

Annual Report
2015–2016



The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Chair's Foreword



Maeve Monaghan

There has never been a greater need for the Community Foundation and it is my great privilege to be Chair of this wonderful organisation, a position I took over from Tony McCusker in October 2015. After an enjoyable six months I am delighted to be contributing to this, my first annual report with the Foundation.

When I was in discussions with the trustees about taking up this post they were very clear that the Foundation has an important part to play in the fabric of Northern Ireland and has a history of leading the way on social justice issues. We were agreed that this was a new era for the Community Foundation and essential that we charted a new course that genuinely valued the past but was not afraid to look to the future. It has been an enjoyable time meeting the staff, the grantees and the funders and hearing about the amazing work we do. Working with our new Chief Executive Andrew and our wonderful trustees to collectively agree our way forward has been inspiring. And after lots of hard work, I am confident in our strategic vision and plans for the next three years to deliver and work to connect people who care with causes that matter.

In the past 12 months a number of important highlights within grant making, philanthropy and community leadership have let me know that we are on track and on the right path. The outcomes of our grant making funds, programmes and evidence of real impact from the work we have done in partnership with other funders are clear and positive signs. Our recent commissioning of Vital Signs quality of life research is also a significant point as it marks our focus on building robust data based on need, and the start of our work mapping philanthropy in Northern Ireland.

We know this cannot be done alone and we have been working with strategic partners to make sure our research will benefit a range of organisations.

Behind every great organisation there is a strong Board and I have had the pleasure of working with a range of great trustees who never fail to impress me with their passion and commitment to social justice and the Community Foundation. I want to particularly thank Tony for his contribution to the foundation as a trustee for the past nine years and also for his support in handing over the reigns as Chair. We have also said a fond farewell to Geraldine Donaghy, Bernadette Laverty and Carmel O' Connor and on behalf of the Foundation I thank them for their commitment, support and direction over the years. As we say goodbye to those that must leave us, the Board are currently working to recruit and induct new trustees into the Foundation, with a focus on the skills needed to deliver on our strategic objectives. It's exciting times ahead and also a good time to thank the staff and all who have supported the Foundation over the past 12 months.

Maeve Monaghan
Chair
Community Foundation for
Northern Ireland

Chief Executive Report



Andrew McCracken

I am delighted to report on another exciting and successful year for the Community Foundation as we continued to bring donors and local communities together.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and funders we were able to approve over £9 million in grants to 264 individuals, organisations and groups throughout Northern Ireland; supporting a wide range of causes and identified needs.

Working alongside many high profile funding organisations as well as individual donors and corporates has enabled us to work in areas where few other funders reach, supporting a range of causes and individuals marginalised in our local community.

The early part of 2016 saw heightened public awareness about the plight of refugees which we responded to on a local level with the launch of our £75,000 'New Beginning's fund'.

Individual and family funds like the Thomas Devlin Fund have provided a wide range of support to local communities. We were delighted to also support new family funds, namely the Ann McGeeney Trust Fund, set up by Seamus Murray in memory of his wife Ann, and the Mike Moloney Fund which aims to continue Mike's work in supporting arts activities with newly released prisoners.

We continued to work with a number of businesses including BT, Santander and Ulster Bank as well as providing administration for Community Benefit Funds across NI.

As the funding environment becomes ever more difficult and competitive, I am pleased to report that 50% of applications received were approved; a measure of our ability to reach need and a fact we are very proud of as we continued to act as a catalyst and lever for other funders.

2015/16 represented a period of re-thinking at the Foundation as we sought to remain responsive to the changing needs of communities and working in partnership with strategic funders as evidenced through our ongoing relationships with Building Change Trust, the International Fund for Ireland and the Big Lottery funded Space & Place programme.

Supporting Philanthropy Fortnight 2015 was a highlight in our on-going work promoting philanthropy across NI.

Our future work will be influenced by community need, donor consultation and our Vital Signs research; an extensive

community engagement consultation which began to uncover the priority issues for people living in Northern Ireland.

Our aim is to encourage philanthropists by providing up-to-date information about community need and guide their giving for maximum impact.

Looking ahead, our plans are ambitious and over the next three years we will further invest in our local community, supporting 2,000 individuals, groups and organisations on the margins of society.

We will also empower communities by raising the game in the participation, involvement and problem solving that we do together across society.

We cannot however do this alone and we will continue to act as a key connection between people who care and causes that matter.

In so doing, it is our hope that we will contribute towards a peaceful, shared and socially just Northern Ireland.

Andrew McCracken
Chief Executive
Community Foundation for
Northern Ireland

GRANTEE STORY > **Gortilea Social Farm**



In 2015, Gortilea Social Farm near Claudy received a bursary of £3,000 from the Women’s Fund NI to run a programme of activities for women with learning disabilities. The project was so successful that the farm has subsequently joined forces with the Western Health Trust to offer accredited training programmes.

