

Resurgam Trust - Case Study

Resurgam is a Development Trust Association which is supported and recognised by established community-based organisations and social enterprise organisations with many years of experience working in communities throughout the city of Lisburn.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Voluntary Directors and is based in the Laganview Enterprise Centre.

The areas it currently works in include:

- Health & Education
- Community Development & Regeneration
- Youth Provision
- Early Intervention
- Social Enterprise & Employment
- Community Safety
- Management & Governance

The vision of the organisation is: “To create social, cultural, financial and physical sustainability for the Resurgam Trust and the communities we serve by 2020” and it’s mission is “to connect individuals & groups and to transform communities to create a sustainable environment within which all are proud to live, learn, play and work”

The Resurgam Community Development Trust is based in Lisburn’s Old Warren Estate which has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years experiencing a rapid rise in jobs, social housing and educational prospects.

Resurgam is Latin for ‘I shall rise again’ and the community trust is ensuring Lisburn is on the rise by creating new sustainable businesses, providing employment and improving the health and welfare of the population. A DSD report found that the organisation, which employs more than 100 people, is putting £1.7m into the Lisburn area annually.

The Trust had the vision to take out a loan to build nine houses on land in the area before property prices dropped in 2007. This vision was realised as six of the nine houses were sold and the money was used to invest in other new community businesses. The Trust has recently been granted planning permission to build five new one-bedroom apartments and a shop unit on Bridge Street in the centre of Lisburn.

“These buildings have been derelict for years and we will bring some new life into the centre of the city now,” Jason Abraham, said Social Enterprise Manager of the Resurgam Trust,

Resurgam’s success was recognised when it won Enterprise Northern Ireland’s Social Economy Business of the Year Award. The Department of Social Development recently invested £438,000 in a pilot social economy growth project within the Trust to launch three new social enterprises with the potential of creating

ten new jobs and plans to roll the model out to other communities encouraging community social enterprise in Northern Ireland.

Resurgam is dedicated to improving life for local people and developing facilities and jobs in the area and they feel that whilst the fortunes for the area are beginning to improve there is still much work to be done, the group says. Research found (*The Best for Every Child*) that across Lisburn city people suffer from poor health and low educational attainment which including an alarming statistic that primary school children miss on average a day of school a week. Resurgam wants to tackle these issues and runs a variety of programmes for young people in the area, helping them to plan their careers, addressing the problem of low educational attainment and encouraging them to engage in cross community work.

Adrian Bird, Trust Director of the Resurgam Trust, said: “We feel our holistic approach is unique. *We work with everyone in this community – from the tiniest baby to senior citizens and everyone in between. We see the importance of community development, regeneration and employment and the difference that it is making to the Old Warren. “We can see that grants are drying up and we need to make ourselves self-sustaining. We aren’t there yet though all the businesses break even or better and also provide employment and training to local people. The big picture is that no one in this sector can rely on grants and it’s our vision to move out of this grant culture.”*

For more information about Resurgam, visit: www.resurgamtrust.co.uk