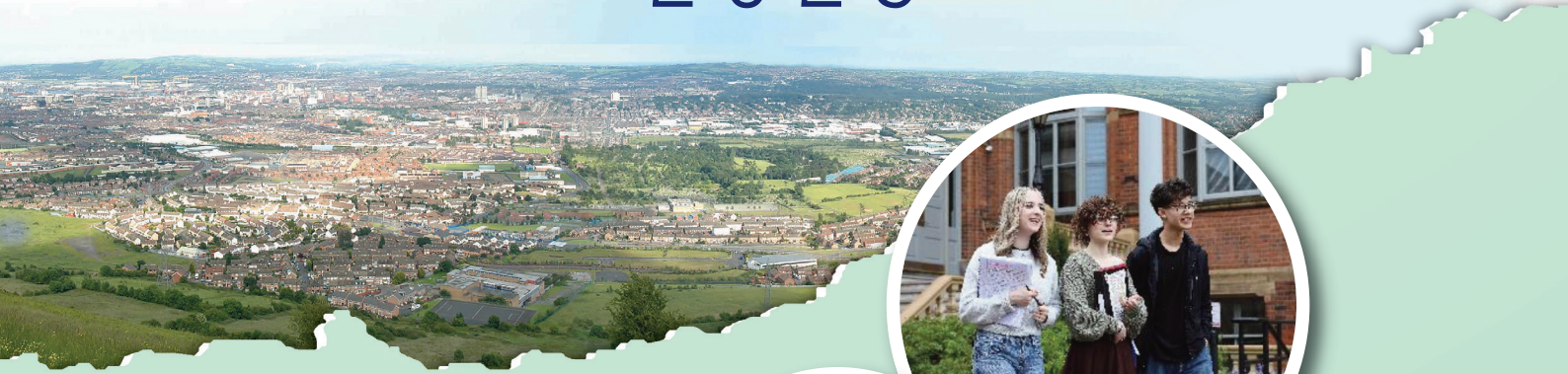


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



WEST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP PÁIRTÍOCHT FEIRSTE THJAR



Mission Statement

“To involve people who live and work in West Belfast in generating social, economic, physical and cultural development to ensure West Belfast makes a full contribution to and benefits equally from developments in the city as a whole.”



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Company No. – NI033629

Registered Charity Number: NIC 103564

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Teach Chluain Ard

West Belfast Partnership Board Opens Doors to New Home

“Teach Chluain Ard”

The West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB) is proud to announce the opening of its new premises, Teach Chluain Ard, located at 43–47 Falls Road, BT12 4PD. The official launch took place on Monday, 7th July 2025 marking a significant milestone in the organisation’s mission to drive sustainable development, community regeneration, and social inclusion across West Belfast.

The event was chaired by local MP Paul Maskey, featured keynote addresses from a distinguished panel of speakers:

- **Charlie Fisher**, CEO of Development Trusts NI (DTNI)
- **Dónal Traynor**, CEO of Community Finance Ireland
- **John O’Dowd MLA**, Minister for Finance

WBPB’s new space represents a renewed commitment to the community, offering a dynamic hub for collaboration, business, support services, and civic innovation. “Teach Chluain Ard” will house vital programmes that empower residents, connect strategic partners, and champion local business and grassroots initiatives for lasting change.

WBPB would like to thank Belfast City Council, DTNI and Community Finance Ireland for funding which supported the renovation of the building.



“ *This launch symbolises more than a new address—it’s the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our community’s story. We are honoured to welcome local leaders and partners to share in this celebration and help us shape the future of West Belfast.* ”

WBPB Spokesperson

Health & Wellbeing

Building Resilience and Embedding Wellbeing Framework

WBPB launched its Resilient West Belfast Framework document on 15 May in St Comgalls. The launch was chaired by MP Paul Maskey and attended by a wide range of agencies and organisations. 2 documents have been produced and published with online copies available. The framework will inform the restructuring of the WBPB health structure and strategic direction going forward.



