

# Artillery youth Centre



Annual Report  
2009

# Artillery

Youth Centre

## About Artillery

Artillery Youth Centre is a youth led project for young adults based in the New Lodge area of North Belfast. It is independent and works with marginalised groups including young parents, young offenders, youth at risk and school refusers. The key aim of the project is to foster a climate where innovative and creative work with children, young people and their families can be delivered.



Current work includes; the management of the New Lodge Area Project which works on a range of projects around the themes of employment, empowerment, education and poverty – this work includes the development of a number of social economy projects, a youth bank, an advice unit and a youth forum. We also manage Artillery Youth Centre which has a youth run cyber café, a drop in project and an outreach initiative. The Young Parents Project works with parents under the age of 25 and their dependents and the Youth



Safety Project which addresses issues such as domestic violence and its effects on young people and the effects of violent and risk taking behaviours. We also manage the Hub which is a multimedia facility that has a video training project and a DJ school with training accredited by OCN.

We host a community based Youth bank which gives grants to young people throughout North Belfast which are assessed and managed by young adults.

Artillery currently employs 10 staff and 14 volunteers and is the most visible and professional youth provision in the Greater New Lodge. Managed by a Steering Group of local people, the project engenders the participation and empowerment of young people. Our staff team are professionally qualified or in professional training and are from the New Lodge area.





Over the past **seven years** the key statistics are that:

70 young people undertook driving lessons (52 have since passed their driving test)  
 140 young people undertook DJ skills training  
 108 young people completed the Youth Achievement Awards at Bronze Level  
 20 young mothers finished a course in Drugs Awareness  
 24 young people completed their emergency First Aid  
 168 young people participated in alternatives to violence training  
 12 young leaders took part in the Young Community Leaders Programme  
 153 young parents and 181 children took part in activities and programmes  
 101 residentials were completed as part of the programme  
 16 young people completed child safety in the home training  
 12 young people took part in an international exchange in South Africa  
 570 Young people have registered for the text messaging service  
 36 young adults used Artillery drop in facility on average daily during this period  
 655 young people were targeted through outreach during this period  
 12 Young people completed their OCR in Computers  
 15 young people participated in Web design workshops  
 The Centre has been closed for 48 days out of possible 2455.  
 NLR youth magazine delivered to every household five times  
 103 Young people has joined the Youth Savings Union  
 612 young people have participated in consultation events  
 Young people have been involved in 14 major funding applications.  
 On average the centre has been open 65 hours per week during this period.  
 154 young people attended careers events at Artillery  
 20 young people have been employed by Artillery during this period.

100 young people have taken part in three GCSE revision schools.

6 public enquiries/youth juries have taken place.

9 young people have taken part in UK wide youth forums

18 young people have acted as grant assessors for the Youth Bank.

12 young people have gained childcare qualifications

6 members of staff have undertaken JNC youth worker training

40 young women have participated in the personal safety alarm project

23 youth projects have been supported by Artillery Youth Bank.



The key aim of this project was to develop a model of work with young people to examine the nature of violence and to explore alternatives to it. This was conceived as a response initially to violence in the New Lodge/ Newington/ Tigers Bay interfaces. We were concerned that so many of the young men in the 15-19 age group who we worked got involved in recreational rioting and sectarian violence. We saw that many received injuries, had been arrested and had begun to see this behaviour as somehow normal and acceptable.

Initially we devised a workshop-based programme that attempted to address not only the nature of violence but also put in place practical responses to the effects of violence. This included teaching emergency first aid, bringing in a solicitor to talk about what to expect if they became involved with the criminal justice system and working through a series of sessions that examined what it meant to them to be a male.

The evaluation of this programme led to a further development of the programme during the year and we have since worked with mixed sex groups and young women alone. What became apparent was that casual violence was a big issue, whilst the programme was prompted by the street based sectarian violence; it was obvious that issues such as fighting in clubs, domestic violence and bullying were a greater concern for young people.

We completed a major piece of research into violence and young women (The findings can be found at the following address: <http://www.artilleryyouthcentre.org/research.pdf> ) We have designed a ten week curriculum and have over the past year delivered it five times involving 48 young people.

