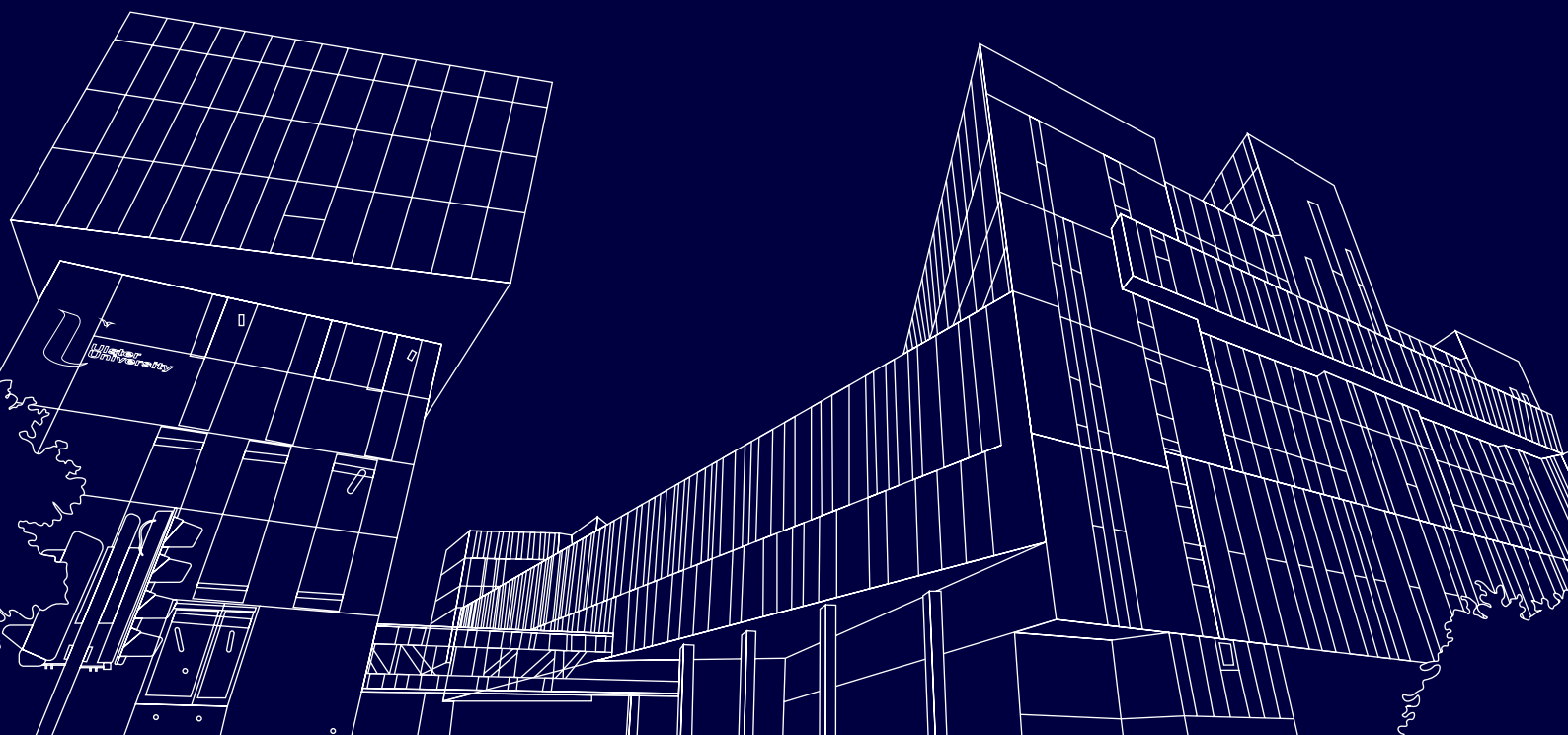


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Annual Review



2022/2023

Welcome

to the Community Engagement Annual Review for 2022-2023. The Community Engagement Team at Ulster operates within Academic Business Development Directorate under the leadership of Interim Dean Professor Ruth Fee. This Review outlines the range of engagement projects and activities undertaken in 2022-2023.

We are proud to contribute directly to the Ulster University's People, Place and Partnership strategic plan leading on

promoting fair access, progression, and success at Ulster, working directly with community and voluntary partners across Northern Ireland, supported by academic staff and students.