“Without funding, there would be no project and if there’s no project, we’re not going to transform lives”

Justin McMinn, Street Soccer NI

DONOR STORY > **Paula McFetridge - Mike Moloney Arts Bursary Fund**

“The smallest intervention by somebody that believes in you will change your life,” says Paula McFetridge. She credits Mike Moloney one of the original founders of Belfast Community Circus and the Prison Arts Foundation as being that crucial intervening force in the lives of many people, in particular those within Northern Ireland’s prisons.

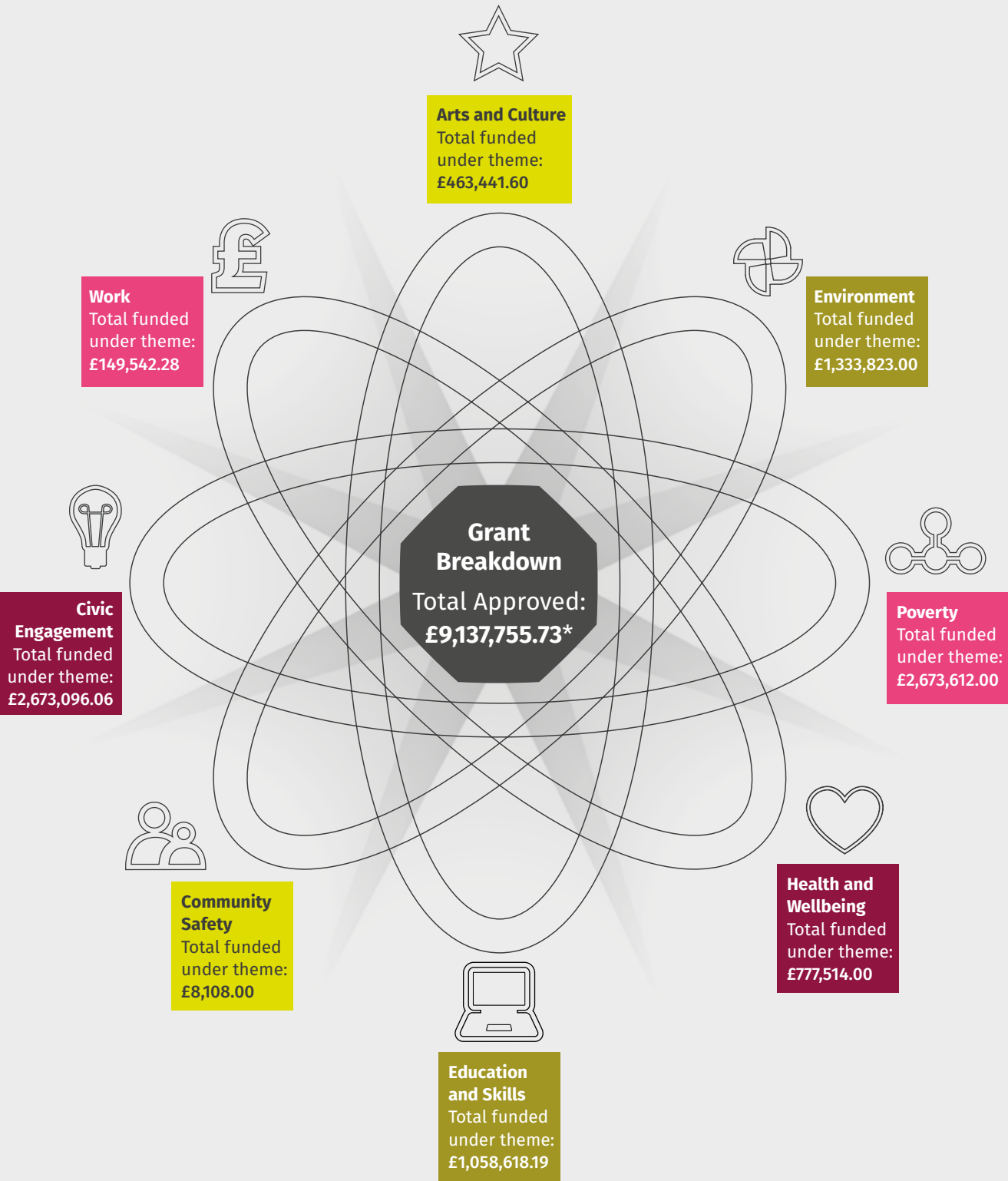
A desire to continue this element of Mike’s work and to honour Mike after his sudden death, is why Paula along with a number of Mike’s friends set up the Mike Moloney Arts Bursary Fund in partnership with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. “The bursaries are about forging links between the motivation and hope individuals are given via the Prison Arts Foundation when they are inside prison and much-needed creative support on their release. It’s to give people a possibility of change,” says Paula.