Over the past two years we have been supported by Comic Relief UK to do this work and have employed a development worker to work alongside young people, voluntary and statutory agencies to address the issue of domestic violence and young people. The key targets include setting up a coordinated response to domestic violence amongst agencies, training up young parents to act as mentors and advisors, impacting on policy and procedures amongst all community organisations in the area and creating a training programme that will give young people the skills, confidence and awareness to deal with unhealthy relationships and violent situations.

The key achievements of the project over the past year are:

- 16 young people received an OCN level two qualification in positive and healthy relationship programme,
- 10 young people received an OCN level one qualification in domestic violence awareness.
- 7 young people received an OCN level one qualification in self awareness and confidence building.
- 15 young people took part in awareness training with Women Aid.
- 60 young women participated in a survey, the key aim of the survey was to determine the level of knowledge of young women's safety in the Greater New Lodge Area, the launch of the finding will take place late may
- 14 young people and parents took part in a number of focus group to deal with best practice on how the project could deal with the issues of domestic violence and young people.
- 7 young people took part in a study visit to Liverpool they visited similar projects that deal with the issue of domestic violence.
- 20 young parents participated in a number of healthy relationship workshops delivered by



the project during a young parents' conference.

- Over the past year we have worked directly with over 200 young people, young parents and community organisation, who have participated in focus groups, awareness training, surveys, study visits and policy making.
- 15 young people and parents have received a number of training courses that enables them to take on the role of peer mentors.
- As a result of the focus groups all organisation in the Greater New Lodge have received training and have adopted a domestic violence policy for their centres.
- 22 community people participated in workshops and seminars to address the area wide response.
- 15 local community workers, volunteers and members of management committees have



received training from Women's aid around the issue of domestic violence.

- Over 1000 people have received relevant information around the issue through information points.
- 340 young people participated in a survey designed by the project to address issues around youth safety that has led to the design of a Youth Safety pilot project that will be rolled out across Northern Ireland over the next 5 years.
- 8 community organisations completed domestic violence workshops with women's aid
- All local organisations have been involved in the design of a domestic violence policy and a draft set of procedures that will go some way to establishing a common response to the issue amongst every community organisation in the area. Our intention is to use this as a blueprint that will help to bring statutory agencies along with an agreed co-ordinated framework for dealing with the issue of

domestic violence and its impact upon young people.

- 4 focus groups have been held throughout the year to help establish a way that the community could work together in dealing with the issue.
- 8 local people have been participated in a number of training courses that equip them to take on the role of advice workers and peer mentors.
- We have recorded the recommendations of the focus groups and have used these as the basis for a wider consultation with young people in relation to the notion of a “one-stop shop” or coordinated response.
- We continue to have regular contact with key organisations, to help build a better local response when dealing with the issues.

## The Hub



The Hub is a community owned multimedia suite managed by Artillery Steering Group and based at Artillery Youth Centre. Funded in the main by a grant from the Urban 2 Programme, it delivers training to young people in a variety of disciplines including web-design, publishing, video production and DJ skills and music production.

Opened in January 2004, the facility boasts state of the art computer facilities, a video edit suite using Premiere Pro, a DJ training booth using Technics equipment, and a training room for work with groups. The Hub uses licensed software including Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia, Cubase, Pagemaker and Premiere Pro. With trained staff on site, the facility offers a base for multimedia work with young people including publishing, video and music production, web design and DJ schools.

The New Lodge Area Project has used the Hub for the design and publication of its magazine NLR which is a youth oriented publication delivered to every household in the New Lodge and Newington Areas.

The Young Parents Project has used the Hub for design of posters, flyers and publications.

The Hub has been used for the hosting and design of six websites including those Artillery Youth Centre, New Lodge Area Project, the Terry Enright Foundation, Newington Residents, the Young Parents Project and the Youth Providers Forum. The Youth Information Project – a CEP youth programme managed by the New Lodge Youth Forum produce all their information at the Hub and a text messaging service which has 270 young adults aged 15-25 registered is based at the Hub. The Hub has also produced video projects for Groundwork NI and the Terry Enright Foundation.

In some ways the Hub has exceeded any expectations we had for it. The amount of usage has been remarkable and at times we have had to refuse groups because it is has been over subscribed. In other respects its original rationale for the Urban programme that it would reduce anti social activity and have an impact of reducing interface tensions seems ambitious and difficult to quantify.