Awards for All (National Lottery Funding)

The Learning for Health programme successfully completed on 2 June 2025, WBPB have produced an extensive evaluation of the programme.

Programme highlights:

- 13 After Schools engaged in programme
- 227 young people engaged
- 139 parents
- 208 completed baseline surveys
- 233 post evaluation completed
- Each after school completed a 6 week programme based on the following themes
 - ◆ Literacy and Numeracy
 - ◆ Physical exercise
 - ◆ Nutritional Information
 - ◆ Mindfulness
 - ◆ The World Around Us.



Live Better Pilot

Live Better Programme was piloted in Court Ward -WBPB led on the social isolation group. The group designed and delivered an intervention programme in two folds – Cullingtree (Falls) and Winchester (Shankill). The programme engaged over 60 residents between both folds. Outcomes from the programme included linking residents to local services.



Community Planning VCSE Panel

WBPB continue to lead and support the development of the VCSE panel, providing a platform for community organisations to influence the community planning process and the Belfast Agenda. WBPB provide secretarial support to the panel as well as the coordinator representing the sub boards of the partnership on the 'Our People' and the 'Our Place Boards'.



Social Supermarket

WBPB have successfully secured resources to provide a voucher scheme through Belfast City Council's Social Supermarket. Using WBPB subgroups and networks through health, education and neighbourhood renewal vouchers have been distributed along with wrap around support provided by partner organisations.

Peace Plus Health & Wellbeing Programme

WBPB were successful as part of a city-wide consortium in securing a contract to deliver the H & W programme, the programme will deliver trauma informed workshops with good relations training to 500 residents in West Belfast.

Neighbourhood Area Planning Sessions

WBPB held two planning sessions with stakeholders on Neighbourhood Area plans specifically on health priorities for west Belfast. The engagement will influence priorities within the Belfast Agenda and provide the strategic approach of health & wellbeing in west Belfast on community planning boards.



Bealach Glas (West Belfast Greenway)

WBPB continue to lobby along with Paul Maskey MP on a dedicated greenway through west Belfast. Work has begun on phase 1 of the project with current progress up to Milltown cemetery. A further consultation event took place on 2 October to discuss phase 2 which will take works up to Kennedy Way.



Education

Sharing the Learning Programme

"West Belfast – a place where they have worked some educational magic!"



2,153

Children, Parents & Grandparents
taking part in
Nursery Parent & Child Programmes

Parents supporting their child's learning
Parents & children reading at home

**Sharing
the
Learning
with**

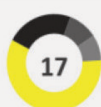
East Belfast
South Belfast
North Belfast
Greater Shankill
Belfast City Council
St Mary's University College
Learning Cities Network
Stranmillis College

917 KS2 pupils and staff taking part in the
Irish News Critical Literacy Young Readers
Programme

GCSE Maths & English Supports

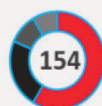


Students supported
in Maths

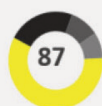


Students supported
in English

**Maths & English
GCSE Easter School: 175 Students**



Students supported in
Maths

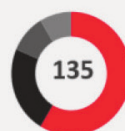


Students supported in
English

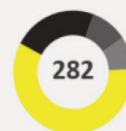
**Community After Schools
Literacy & Numeracy Supports**
218 children & parents

3478 KS2 pupils taking part in
Accelerated Reader/ FRECKLE Maths

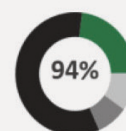
Support for pupils in Years 8 – 10



Literacy
Supports



Numeracy
Supports



Showing
Improvement

917 pupils in **Primary – Post Primary
Transition Programme**

97% of children felt happier moving from Primary to
Post Primary school

*61.6% of GCSE students achieved 5
or more GCSEs A*-C including Maths
and English*

*65.1% of pupils achieved 3 or more A
Levels grade A*-C*

*97.8% of pupils achieved 2 or more A
Levels grades A*-C*

Easter School 2025

Another hugely successful Maths & English GCSE Easter School 2025!

