Women's Centre, building upon long established links and supporting one another through many shared challenges. We plan to continue building these partnerships over the coming year.

Two key areas in which Footprints wish to make a difference are in reducing domestic violence incidents within the Colin community and tackling food poverty. In both areas, we continue to make a significant impact and we are incredibly proud to have been asked to host two @Buy Social Meetings' over the course of the last year in which we were invited to share our practice with the Department for Communities representatives.

In closing, I would like to thank the funders who continue to provide essential support to Footprints Women's Centre and our vital services, and the staff and volunteers who ensure delivery, of these services to those most in need.

Isobel Loughran

Director

Mary McNeill

Chairperson



Gillian Gibson

Former Centre Director 1993-2017



Treasurer Report

As predicted in the previous Financial Year Footprints Women's Centre faced many financial challenges and therefore measures were taken to mitigate the financial losses incurred with the reduction in funding.

First and foremost on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank the staff for their forbearance and co-operation in supporting the sustainability of the organisation through amended terms and conditions.

The extensive work that went into the financial forecasting for 2016/17 proved to be extremely beneficial in sound financial management during this period of restricted income.

The tone set at the beginning of this financial year, when all our expenditure was reviewed and trimmed continued throughout the year and resulted in the positive upturn in profits as illustrated in the accounts.

As planned, we operated the accounts for Footprints Women's Centre on the Sage Accounting System for the first time this year.

The finance team worked extremely hard to set up this system and our accountants, GMG Limited, have commended the organisation, for their foresight in ensuring robust streamlining of financial operations.

I would like to thank the Board for their investment in the Training and Education programme which, in turn has attracted funding from Urban Villages and helped set up a successful partnership with local community groups. I am confident that our work with Sally Gardens and Scoil Na Fuiseoige will be beneficial to the organisation and the community a like, as we all go forward.

Treasurer Report

As the year draws to a close, it is with regret that we say goodbye to Elizabeth Livingstone our Financial Director, who is retiring.

With her extensive experience, Elizabeth has steered Footprint Women's Centre through many financial challenges and we are indebted to her for creating a financial ethos, backed up by robust financial systems and processes that have in no small part, ensure the success of Footprints.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish Elizabeth a long, happy and holiday filled retirement.

Noreen Braniff

Treasurer



Support Services

Support Services for women continue to be a core area of work within the Centre alongside Children's Services. Footprints offer the only 'open door' crisis intervention services in the Collin Community for women. The daily demand for the service, demonstrates the overwhelming need that exists within the community for vital support services.

In addition to the 'open door' service, Support Services also provide a weekly drop-in group; complementary therapies; childcare respite; a Senior Citizen's lunch club; a 1:1 support service for women experiencing domestic violence; court support; advocacy; referral to specialist agencies; stress management techniques; assist suicide first aid contact point and; domestic violence awareness raising programmes.

All of this work is delivered by a highly skilled team who have developed positive working relationships with key agencies, including Social Services, Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid, PSNI, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, NIHE, Collin Neighbourhood Partnership, Sally Gardens, Collin Counselling and Collin Surestart.

In June 2016 Footprints led the annual 'Circle of Hope' event which highlighted the Collin Safe Place initiative. Footprints currently chair the Collin Domestic Violence Forum and together, we have increased the numbers of schools, businesses and



Support Services

community organisations who have achieved 'Safe Place' status placing women's safety at the heart of Collin.

Footprints Family Empowerment project is a 3 year project funded by BBC Children In Need. In this, the final year of the project, an independent evaluation has been concluded by Anne McMurray, external evaluator. The evaluation demonstrated the success of the Family Empowerment Project, not only in terms of the positive outcomes achieved for vulnerable families but also in terms of the empowerment model of practice delivered by the support team.

A further 3 years' funding has been secured for the Family Empowerment Project; this will enable us to continue delivering this vital empowerment based service to the community.



Children's Services

In the last year Children's Services has faced particular difficulties resulting from 'change management', and funding uncertainties. The planned expansion of services had to be placed on 'hold' until the organisation was able to stabilise the Children's Services department. With a tremendous effort from both Childcare staff and those leading the childcare business strategy we have managed to come through a particularly difficult period and continue to deliver the highest quality wrap around service with access to all services within the centre.