Certainly in terms of outputs we could point to the following:

1. 6 websites developed and hosted by young people at the Hub
2. 140 young people completed DJ skills courses
3. 26 young people trained in video production
4. 5 issues of NLR magazine designed, printed and delivered to 2500 homes in the area
5. 12 major video productions completed with more than 50 young people involved in the productions
6. Text messaging service managed from the Hub with 270 young adults currently registered for the service
7. 8 local youth groups have used the Hub for their programming
8. Handbook designed and printed for the Youth Savings Union
9. 70 young people have completed taster sessions through their participation on the Youth Achievement Awards programme.

The Hub has been a useful tool in engaging with unattached young people. The Text Messaging Service and the DJ schools have been particularly relevant to this target group. The Youth Information Project has designed colourful posters and flyers at the Hub and this project has sought to reach out and inform all young people in the area. It has been a tremendous resource not only to Artillery Youth Centre but also to other groups in the area.

## Artillery Drop in Centre

The Drop in Centre is open 7 days per week and six nights. In total Artillery Youth Centre is open to the public 65 hours per week. The Drop in opens until 11pm most nights and to midnight on other nights and is somewhere where young people can come to take part in training programmes; find out information; get help with official documents; get access to the internet through the Cyber Café; or just have a game of pool or a cup of tea. Artillery is a welcoming environment that is open to any young person in the New Lodge, Carrickhill or Newington areas aged 15-25 years.

The drop in centre is a neutral and safe environment for young adults where information on all the services available can be accessed. It is the one project that is most like a traditional youth service and yet the atmosphere is very distinct, the décor inviting and its focus on young adults unique.



The key aim of the Young Parents Project is to improve the lives of children living within the Greater New Lodge Community using young parents as a catalyst. The project employs a youth worker who works alongside young parents to help them feel motivated, active and empowered to become not just responsible parents but equal members of this community. A programme of education, training and personal development has been created in partnership with young parents who will be centrally involved in the delivery and evaluation of the programme.

In addition to this the project will create a forum that will act as a lobbying and advocacy group for other young parents and their children in the wider community. The project aims to use a variety of activities and principles including peer assisted learning, advocacy, lobbying and partnerships to ensure that young parents are at the heart of any decisions made that affect the lives of both

them and their children.

Over the past year the Young Parents Project has received funding from BBC Children in Need to employ a full time co-ordinator and to develop a range of programmes with parents and their children. This has included a healthy lifestyles programme that looks at everything from parenting skills to healthy relationships



and from healthy cooking to baby massage. Three members of staff have worked on the project in the past year including Anna Marie Burns, Dervla Skelly and Patricia Breen.

Parents have been involved in training and empowerment programmes through the New Lodge Area Project and have been instrumental in designing aspects of the Youth Safety Project in particular as it relates to issues of domestic violence and the safety of young women.

We have more than 80 young parents registered with the project who are between the age of 15-25 and have ran summer programmes on top of the on-going work. An aspect of the work of the project over the past year has been to develop two social economy initiatives aimed at providing young parents with training and employment opportunities.





The New Lodge Area Project has undergone a transition over the past year. The project had been supported by the Children's Fund but was successful in securing funding from the Big Lottery for 5 years from March 2009. The key themes remain constant, namely Poverty, Education, Employment and Empowerment. The past year has seen the project work with young people and



agencies to identify and create projects and programmes for the benefit of all young people in this area. The projects and programmes that have been created are the Youth Savings Union, YouthBank, Easter GCSE Revision and Careers School, Youth Newsletter and Youth Information Service, the focus of the projects work this year has been to assist these projects become established and plan for their short-term future.

The Debt Management Project is a programme, which aims to address the problem of debt and the issues that can arise through this. The project offers a savings facility for all young people included in this initiative is the opportunity for small loans at a minimal interest rate; members receive special incentives to save regularly. Also provided by the project are small educational courses aimed at money management.

The Youth Bank is a group of young people from the area who have secured funding to award groups of young people with small grants to assist them with their projects or ideas. The group has seen a change in personnel during the year but training for the new group members has taken place and to date more than

£10000 has been distributed by the group in grants to other groups of young people in the area. Over the



coming year we intend to distribute more than £7000 in grants to young people in North Belfast

The Youth Information Service comes in two forms; the first is a text messaging service with information being sent to young peoples mobile phones on areas they have expressed interest in, the second being information points, these are secure sites, located area wide which advertise and publicise upcoming events and useful contact numbers.