The Fund recently made its first grants including support for the Lyric Theatre’s production of ‘Blackout’ which toured to schools across Northern Ireland, in partnership with Hydebank Wood College and the PSNI.



GRANTEE STORY > **Jonathan Woods**

An Acorn Fund Inspire Bursary gave young artist Jonathan Woods the chance to follow his dreams. Jonathan was able to spend eight weeks working with artist and mentor Mhairi Sutherland. Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Acorn Fund supports young people with disabilities helping them pursue training in their chosen arts. The culmination of Jonathan’s mentoring led to him holding his first ever exhibition in the Void Gallery in Derry.



GRANTEE STORY > **New Beginnings Fund for Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

Launched in response to an urgent need presented by refugees arriving in Northern Ireland, CFNI’s refugee fund provided support for communities working with new arrivals and those in the process of trying to establish a new life in local communities here. Deirdre Walsh from Whiterock Crèche Association which received funding of almost £10,000 said: “The Community Foundation has enabled us to offer a little respite to refugee and asylum seeker families who have made West Belfast their home. Many of these families have come from horrific situations and are in some cases living in very dire situations here with limited income.



GRANTEE STORY > **Aquapsychotherapy – Building confidence and self esteem through Scuba Diving**



Belfast charity Acquapsychotherapy was formed by Mariano Bisso a paramedic and scuba diving instructor and Christine Cushnahan a psychology graduate, to support people with physical disabilities. Mariano teaches people how to scuba dive in the safety of a swimming pool whilst Christina carefully observes each person and works with them to assist with any wider psychological issues they might have as a result of disabilities.

According to Mariano, “scuba diving is perfect for people who are limited in their physical capabilities or what they think they are capable of. We often see people’s confidence build and from that a lot of other qualities come; scuba diving gives people a sense of limitless possibilities which they wouldn’t otherwise have.” A grant from the BT and CWU Telecommunity Fund has supported them to continue their work.

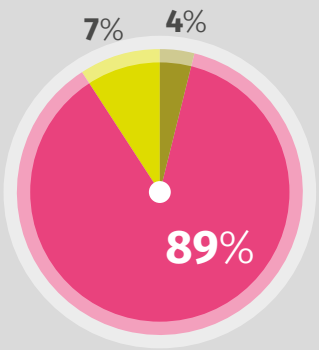
“I am delighted that our Fund has enabled so many young people in Northern Ireland to realise their ambitions”

Penny Holloway, Thomas Devlin Fund

Summary Statement of Financial Activities
for Year Ended 31 March 2016

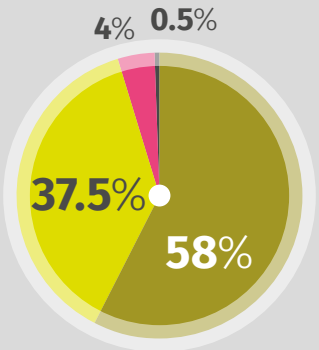
INCOME

Donations	£154,543
Funding Received	£3,261,563
Investment Income	£342,625
Total Income	£3,758,731



EXPENDITURE

Grants	£2,701,681
Programme Development and Support	£1,762,631
Fundraising and Communications	£198,670
Governance	£22,532
Total Expenditure	£4,685,514



* Grants approved during the period totalled £9,137,755.73

LIST OF FUNDS

Acorn Fund
 Ann McGeeney Trust
 Building Change Trust
 Carn Hill Community Benefit Fund
 Carrickatane Community Benefit Fund
 Cloonty Community Benefit Fund
 Comic Relief Grants
 Community Arts Fund
 Crighshane Community Benefit Fund
 Crockagarron Community Benefit Fund
 Curryfree Community Benefit Fund
 David Ervine Foundation
 Dunbeg Community Benefit Fund
 Dungannon Community Trust
 Dunmore Community Benefit Fund
 Global Learning Project
 Hope for More Foundation
 Human Rights Fund
 Killaire Trust
 Magilligan Fund
 McKibbin Fund
 Mike Moloney Arts Bursary Fund
 Monnaboy Community Benefit Fund
 NI Human Rights Fund
 Older People's Fund
 One Small Step Fund
 Peace Impact Programme
 Raj Darshna Fund
 RJ Hunter Fund
 Santander SEDA Awards
 Social Justice Fund
 Space & Place Programme
 Sport Relief Community Cash
 Staff & Trustee Fund
 Telecommunity Fund
 Thomas Devlin Fund
 Thornog Community Benefit Fund
 Ulster People's College Fund
 Women's Fund for NI

**Thanks to all our fund holders, supporters,
 grantees, sponsors and partners during 2015/16**

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 Northern Ireland Website:



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