



Upper Springfield Development Trust

USDT's core aim is to support resilient communities and places where people can thrive.

USDT has always sought to develop a sense of community and this we will continue to do. We wish to contribute towards good neighbourhoods and a sense of place for those who live there.

USDT believe that our area has all of the potential to be a healthy, inclusive and sustainable community with the capacity to address complex social challenges. We believe that there are solutions to social problems and that by working together to identify the outcomes that people want we can create positive change especially those most disadvantaged. Advocating, communicating and evaluating for better results matters because every person counts.

USDT believe that strong communities are built from within. This requires building people's capacity and empowering them to help transform their own communities. This involves partnerships and collaborative approaches between many people, local groups and sometimes external organisations to address identified local community needs. At the heart of sustainable development and resilience is the simple goal and vision of a better quality of life for everyone both now and for generations to come.

USDT Current Service Delivery:

1. ACTION ABILITY BELFAST

AAB seeks to promote the inclusion and integration of people with learning, physical or a sensory disability using a community development and needs lead approach. Since 1998 the project has been to the forefront of developing high quality, responsive services to meet the needs of local people with disabilities and their families. The aim of the project has been to actively campaign for the inclusion of disabled people within their own community ensuring that they have support and access to education, health, employment and social services etc.

In addition, the project offers a range of training to community organisations to help build capacity and expertise; support families of children with disabilities; provide information, advice, sign posting and to represent those with disabilities on a number of fora and focus groups.

2. COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMME

USDT's arts programme aims to develop contemporary participative arts to engage the most marginalised people in our community, through meaningful programmes, with art workshops, with artists

delivering diverse art forms, and with public art showcase events that will be seen by new and ever increasing audiences.

Art is used as a tool for community development, physical and cultural renewal. The aim of the Arts Unit is, to develop an awareness of art and its uses in order to tackle the varied social and environmental problems e.g. through the imaginative use of public art, making art accessible to people in the community and showcasing this work to a wider audience. The arts empower the individual through providing means for personal and group expression and promotes the valuing of difference.

3. **YOUTH TEAM**

The USDT youth work team's programmes helps to enhance young people's live. Their work is, above all, educational and developmental and based on young people's active and voluntary participation and commitment. Youth work adds value to young people's lives, helping them develop lasting skills and attributes. It helps to build confidence, provide role models, open up new experiences and give young people a sense of belonging. Young people's development, learning and experiences gained in youth work situations are long lasting and can have a positive impact which is lifelong.

Our effective engagement with young people is an empowering and emancipatory process. It offers young people developmental opportunities as well as the ability to lead, take responsibility, make decisions, and make a real and lasting contribution to community life.

4. **JOB ASSIST CENTRE**

Job Assist Centre West Belfast operates a number of employability programmes: SIF, LEMIS+, CFSP, Co-Ment, all of which have the ultimate aim of enabling those furthest from the labour market to gain employment. This support includes one-to-one mentoring, employer liaison and increasing people's employability through gaining job related skills and qualifications that are directly linked to current labour market needs. The project provides confidential, personalised, professional, independent mentoring support; empowering people to take the next meaningful step into sustained employment. While mentoring is flexible around needs, the mentoring process involves a structured framework for people to uncover barriers, explore ways of overcoming their barriers and to gain the employability and job-related skills that they need.

5. **HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE**

The healthy living centre's core function is to promote good health, reduce health inequalities and to improve our area's health. We do this this by focusing on disadvantaged groups, through local ownership of projects and by forging strong partnerships.

HLC's programmes includes:

- Helping people to become healthier, both in the short and the longer term, and safeguarding the health and well-being of our regular users.
- Providing activities that relate to current health objectives, particularly in areas such as exercise and diet, but also smoking cessation, coronary heart disease, family support, and support for people with mental health problems.

- Successfully attracting local target communities by combining health and social benefits in the activities they provide.
- Involving local people in project planning and delivery, enabling them to tackle the issues that affect their lives.

HLCs develop, improve and organise local partnerships and networks, building strong trusting relationships with the voluntary, community and statutory sectors. Sustaining and developing the wellbeing of people is our core work.

6. [OUTSOURCE](#)

Outsource is a social enterprise undertaking the setting up or the refining of payroll, bookkeeping, auditing, PAYE and budgeting systems. It also works with groups to promote and embed best practice in all of their financial functions. Outsource currently offers the following range of services:

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| • Helping with business start-up | • Payroll Self-Assessment Tax |
| • Preparing financial forecasts | • Returns |
| • Assisting with the installation and management of accounting packages . | • Preparing statutory year end |
| • Advising on business tax affairs | • Accounts |
| • Preparing management accounts | • Grant management |
| • Calculating VAT returns | • Real Time |
| • Monthly | • VAT returns |
| • Bookkeeping | • Finance training System review and development |

[NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL](#)

The Neighbourhood Renewal team has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the neighbourhood partnership and for the engagement of key stakeholders including the local neighbourhood, ESB, the Employers' Forum, NIHE, BCC, DRD and Belfast Health Trust. They provide secretariat support and liaise with the community and statutory agencies on issues emerging through the work of the sub groups: communications, health, environment, housing, education, 'Mature for Sure', economic development and culture, arts and tourism. The project continues to play a pivotal role in the implementation of the area's strategic integrated framework. All key actions within the action plan have been designated to the range of established sub groups – currently under review.

The team also ensures the partnership has linkages with the key service providers in the Upper Springfield NRA, including: Upper Springfield ISCYP, Extended Schools Cluster, Full Service Community Network, Saol Úr, Sure-start, the West Belfast Partnership Board, Healthy Living Centre, Upper

Springfield Community Safety Forum, Federation of Residents' Associations, and the Youth Providers' Forum. These linkages ensure that there is co-ordination and complimentary across initiatives operating in the area.

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