A significant strand of the work of the New Lodge Area Project over the past two years has been the building of a portfolio of training courses which are offered to young people throughout the area and further a field. We currently deliver OCN training in DJ skills (levels 1&2); Money Management (Level 1&2); Grant Making (1&2); Dangers of Drugs and Violence (level 2); Video Production (Level 1); Fundraising Skills (Level 1&2) and Healthy Lifestyles (level 1&2). We also accredit and assess a number of other training programmes including



Outdoor Play Skills (levels 1&2) and Community Development (level 1.) Over the past year alone we have delivered accreditation to 124 young adults.

The establishment of youth committees in centres throughout the area clearly failed because staff at centres were reluctant to devolve any decision making powers to young people or didn't understand the

concept of participation. Others were happy to let the NLAP staff undertake this work but would commit neither time nor resources of their own to it. It has been a source of frustration for the project.

That we received funding for the project of over £200,000 from the Reaching Communities Initiative of the Big Lottery was testament to the far-sightedness of the New Lodge Area Project and its potential to bring real benefits to young people and the wider community over the coming five years. The key outcomes for the coming year include:

1. At least 80 young people will achieve enhanced educational qualifications this year
2. 16 long term unemployed young people and young parents will move into employment.
3. Two social economy initiatives will be supported by the project over the coming years.
4. A debt management initiative will be delivered and 100 young people will participate.
5. Five empowerment projects will be delivered including the youth jury scheme



## Summer Intervention Programme

Our **summer scheme** was funded by the BELB, Belfast City Council and The Children's Fund, and operated from the start of June until the middle of August. The programme included outreach and detached work with young people aged 15 and up and involved a range of initiatives including 3 OCN training courses in DJ skills, Healthy Lifestyles and Dangers of Drink and Drugs.

The programme operated 6 days each week during this period and involved residentials to Edinburgh, the North Antrim Coast and the Mourne. Activities included Watersports, Caving, Canoeing, Football, Bowling, Ice-skating, Bouldering, Climbing and Deep Sea Fishing. At the same time Artillery Drop in Centre was open throughout this period at nights and weekends offering internet access, multimedia facilities and a safe environment for young adults.

The **Point to Point** programme was supported by the North Belfast Community Action Unit and was developed by Artillery Youth Centre to address interface violence and anti social behaviour. We identified Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons as times when interface violence was more likely to take place. We targeted transport and staff resources at the three main interface areas; North Queen Street, Limestone Road and Clifton Street and we were able to work with a core group of young people who congregate at these areas and who were more likely to be at risk from interface violence.

In response to this the staff team – which included workers from Artillery, Newington and the Youth Providers young leaders programme delivered a programme of activities such as water sports, team building and outdoor activities. This programme had a significant impact across the whole community with a marked reduction in interface violence throughout the summer.

Importantly the staff involved was able to build relationships with young people and their families and to address the interface issues directly. It is fair to say that this programme has had the most significant impact on the relative peace on the interface this year (and last) of any initiative. The Point to Point programme was offered over a six week period, with more than 120 young people taking part.

Artillery Staff worked as volunteers on two separate family fun days (**Lark in the Park**) on the 12<sup>th</sup> July both of which were supported by Belfast City Council. Artillery Young Mothers ran a fun day at North Queen Street Park and the New Lodge Youth Forum ran a family fun day at Alexandra Park. Both events were attended by hundreds of young people, parents and families and included the usual stage events, inflatables, barbeques, activities and games.



Entirely staffed by volunteers both events were successful and contributed to a peaceful 12<sup>th</sup> day in both areas.

The need for the **Extra Intervention Programme** was identified through the Youth Provider's Forum that all youth provision throughout the area would be closed for the last two weeks in August. It was felt that it was important that the benefits of the extensive summer

programme delivered throughout the area would not be lost because of a lack of provision during these two weeks. A plan to allow qualified youth workers to devise and deliver a programme during these two weeks was proposed by staff at Artillery Youth Centre and proposed to the Youth Providers Forum and the New Lodge CEP.

Ten youth workers from the area agreed to deliver the programme which involved 4 activities each day for 14 days. Those who worked on the project did so during their annual leave entitlement and included 6 members of staff from Artillery and one each from the Cornerhouse, 2 Parks Project, Terry Enright Foundation and the CEP youth worker.