If you require any further information on our engagement activities or want to discuss a potential collaboration with a community partner, please contact: community@ulster.ac.uk

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Meet The Team

Community Engagement at Ulster



Claire Mulrone
Community Engagement Manager
& Co Director of Social Justice Hub
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Anne Mooney
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Lucie Travers
Business Support
Placement Student



Ben Faulkner
Media Design
Placement Student



Jessica McConkey
Media Design
Student Intern

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The Fostering Network

Fostering Stronger Links with the Network

We were delighted to have Fostering Network team on the Belfast campus, facilitating a tour and a meeting to discuss future opportunities to engage with foster parents and young people. The Community Engagement Team has agreed to help launch the 2023 Tick the Box campaign.



Fostering Network Event on the Belfast Campus

Tick the Box

IN 2022/23 **£93,000**
FROM ULSTER'S WIDENING
ACCESS FUND SUPPORTED
93 CARE EXPERIENCED
STUDENTS WITH BURSARIES.



Fostering Aspirations- Ulster's Unique Summer School

After a four-year hiatus, we were thrilled to have Foster Network staff and young people on the Coleraine campus for a summer school. Staying in University accommodation, the young people engaged in a range of activities with academic colleagues experiencing Interactive Media, Journalism, the TV studios, Chemistry, Social Work, Criminology and Psychology. This fun packed agenda also included sports, cinema, bowling and outdoor pursuits.

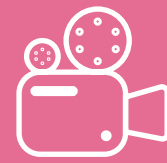


"The Fostering Network NI is delighted to work in partnership with UU on their Fostering Aspirations programme. This year we have worked together to deliver a number of opportunities for young people in foster care to experience what university life has to offer. We are excited about what we can deliver together and look forward to holding our annual Tick the Box event in UU Belfast in the Autumn 2023."

Kathleen Toner, Director of Fostering Network NI



Projects



The Access Ambassador initiative at Ulster University supported by widening access funding, affords academic staff the opportunity to form partnerships and collaborate with the community and voluntary sector.

Over the next few pages, we highlight projects developed and delivered throughout 2022/23, which were designed at engaging young people and adults from under-represented groups across Northern Ireland.

Belfast Feminist Film School



The inaugural Belfast Feminist Film School led by Dr Jolene Mairs Dyer, Dr Jennie Carlsten, Oonagh Parish and Jan Uprichard, provided those from community organisations interested in feminist film making approaches, the opportunity to try out different roles in film making which included directing, camera/cinematography, sound and editing. Participants were further supported in producing a short film.

"I had such a brilliant week and it has lit a fire under me. Thank you so much for setting it up and all the brilliant teaching"

-Participant



Adults Learning Together

St Peter's Immaculata

Dr Denise MacDermott, Senior Social Work Lecturer and Subject Lead in Social Work, facilitated three sessions with a group of women at St Peter's Immaculata Youth Club in Belfast, aimed at exploring barriers and opportunities to accessing education as adults.

A further session held on the Belfast campus included a campus tour and facilitative discussions on progression pathways to higher education.



Academic Dr Denise MacDermott, Anne Mooney, Lucie Travers from Community Engagement, Campus Ambassadors who facilitated a tour along with course participants.

"I would be much more confident about coming to university now after taking part in the project and seeing the campus"

-St Peter's Immaculata Participant



"The participants really got a lot out of it in terms of motivation and realisation. It opened their eyes to what is available to them and it has gave them confidence to realise how achievable this actually is and the steps that they need to take to do this. The visit to the Belfast campus helped the group to realise that university is for all ages"

-Andrea Johnston,
St Peters Immaculata YC

Proud of Our Place: Young People and Participatory Community Mapping



Working in collaboration with Fostering Network, Dr Sara McDowell and Dr Suzanne Beech from the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences at Ulster University designed and delivered a programme to give participants an insight into the discipline of Geography and show how participatory community mapping can feed into careers in planning, development and sustainability.

"Suzanne and Sara were fantastic with working truly collaboratively to consider the needs of individuals and the group at large. It was particularly heartwarming to see how the university itself became more and more accessible to the group throughout the programme.

