

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Annual Report 2016 – 2017



Community Foundation
NORTHERN IRELAND

Chair's Foreword



Maeve Monaghan

My first full year as Chair of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland has been a year of unbelievable change and significant progress.

Sitting as we are, an independent charitable foundation, connecting people who care with causes that matter, there is much evidence that we have been able to help communities in need, drive social change and help change lives, through impactful grantmaking, research, strategic partnerships and delivering innovative programmes.

The list of programmes and donations made by the Foundation this year, and the impact they have made has been amazing, and we are committed to continuing that work as we begin to plan for some of our larger funds such as the Big Lottery funded Space & Place Programme coming to an end.

We have in recent months been challenging ourselves to do more, using Vital Signs to listen to the needs of our communities and to leverage our resources to support innovation and change.

The Brexit vote is one of the biggest decisions in our generation and is likely to impact most on the communities we serve. As a Foundation we, like most, are struggling to understand all the ramifications but I am particularly proud that our independence enabled us to discuss and begin developing a Brexit Fund that will enable individuals and organisations to begin to think and plan for the potential impacts. It is a small amount in the vast scheme of things but it is a start, an enabler, providing some thinking time and breathing space for a sector which often knows best.

Our board of trustees has appointed five new members with a range of skills and expertise, and together we have been challenging ourselves to look at new ways to encourage giving in Northern Ireland. We have an ambitious strategic plan and are well on the way to delivering on it.

The Foundation supports bespoke giving and provides philanthropic advice, it is a trusted, secure means through which donors choose how, when and where to give, and we provide a range of management and grantmaking services for charitable funds. This year we have had many more conversations about how we can better connect people to the causes that they care about. I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed a good level of success at doing this and we have plans for this to continue over the years ahead.

At a time when our political institutions have struggled to get going, the Foundation realises that in the political vacuum it is communities that struggle. We have increased our efforts to reach those most in need and have been focusing on supporting a wide range of vulnerable communities including destitute asylum seekers, older people, people with disabilities and women.

There is always more to do and our work on Vital Signs will ensure we continue asking communities what they need, and planning our giving to meet that need. We have a clear plan, an amazing team and a good idea of what our communities feel they need. We look forward to continuing to deliver impact in the years ahead.

Maeve Monaghan
Chair
Community Foundation for
Northern Ireland

Chief Executive Report



Andrew McCracken

2016/17 has proven to be another busy year for the Foundation across each of our objectives; encouraging generosity, impactful grantmaking and community leadership.

With new funds from private donors established or ready to be launched at year end; this is very encouraging and the beginning of us as a Foundation, reaping the benefits of a greater focus on fund development and encouraging generosity for communities across NI.

In support of leading these developments, we appointed the key role of Philanthropy Director during the year and I am delighted that Siofra Healy joined us in October 2016 in this position.

Fund development for the Human Rights Fund continued to be an important focus, and we were delighted with the support received from Sigrid Rausing, Porticus, the Legal Education Fund, and the ongoing support of Atlantic Philanthropies.

Our Ambassadors play an important role in raising the profile of the Foundation and during 16/17 were instrumental in furthering our work within grantmaking, community leadership and philanthropy.

Our grantmaking continues to make an impact and you will see in our infographic over the page how the Foundation is making inroads into priority areas and issues in support of social justice and a fairer society in NI. In 2016/17 we received 738

applications and awarded over £5 million in 455 grants, all proof of increasing need in our community.

Our grant analysis and Vital Signs work during the year identified a number of areas and themes where we could improve our grantmaking focus and in 17/18 we will pilot new proposals, in particular around mental health and education.

I am also pleased to report that an internal grants audit on the administration and distribution of the Foundation's grantmaking for the financial year was awarded a satisfactory assurance rating.

In addition we continued to support programme delivery taking eight new projects through the IFI PIP programme; one of the highlights being Camlough Community Association in South Armagh hosting a very successful cross border policing conference.

In December the Space & Place programme publicly announced its final round of grantmaking, and the team are now completely focused on project delivery for 31 capital projects.

Building Change Trust, which is hosted at CFNI saw a number of developments including the growth of their Social Finance work with

UCIT, and progress on the Social Innovation workstream which included training in 'Human Centred Design' for CFNI staff.

The Foundation takes pride in being an advocate for communities in NI and a convener of organisations around issues of community concern and in 2016/17, policy areas we supported included Programme for Government, Flags, Paramilitarism and NI Identity, Culture and Tradition (FICT), Paramilitarism and NI Support for Minority Ethnic Communities, Asylum Seekers and Destitute Refugees, Poverty and Brexit.

Having completed year one of our current strategic plan, we are on track to meet our three year targets of encouraging generosity, impactful grantmaking and community leadership.

But the Foundation has much more to do. I want to thank the Trustees, staff and partners of the Foundation in helping us get this far and for their unwavering support as we continue on our journey to connect people who care with causes that matter.

Andrew McCracken
Chief Executive
Community Foundation for
Northern Ireland

GRANTEE STORY > Twaddell - PIP



Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association received funding for core costs and programme work from the International Fund for Ireland's Peace Impact Programme which is delivered by Community Foundation staff. The Association says that the funding they received has helped create a more vibrant community which is now going through a transformation having previously been affected by a long-standing parade dispute.