The programme ran from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August through to the 31<sup>st</sup> August. The project was delivered on an outreach basis and from four locations – Atlantic Avenue, North Queen Street, Clifton Street and Lepper Street. In all 960 young people took part in activities and ranged from 6 – 16 year olds. Staff worked an average of 46 hours each and there were 49 individual activities. This programme served three main interfaces and it contributed significantly to overall success of the Summer Intervention. The North Belfast Community Action Unit supported the programme.



The key activities undertaken by the Youth Forum over the past year included:

- Lark in the Park
- Youth Information Points
- Youth Week
- Study visit to the Edinburgh
- On-going development of the Youth Jury model.

The consensus was that the expert jury/ peoples court system could be a good way to involve young people in dialogue with voluntary, community and statutory bodies. The Youth Jury system has brought young people from the area into dialogue with groups as diverse as Sinn Fein, CRJ, the New Lodge Fleadh Committee, the Probation Board, Youth Justice Agency, Local Youth Providers and Childcare Providers in the area.

There has been a considerable interest in the method of involving young people in decision making and in having their say about issues of the day. The Juries have looked at contentious issues and the findings



have provoked debate. One of the remarkable aspects of the youth jury system is that allows all and any young person to get involved and not just the usual most articulate and confident young people who tend to populate youth forums. The model was adopted over the past year by the Participation and Rights Project to look into issues surrounding the redevelopment of Girdwood.

Over the past year the Text messaging service has been revamped. Members of the Youth Forum took part in a study visit to Edinburgh and there has been some planning gone into the resurrection of the notion of members committees in the youth centres in the area. Members of the Youth Forum took part in a number of consultation events throughout the year including the conference on Youth Safety in partnership with NI Alternatives, Challenge for Youth and the Terry Enright Foundation.



## CEP Youth Programme

We have continued to deliver a range of programmes under the auspices of the New Lodge CEP over the past year in spite of a very difficult relationship between Artillery Youth Centre and the Ashton Trust – the lead partner. We have aired our concerns about the governance, minute taking at meetings and procedures of the CEP.

This has caused us no end of frustration and at one point our staff and volunteers completed a petition in response to the Ashton Centres' attempt to remove Harry Murphy from the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership with more than 600 residents signing that stated that:

*“We the undersigned are concerned about the services for young people in our neighbourhood and are content that the best local person to represent our views is the Senior Youth Worker at Artillery Youth Centre Harry Murphy who report back to us on any plans for youth development in this community. We are residents of this neighbourhood.”*

We completed a review of the work of the CEP Youth Programme in March 2009 and the Steering Group of Artillery agreed to honour our commitments to the programme but not to undertake any new partnerships with the CEP in the absence of fundamental reforms of its procedures and operations.

The review of the CEP Youth Programme found the following:

### Youth Information

Currently 260 young adults registered for text messaging service 23,682 messages have been sent out since it was set up in 2004 670 young people have used the service 16 YIPs were sited in the Greater New Lodge area 6 websites were supported by the CEP youth programme 3 websites still operational

### Economic Empowerment

120 young people completed OCN level 1 in Money Management 19 young people completed OCN level 1&2 in Grant Giving Youth Savings Union had 95 members Links established with Banks (Northern & First Trust) Links established with Credit Union Financial Training Pack Produced

### Youth Providers Forum

Quality Assurance audit completed with all groups by University of Ulster 10 providers participated in joined up work Publication of Summer Programmes for all groups

### Point to Point

3024 young people participated in P2P activities 216 activities were delivered Activities included sports, recreational and training events. 25% of the project delivered in Carrickhill, 25% in Newington and 50% in the New Lodge.

### Mobile Support Programme

The Programme employed 7 young people aged 16-21 as trainees Trainees have taken part in 10 residential 6 have completed the OCN in outdoor play 4 have completed their child protection training They have worked on 2 conferences Trainees have helped to complete area wide research project They have worked on the Youth bank and the Youth Forum Have supported the work of 8 projects



### Youth Forum

Delivered 4 youth juries attended by 276 young people Completed 6 residential Helped to manage three conferences Completed the wasted space report on New Lodge environment Completed an exchange programme with South African Partners Completed study visits to London and Bradford Youth Juries addressed issues such as childcare, youth work, anti social behaviour and the New Lodge Festival. Young people interacted with decision makers



#### Video Evaluation

2 local young people employed by the project  
6 documentary evaluations of issues relevant to the area produced  
28 young people completed training