Our annual Maths and English GCSE Easter School 2025, in partnership with the Department of Education, St Mary's University College and Full Service Community Network was a resounding success.

This year a total of 175 students attended.

Eighteen St Mary's University College student teachers worked on the Easter School as support staff, which gave them valuable work experience, and they were an absolute credit to the College.

Thanks to the staff from St Mary's University and to our local teachers for their hard work and support in helping make the Easter School possible.
Most of all thank you to all the students who continued to work on their Maths and English during their Easter holidays #FabKids #KeepLearning



Belfast City Council City Wide Maths & English GCSE Support Programme

WBPB once again led a successful consortium of community partners across the city to provide GCSE revision classes in Belfast on a cross community basis. City-wide partners included EastSide Learning, Belfast South Community Resources, Forward South and Greater Shankill Partnerships with West Belfast Partnership Board having responsibility for delivery in west and north Belfast.

The programme built on the successes of previous years by supporting 351 young people across Belfast. This programme has now ended and all partners are currently exploring future opportunities for continued delivery.

Multiply Programme

West Belfast Partnership Board is delighted to have completed delivery of the Department for the Economy MULTIPLY programme, via Belfast City Council, supporting the Economic Vision for a regionally balanced economy with good jobs and increased productivity.

The following were delivered on a city-wide basis, with 937 participants receiving Digital Badges:

- **Bring Your Grown Up:** Interactive Workshops and Parent Child Maths Cafes
- **Engaging Mature Learners:** Tech Seniors and Cooking with Numbers
- **Maths for Speakers of Other Languages (MSOL)-** Steps to Numeracy:
Supporting the Newcomer Community, Training for Trainers and Community Based Workshops with parents and kids
- **Numeracy Bootcamps:** Basic Life Finances



MULTIPLY



Belfast City Council

Aisling Education Bursaries 2025

Congratulations to our Recipients and Thanks to our Sponsors

On Tuesday 2 September, the west Belfast community celebrated 26 years of the Aisling Education Bursaries in St Mary's University College, Falls Road.



Jim Donnelly, Chair of West Belfast Partnership Board welcomed recipients and sponsors and thanked the 94 sponsors who this year donated an incredible £126,500 to 168 local people to enable them to begin or continue their education and training.

Congratulations

to the 168 recipients!

To view the photo gallery from the Aisling Education Bursaries 2025 Award Ceremony please follow the link below.

<https://westbelfast-partnership.com/aising-bursaries-2025/>

£126,500
DONATED
THIS YEAR

168
RECIPIENTS
THIS YEAR

SINCE 2000
1634 PEOPLE HAVE
BENEFITTED FROM
AN INCREDIBLE
£1,171,000
IN SPONSORSHIP

.....

This year we were delighted to welcome Minister for the Economy, Caoimhe Archibald MLA as keynote speaker.

“Over the past 26 years, Aisling Education Bursaries have helped more than 1,600 students to take their next steps in education. That's a remarkable achievement and a testimony to the generosity of local people, businesses and organisations who want to see others succeed. “By investing in education and skills, we give local people the tools they need to succeed, to grow, and to shape their local communities as well as the local economy.”

Minister for the Economy, Caoimhie Archibald MLA



Also speaking at the event were West Belfast MP Paul Maskey and past recipient, Joe Gillian.

“The Aisling Education Bursaries have reflected the best values of the people of West Belfast — both sponsors and recipients alike. Thanks to our sponsors, who each year show the value they place on our community by continuing to support the Aisling Education Bursaries.”

Paul Maskey MP , West Belfast



“Having been a recipient of a bursary I am delighted and proud that as part of Tearmann Care can now also offer the Tearmann Care bursary to someone who is on their own journey.”