The childcare team have received a positive annual inspection with no recommendations, acknowledging the hard work and dedication that goes into caring for the children, this is evident in daily practice, and high quality standards that have been maintained.

We are continuing the staff team's professional development and are focusing on staff training and support in knowledge and practice, and ensuring best outcomes are achieved for all children accessing the childcare respite.



Children's Services



Over the last year we have continued to foster strong working relations with Colin Early Intervention Community, facilitating the delivery of 'Strengthening Families' and 'Incredible Years' programmes.

The Day-care facility continues to be registered for 52 places, and operates as part of our Social Enterprise delivering affordable and flexible childcare to working parents and women in full time education/training. In addition, we continue to deliver day-care through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for childcare respite for South Eastern Trust (SET).

- The SET, SLA provides childcare places for children at risk of going into care and families in need of support. The Centre also takes emergency social services referrals.
- Without this vital service many children would be left in unstable circumstances in relation to family life and environment.

Training & Education

In the last financial year Footprints delivered a successful capacity building programme, funded by Urban Villages and in partnership with Sally Gardens Community Centre and Scoil Na Fuiseoige. This enabled the centre to provide 150 women with the opportunity to participate in empowerment, leadership and personal development courses delivered by highly skilled tutors.

A recent consultation undertaken by Footprints reflects that women from Colin prioritise training and education as an overwhelming need within the community, many highlighting the loss of accredited learning programmes for adult women returners. For this season the Board of Directors will continue to prioritise Training and Education within the forthcoming strategic plan (2017-2020).

Footprints remain the only community based adult learning and training facility within Colin, with an on-site Crèche.



Training & Education

Course	No of Women	Date	Duration	Tutor	Funder
Mindfulness	13	31/10/16-24/11/16	6 weeks	Mandy Han-na	Urban Villages
Learning for Life	11	20/9/16-18/10/16	5 weeks	John Kelly	Urban Villages
Incredible Years School Readiness	10	8/11/16-6/12/16	5 weeks	Bernie Donaghy	CNP
Life Coaching	17	9/11/16-14/12/16	6 weeks	Helen McKillen	Urban Villages
Emergency First Aid	6	29/9/16-7/10/16	2 weeks	Paul Berry	Urban Villages
Women's Empowerment	15	30/9/16-16/12/16	12 weeks	Eileen Fegan	Urban Villages
Women's Empowerment	9	23/1/17-17/4/17	12 weeks	Eileen Fegan	Urban Villages
Slow Food for Families	15	6/3/17-16/5/17	7 weeks	Eileen Wilson	Santander
Mindfulness	9	24/1/17-28/2/17	6 weeks	Mandy Han-na	Urban Villages
Life Coaching	6	25/1/17-8/3/17	6 weeks	Helen McKillen	Urban Villages
Women In Wellness	11	19/1/17-23/3/17	7 weeks	Fiona Lovely	Urban Villages
Everybody Active	8	27/1/17-7/4/17	8 weeks	Fiona Shannon	BCC/Colin Glen Trust
Tune in Parenting	3	23/1/17-20/2/17	4 weeks	Elaine Jones	Urban Villages

Sustainable Living

Footprints Sustainable Living Programme within the Centre is managed by a Sustainable Living Manager, funded by BRO and Footprints Women's Centre. The Sustainable Living Project includes, Transition community project (food growing); reducing the Centre's Carbon Footprint; Footprints Diet; Food and Physical activity Programme targeting women and children attending the Centre and the Community Food Initiative; a project established in Footprints to tackle food poverty within the Colin Community.

In the last year Footprints has continued to develop innovative responses to tackle food poverty. This included securing funding from Choice Housing to plant apple and pear trees and soft fruit bushes within the grounds of the Centre. This will enable us to make our own chutney and jams, further extending the range of produce available to local women who will also be given the opportunity to expand their food growing skills and knowledge.



Additionally, the Sustainable Living Manager secured funding from Santander to pilot an OCN accredited 'slow food' training programme with vulnerable adults.

All of this work will strengthen our plans to develop a 'social supermarket' in the heart of the Colin Community.