#### Driving Skills

70 young people participated in the programme  
34 passed their driving test within 18 months of the start  
Programme ran for one year

#### DJ Training

36 young people completed their OCN in DJ Skills  
2 are trainers  
4 work professionally as DJs

#### Intervention Programme

280 young people completed the young people and violence programme  
122 young people received Youth Achievement Awards  
156 received OCN qualifications  
135 young parents and their children participated in training and activities  
16 residentials were delivered  
Youth Week delivered 27 different activities, events and programmes and ran for two years at the end of August  
28 young people completed video training  
10 programmes were delivered by groups working in partnership  
19 people completed training courses



#### Extra Intervention

1296 young people took part in summer intervention programme in 2006  
890 young people took part in summer intervention programme in 2007  
624 young people took part in summer intervention programme in 2008  
The Youth Festival had events and activities that were attended by more than 3000 residents  
Programmes included Summer Camps, Outreach and detached work, diversionary activities and residentials.  
Programmes delivered in three locations New Lodge, Carrickhill and Newington on Fridays and Sundays.  
Extra Intervention programme was

delivered cooperatively with participation from most youth providers.

#### Costs

Original budget for youth programme was £89-£93k per year (2003)  
This budget included JNC salary for youth co-ordinator  
The original budget envisaged a team of part time outreach workers  
This budget included overheads, stationary, postage and insurance  
Youth co-ordinator post was rejected in favour of a youth worker  
All running costs were centralised and no overheads were paid to any of the youth providers delivering the programme.



Actual CEP youth programme budget for 2008/2009 was £31,992  
This figure does not include the Extra Intervention  
Salaries paid to young people total £13,371 (42% of total)  
£18,621 (58%) was direct programme expenditure  
An 1702 children and young people participated in the programme each year  
The youth programme cost on average £18.80 per person per year  
Programme costs (2008) are follows

Economic Empowerment £6,466  
Youth Providers £1,595  
Youth Information £2,384  
Intervention £8,575  
Point to Point £4,420  
Mobile Support £6,676  
Youth Forum £1,875

in line with full cost recovery best practice, Artillery Youth Centre alone estimates that it subsidised the CEP youth programme each year to the tune of £28,751 made up as follows:

Salaries £24,306  
Insurance £1,500  
Telephone £361  
Postage £22  
Heat, Light and Power £433  
Audit £106  
Residentials £1,934

Office Costs£89

All other youth providers who were involved in the delivery of youth programmes for the CEP would have incurred costs. The overall CEP budget for 2005/2006 was £225,576.70

.In that year the Youth Programme budget was £34,101 or 15% of the overall budget. In terms of the entire CEP programme budget the youth programme represented about a third of expenditure. In subsequent years the CEP programme budget shrank considerably and the youth programme was the most significant element of the programme budget. (Certainly we would estimate it to be more than 60% of the CEP programme budget for 2008) CEP overheads for that year were close to £48,000.

These included:

Caretaking and Cleaning£1030  
Staff Training£3000  
Staff Expenses£1500  
Rent and Rates£8240  
Heat and Light£2060  
Materials and Office Consumables£4120  
Telephone £2120  
Postage£1030  
Insurance£1030  
Professional Fees£1000  
ICT Expenses£8239  
Promotion and Advertising £2060  
Management Costs for Lead Org£12360

Salaries for that year totalled £107,849 for those staff based at the CEP office at the Ashton Centre. This figure does not include the young people employed through the Youth Programme.

It is a source of extreme disappointment to us how the CEP turned out. It is evident that a huge amount of work was completed by Artillery Youth Centre under the banner of the CEP which is testament to our professionalism and commitment to the original ideals of partnership and the empowerment of local people. Local young people benefited from the programmes we created which were supported by funding from the North Belfast Community Action Unit and channelled through the CEP. We were grateful for it and our proud of the role we played in the CEP.



## The Year Ahead

We intend to deliver a wide range of programming in the coming year including the further development of the New Lodge Area Project, the Young Parents Project, the Youth Information Project, Youth Savings Union and work in partnership with other groups. We will deliver a summer intervention programme; continue to contact young people through outreach, text messaging and face-to-face contact.

Our social economy projects over the coming year will, we hope, go some way towards sustainability for youth services and we are confident of our ability to innovate, work harder and smarter to ensure that we continue to deliver quality services to young adults in this community and further a field.