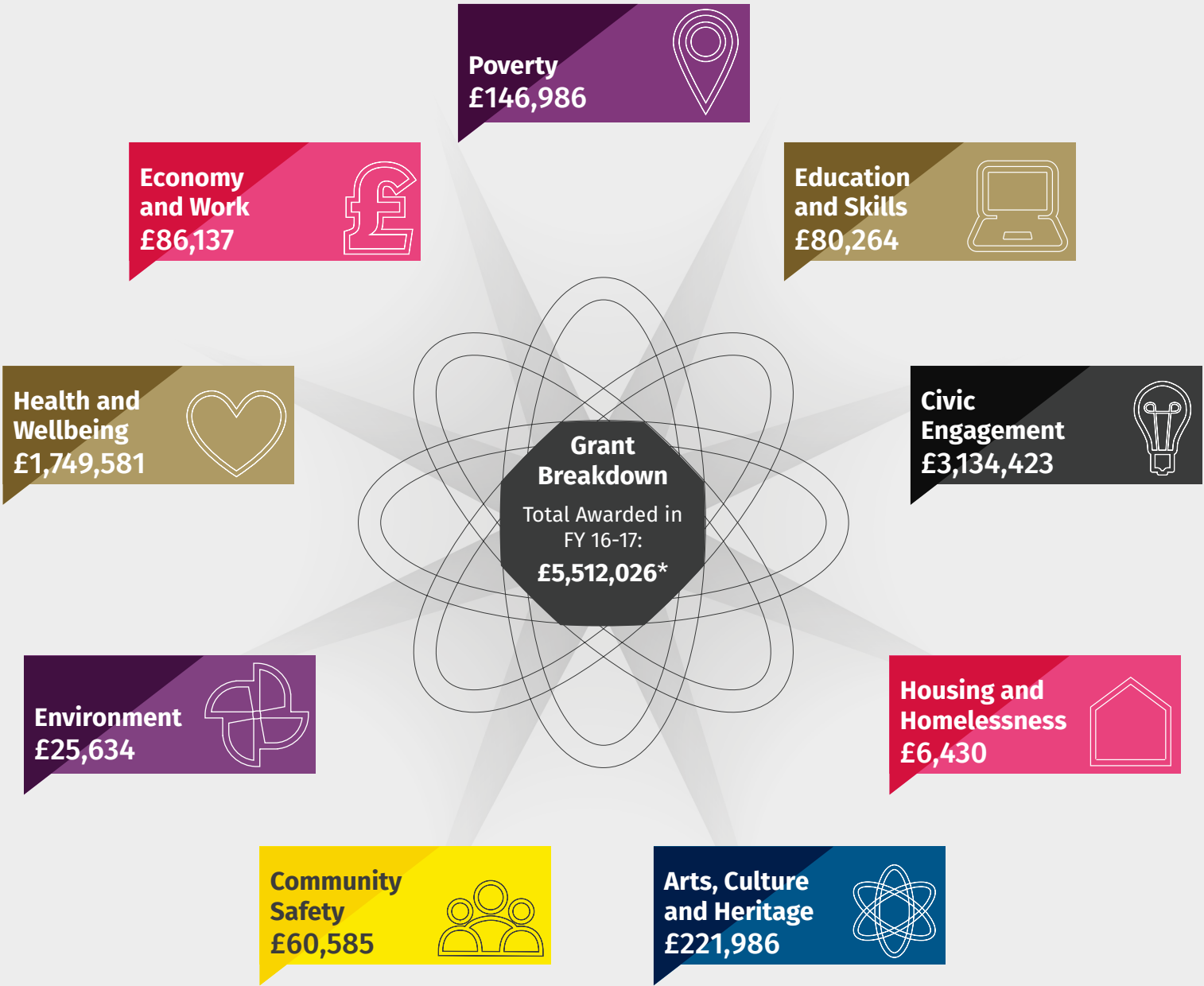
“The funding we received is a dream come true for our organisation, and we know that together with the community we can help relieve the anxiety and stress that families with Autism Spectrum Disorder face daily”

Grantee – Helping Hands, Space & Place Programme

FUND STORY > Acorn Fund


Fourteen community and voluntary groups from across County Derry-Londonderry received funding from the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland's Acorn Fund. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, the grants are part of the Acorn Fund's City of Culture Legacy. One of the successful recipients was Ballykelly Men's Shed, which received a grant for the development of a new art installation which will be created using parts of old computers and hard drives. The funding has enabled the group to embark on a team project, sharing and learning new skills to create an artwork that can be enjoyed by the whole village.





GRANTEE STORY > Homeplus NI - New Beginning's Fund

Homeplus NI, a Belfast based charity working with homeless people received £10,000 from the Community Foundation's New Beginning's Fund in 2016 towards its work with refugees and asylum seekers.



GRANTEE STORY > Flourish NI - Staff and Trustees Fund

Flourish NI is a charity which provides support to survivors of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. It was awarded £500 from the Community Foundation's Staff and Trustees Fund. Flourish works with clients from all age groups, and from many parts of the world with the youngest person being in their 20's and the oldest in their 60's.