Joe Gillen, Past Recipient



Neighbourhood Renewal

WBPB continue to co-ordinate and lead the 36 Neighbourhood Partnerships across the North as well as the 5 Neighbourhood Partnerships in west Belfast. Throughout the year WBPB have worked very closely with the 5 Neighbourhood partnerships across west Belfast to identify needs within each locality to enable the Partnerships to develop an area-based locality plan. Each of the five individual plans will inform a coherent west wide community plan which is being drawn up and co-ordinated by WBPB in conjunction with Belfast City Council and DFC.

In relation to the review of the People & Place Strategy WBPB have also co-ordinated a series of high-level engagements with the strategy review team, permanent secretaries and senior officials within DFC to progress the review. Currently WBPB and the other Area Partnerships have been commissioned by DFC to conduct 5 pieces of research work which will help inform the new strategy which is expected to come into operation in the 27/28. The Forum have also lobbied the Deputy Perm Sec for Communities, John Smith as well as the DFC committee in Stormont on behalf of NR workers across the North. In 2025, the Forum also held a further meeting with the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Health to ensure the new People and Place Strategy had buy-in and support from all executive departments.

In addition, the west Belfast NR Forum has also had representations from Ulster Bank, Belfast Works Connect and BCC in regard to Community Planning Employability programmes for West Belfast.



Economic Development

Over the last year WBPB have continued to work very closely with Belfast City Council in promoting the Employment Academies. These academies include the Care Academy, Transport Academy, and the Fibre Academy, in which WBPB are the contract holder. To date, no programmes have run as of yet in 2025 on the Fibre contract due to a lack of jobs in the industry

WBPB have also partnered with BCC and other local training providers to help and assist residents secure a place on the other BCC Employment academies named above and have been directly involved in providing training to over 80 participants for transport specific training, namely within the Taxi and Bus industry via PSV and PCV theory training to tackle the high levels of economically inactivity.

Under ***Economic Development***, WBPB are also represented on the Community Planning Partnership at BCC and attend the various sub board meetings of the Community Planning Partnership while disseminating information to other community groups across west, while at the same time championing the Community Wealth Building & Inclusive Growth Strategies of Belfast city council. In 2025 WBPB were also awarded the ***secretariat contract of the VCSE Advisory Panel***.

Throughout the year WBPB, continued to represent the Area Partnerships on the ***Labour Market Partnership*** and the newly formed ***LEP*** which has been established by Belfast City Council.

In the 2025 WBPB have helped 5 local indigenous businesses become clients of Invest NI and continue to work with Invest I and BCC's economic development, enterprise and growth and go-succeed teams to act as a community connector to reduce economic inactivity across west Belfast.

Housing, Environment & Planning

Community Environment Awards 2025

Every year the West Belfast Partnership Board celebrates the work of local communities who have strived to improve, protect and enhance the environment in the west of the city. We believe our much coveted Environment Awards encourage the community and public agencies to take ownership and responsibility for protecting the environment and making West Belfast a better place to live, work and play.



We are very grateful to our sponsors for their contribution to the Awards and it is only through your support that this event is possible.



Congratulations to our Community Environment Award Winners 2025 and Thanks to our Sponsors:

Translink Belfast Transport Hub Environment Award:
Suffolk Community Forum - Suffolk Community Graden

Ark Education Award:
Springvale Learning - Skills for Life and Work

Bryson Recycling Award:
St James Community Farm - Can Recycling Project

Translink Belfast Transport Hub Community Award:
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich - Fás do Chuidse / Grow Your Own

West Belfast Partnership Public Art Award:
Ulster Wildlife - Bog Meadows Arc of Extinction - Barn Owl

Renee Crawford,
Chair of the West Belfast Partnership
Environment Sub Group,
said of the Awards:



“ I would like to thank the community groups and organisations who submitted an application for this year's Community Environment Awards. I congratulate all of them for their enthusiasm, invention and dedication to improve the West Belfast environment, and in turn to help educate the younger generations on the importance of physical development, restoration, and regeneration of west Belfast. ”



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