Next year will be exiting and will present particular challenges for our work with young adults. We continue to enjoy the support of a number of key funding bodies but with the economic climate what it is, we expect the coming months to be difficult financially whilst clearly there will be an increase in the need for our services.

We will continue to deliver quality programmes based upon the needs of young people in partnership with them and will do so with education being at the heart of what we do.



Artillery  
Youth Centre

## Staff Profiles

### Anna Marie Burns

Anna Marie has experience of working with young women and is currently employed with the Debt Management Project and coordinates the Young Parents Project. Anna Marie has been involved with Youth Forum and has been involved in the delivery of the Young People and Violence Programme. She is currently studying for her diploma in Community Youth Work at Jordanstown.



### Peter McCann

Peter was a founding member of Artillery Steering Group and, before being employed with the Young Parents Project, was a volunteer at Artillery. He has completed the OCR in Youth Work and has been involved with the 4-Front Awards Programme. He is currently the Secretary of the Greater New Lodge Youth Forum. Peter is currently studying for his diploma in Community Youth Work at Jordanstown.



### Billy McDonald

Billy is the longest serving employee of Artillery Youth Centre and has a range of experience and qualifications in community youth work including outreach, group work skills and RSA. He is currently involved in the New Lodge Area Project. Billy also works for Extern's Pathways Project.



### Harry Murphy

Employed as a Senior Youth Worker by Artillery for the past six years. A graduate in Community Youth Work from St Martins College, Harry has 18 years experience in youth work and has worked in the Statutory and Voluntary Sector. He is currently involved in the design a strategy for youth provision for North Belfast with a number of Community Empowerment Partnerships and sits on the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.



### Dervla Skelly

Currently completing the Diploma in Community Youth Work with the University of Ulster, Dervla is employed by the New Lodge Area Project. She has been employed by Artillery for eight years and a range of qualifications and experience from detached and outreach to advice and advocacy work with young people.



### Cathy Valente

Currently completing the Diploma in Community Youth Work with the University of Ulster, Cathy has worked as a youth outreach worker and is currently employed as a youth worker with the Domestic Violence Project. Cathy has been involved in the design and delivery of the Young People and Violence Project and has a diploma in community development alongside her youth work qualifications.



### Eamon Coyle

Eamon has been involved with Artillery for the past five years. He is the current chair of the Greater New Lodge Youth Forum and is employed as an administrator with the Youth Savings Union. He is also involved in the national Youth Bank and has delivered training to potential youth banks in Azerbaijan. He is currently studying for his diploma in Community Youth Work at Jordanstown.



### Natalie Lewesley

Natalie worked as a youth support worker this year and was funded by the CEP to deliver outreach services in the area and to train in youth work. Natalie completed the OCN in outdoor play and worked with young womens groups over the past year.



Ciara Maskey

Ciara worked as a youth support worker this year and was funded by the CEP to deliver outreach services in the area and to train in youth work. Ciara has volunteered on a number of projects and has worked on consultation events with young people and has been involved in the Youth Safety Project over the past year.



Jennifer Alsopp

Jennifer worked as a youth support worker this year and was funded by the CEP to deliver outreach services in the area and to train in youth work. Jennifer has been involved in the Youth Bank over the past two years.



Patricia Breen

Patricia is a JNC qualified youth worker who has worked for the WELB as a detached youth worker and was employed as a programme manager on IFI Wider Horizons Programmes for a number of years. Patricia has a wealth of experience and has managed both youth centres and an outdoor education centre. Patricia works on the Young Parents Project.

### Artillery Steering Group

Artillery Youth Centre is managed by a local young people and past and current users of the services available at the Centre. There are a range of skills and experience amongst the Steering Group which has maintained a fierce independence for Artillery over the years.

- Cheva Hawkins – Chairperson
- John Magee – Treasurer
- Ann Wilson – Secretary
- Tracey Alsopp
- Hugh Armstrong
- Gail Saunders
- Michael O’Reilly
- Lisa Valente
- Patrick Harmon



### Funders

Over the Past year the key funders of our projects have included:

- The Childrens’ Fund
- Comic Relief UK
- BBC Children in Need
- The Camelot Foundation
- The Big Lottery Fund
- North Belfast Community Action Unit
- The Community Foundation NI
- Belfast City Council
- The Irish Youth Foundation
- The BELB



Belfast City Council



LOTTERY FUNDED