DONOR STORY > Ann McGeeney Trust

Peace building across communities, support for women and support for minority groups are just some of the types of projects which the Ann McGeeney Trust supports.

Ann McGeeney who passed away in 2014 was a lifelong community worker and peace activist from South Armagh. In her memory, a Trust Fund was set up by Ann's family and friends in 2015 with the intention of continuing her work with marginalized people and disadvantaged communities. Amongst groups benefitting from the fund are the Cabbage Patchers which works to enhance social connections between young people and senior citizens in the Newry area.



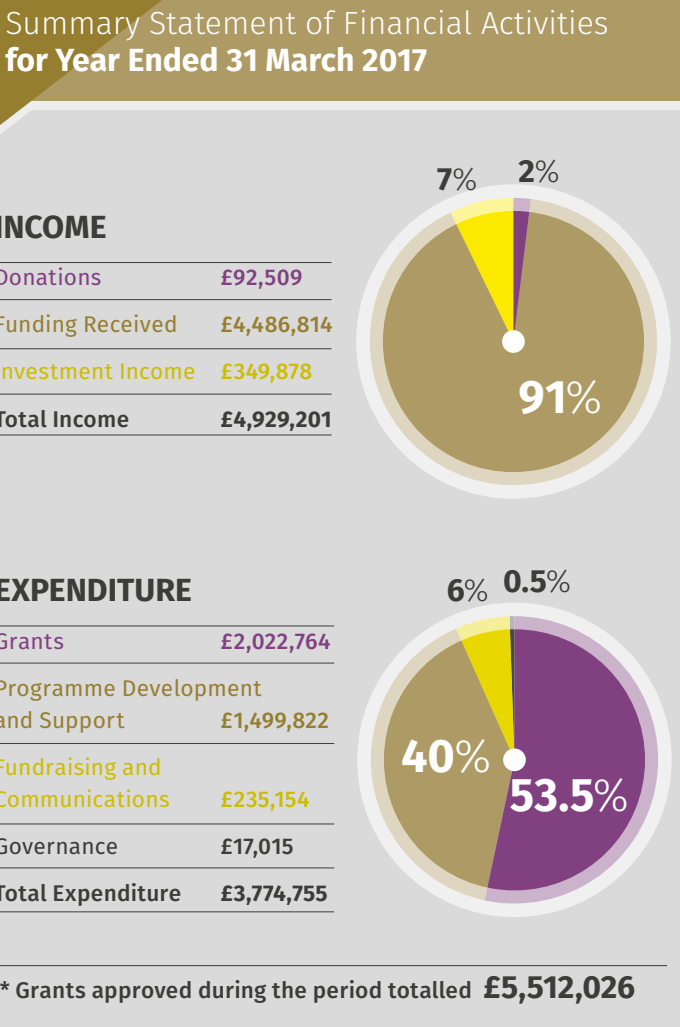
GRANTEE STORY > Three Mile Water - £1000 Microgrant



Newtownabbey based Three Mile Water River Conservation and Angling Association obtained a Micro Grant of almost £1000 from the Foundation. The grant enabled the group to provide enhanced protection for, and monitoring of bats along the river. The Association works with local school leavers, graduates, and people who are long-term unemployed providing employability skills by involving them in ecological monitoring of the river, as well as creating opportunities for older people to remain actively involved in community life.

“In Northern Ireland we have been behind the eight ball when it comes to philanthropy, but it is getting talked about more and more and it is definitely growing which is fantastic”

Donor – Mervyn McCall, McCall Foundation



LIST OF FUNDS & SUPPORTERS

Acorn Fund
 Ann McGeeney Trust
 Brockaghboy Community Benefit Fund
 Building Change Trust
 Carnhill Community Benefit Fund
 Carrickatane Community Benefit Fund
 Cloonty Community Benefit Fund
 Comic Relief Grants
 Community Arts Fund
 Corby Knowe Community Benefit Fund
 Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund
 Crockagarron Community Benefit Fund
 Curryfree Community Benefit Fund
 David Ervine Fund
 Dunbeg Community Benefit Fund
 Dungannon Community Trust
 Dunmore Community Benefit Fund
 Energia 3 Windfarms Community Benefit Fund
 Energia Crighshane Community Benefit Fund
 Energia Longmountain Community Benefit Fund
 Global Learning Project
 Hope for More Foundation
 Human Rights Fund
 Inishative Community Benefit Fund
 Killaire Trust
 Localgiving
 Magilligan Fund
 McCall Foundation
 Mike Moloney Fund
 Monnaboy Community Benefit Fund
 New Beginnings Fund
 Older People's Fund
 One Small Step Fund
 Patron's Fund
 Peace Impact Programme
 Pears Foundation
 Raj Darshna Fund
 RJ Hunter Fund
 Royal London Foundation
 Santander Community Solutions
 Social Justice Grants
 Space and 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
 Youthbank International

Thanks to all our fund holders, supporters,
 grantees, sponsors and partners during 2016/17



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