ANNUAL REPORT 2017

'To improve the quality of life for all the people living in the short strand community by providing a program of social and economic development'

Charity Number: NIC 100217
Chairperson’s Report

As an organisation we have grown from strength to strength throughout the year. The profile of our organisation has been highlighted in bigger circles due to the Education East Project which we deliver. Locally we have seen more parental involvement in most of our projects which has increased the community spirit of the area.

On the downside we like many organisations have been insecure regarding our future in terms of strategic planning. The lack of Government Departments and direction of what is available has led to uncertainty of what most groups can plan ahead for in the future.

We have seen the loss of some volunteers and staff members this year, we remember them with pride.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Development Officer Bernie Mc Connell and all the staff and volunteers for their continued support.

Paul McCrory
Chairperson

Development Officers Report

All work has now been completed in the Centre however we still have some issues regarding space. The groups all have had a busy year we have exceeded our action plan. We have increased staff members but most of all we have increased participation and involvement of the local community. Education East remains a huge commitment for ourselves as a lead body. We look forward to the coming year as we are hoping to undertake some new projects to meet the demand and requirements of local residents

Bernie McConnell
Senior Development Worker
Doyle Youth Club

There has been big changes for the youth club this year, further changes are on the way in terms of them becoming more educational and management of their own budget. Football remains to be a huge focus on what the Doyle offer and needs success as this is tremendous. The lack of adequate premises remains a focus for the centre. It is hoped that in conjunction with Short Strand Partnership we will be able to have a good lobbing campaign for this.
Young Women's Project

The local Young Women's group have been involved in the Fresh Start Project which looks at personal development, social/political issues of the past/present.

As well as these many have developed strong bonds of friendship and support for one another in terms of personal and social issues.

Short Strand After School Club

One of the most used services in the Centre we continue to be over subscribed for places, 70% of our intake now comes from ethnic minority's background. We have been lucky this year that the Employment East project has helped us fill the needs of supply staff as Bright Start monies will be stopped shortly. We have to look at the option of becoming 100% sustainability.
Playgroup

An ETI inspection this year clearly showed the group and its premises were operating to a great standard. Like the After School Project the demand for this service excels all the places available. Parental involvement in the monthly classes is tremendous. We also have a monthly training calendar in which local parents can choose from.
Senior Citizens Activities

Our senior's project is a huge part of our service. This group meets 3-4 times per week. The purpose of the group is to reduce social isolation. To date we have around 80 we work with on a weekly basis. Lunch clubs, Craft classes, I.T AND SOCIAL OUTINGS.

This project has a great social value of return, the service provided would cost the local authorities 10 times the amount for what we can provide.
St Patricks Day Celebrations/Urban Villages

Although we work with Urban Villages on a lot of projects the main project has been around St Patrick’s Day celebrations. We put on a Tea Dance, Football competitions, Fun Day and Day Trips around 500 people took part.
Short Strand Community Forum Membership

Short Strand Women’s Group
Short Strand Parent & Toddlers
Short Strand Playgroup
Short Strand Play Care Project
Festival Group
St. Matthew’s Community Association
Short Strand Community Centre
Short Strand Men’s Group
The Oval Club
Special Needs Group
Doyle Youth Club
St. Matthew’s AA
Short Strand Resident’s Group
Community Restorative Justice
Short Strand Partnership
Drug Awareness Group
Parent & Youth Group
Youth Victims Support Group
Tension Monitoring Group
St. Matthew’s Entertainers
Community Relations Project

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

BRIGHT START