Women's Empowerment

Footprints have now established Women's Empowerment as a core area of activity within the organisation, primarily through a rolling programme of Women's Empowerment courses. Through such courses we are engaging with women who may eventually take up leadership roles within their community or, within the women's centre. In this way it is our intention to consolidate future leadership within the organisation, ensuring the long term sustainability of Footprints as a vital based resource that works primarily for the benefit of women and children.



Volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in supporting the delivery of the objects and activities within the organisation. Over the last year there have been up to 50 volunteers involved in all aspects of the Centre's work. Volunteers offer a minimum of 3-5 hours per week. Volunteers have supported the following:

- ◇ Reception cover
- ◇ Senior Citizen's Lunch Club and Activities
- ◇ Childcare
- ◇ Catering
- ◇ Community Food Initiative
- ◇ Representation, lobbying and hosting and
- ◇ Good Relations

Volunteers trained by Footprints Women's Centre also support other community organisations within the local community.



50 plus Group

Footprints Women's Centre 50 plus group were delighted to receive Heritage Lottery Funding to carry out a research project into the history and heritage of their local area in West Belfast. The project 'Through our Eyes' enabled the 50 plus group to explore the traditional industries and businesses of the area—charting the decline of these and how the area has developed over the years to what it is today.

Through taking part in the programme the 50 plus group gained OCN accreditation in Digital Photography and Local History and were delighted to receive their certificates from Martin McDonald, Committee Chair of Heritage Lottery, at the launch of the project on Tuesday 26th April 2016.

At the launch, the information gathered by the group, from personal interviews, visits to PRONI and various sites across West Belfast was paired up with photographs and presented in the form of pull-up banners.

The exhibition did ensure that all visitors to the Centre will have the opportunity to view the information which depicts the lives of people who worked and lived in the area and the changes in the social and economic history of West Belfast.



Cross Community Projects

Footprints Women's Centre together with Windsor Women's Centre came together throughout the year to work on two projects with the aim of building connectivity between individuals from diverse backgrounds who attend the two Women's Centres. The key focus was on relationship building, collaboration, mutual respect/understanding, reducing fear and encouraging mobility outside distinct communities.

The Flax project encouraged good relations amongst different backgrounds through the medium of history, art and crafts.

Participants had the opportunity to:

- Discover the history of the flax plant and linen making
- Visit museums and mills together
- Learnt to weave in fun interactive workshops, and
- Contributed to the final piece of art work to celebrate the project

The Kuh-nekt project built on this work and continued to strengthening bonds and shared learning through the medium of food growing and cookery based activities.



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT—FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2017 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	5	8,124	359,908	368,032	362,619
Other trading activities	6	305,235	—	305,235	305,624
Investments	7	249	—	249	320
Total Income		313,608	359,908	673,516	668,563
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	8	223,551	—	223,551	287,038
Charitable activities	9	67,888	382,870	450,758	524,570
Total resources expended		291,439	382,870	674,309	811,608
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		22,169	(22,962)	(793)	(143,045)
Gross transfers between Funds	15	4,409	(4,409)	—	—
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/		26,578	(27,371)	(793)	(143,045)
Net movement in funds		26,578	(27,371)	(793)	(143,045)
Fund balances at 01/04/16		88,238	690,057	778,295	921,340
Fund balances at 31/03/17		114,816	662,686	777,502	778,295

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Acknowledgements

Footprints Women's Centre would like to acknowledge the Board of Directors, the staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment over the last year.

Board of Directors

- Mary McNeill (Chairperson)
- Noreen Braniff (Treasurer)
- Joy Poots
- Claire Ferris
- Margaret Boyle
- Moya Carberry
- Bernadette Devlin
- Bernadette Donaghy
- Sinead Glymond
- Isobel Loughran
- Elizabeth McShane
- Fiona O'Connell

In addition we would like to acknowledge the following funders for their invaluable support:

- BBC Children in Need
- Belfast City Council
- BRO Neighbourhood Renewal
- Department of Social Development
- Keep NI Beautiful
- Public Health Agency
- Santander
- Urban Villages
- Big Lottery
- Comic Relief
- Belfast Strategic Partnership