Educational outcomes are lower for care experienced young people and those on the edge of care, so we are delighted to take steps together to reduce barriers and open up possibilities.

We are excited to develop more opportunities through the long-standing relationship between The Fostering Network and Ulster University."

"I loved being here at the University and seeing all around it, and I want to come back as a student"

-Participant

-Jade Irwin, The NI Fostering Network

The Walking Studio: The Art of Discovery - VOYPIC

Working in collaboration with VOYPIC, Dr Pamela Whitaker, Lecturer in MSc Art Psychotherapy, invited young people with a lived experience of care to visit the art studios located at the Belfast School of Art, and to participate in methods of art making and forms of contemporary art, through workshops and a walking studio.

Ulster University's art therapy trainees also engaged in the project, sharing their skills and creative practices with the group.



GROW Through what You GO Through

"Both the young people and staff from VOYPIC enjoyed engaging with the students. For the young people, they were able to connect with students and learn about not only student life, but also the different opportunities that are available.

For staff it has enabled us to learn more about the courses that are available for the young people we work with."

-Jo Irvine, Youth Rights Worker, Voice of Young People in Care

Creating a Bespoke Out-door Classroom

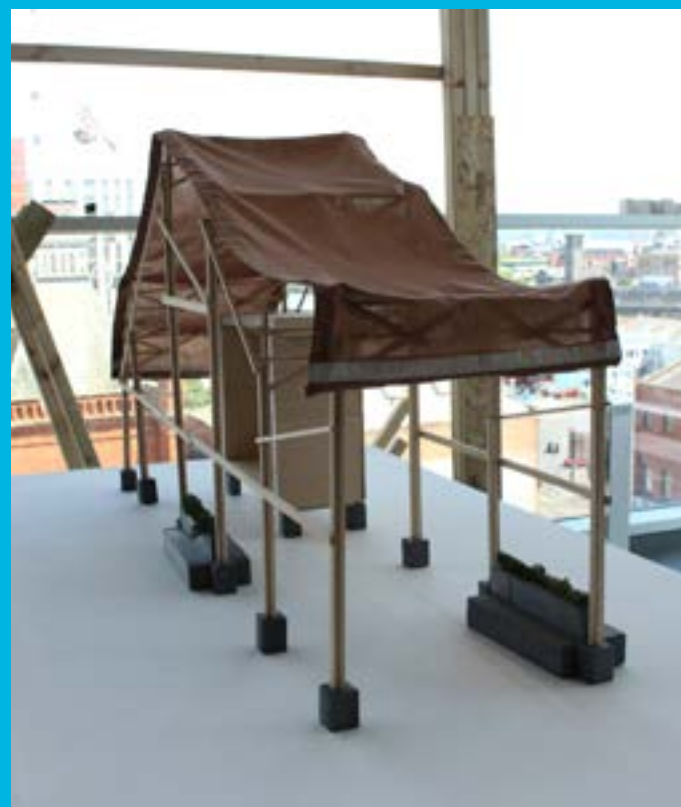
The Belfast School of Architecture partnered with Grow NI, Anaka Women's Collective and Women's TEC to explore the needs of the members using the Waterworks park, which has a community garden, allowing them as local volunteers to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Through a series of workshops on and off campus, students were challenged to create a learning pavilion. Women's TEC provided specialist joinery knowledge and skills which were invaluable in the construction of the pavilion.

"This Access Ambassador project engaged marginalised groups of women and children and provided an opportunity to design an educational environment.

For students, this collaborative design process improved the student's communication skills, developed their ability to create a brief aligned to the client's needs and enabled the 1:1 construction of a learning pavilion.

It offered unprecedented hands-on experience and increased their knowledge of renewable materials, critical for architectural students practice, working in a Climate Crisis"

-Architecture Studio Lead Aoife McGee



Queer Space - Its Importance in the Heart of Belfast



Architecture students visiting The Queer Quarter in Belfast

The Rainbow Project's John Doherty partnered with lecturer in Architecture and studio lead David Capener, engaging students to explore the use of queer space in Belfast directly adjacent to the new Belfast campus. The students took a tour of the space and the venues as well as Café Rainbow which has recently opened. The students were challenged to develop designs for a flexible space that could share history of the LGBTQI+ community along with providing a gallery and performance space.



2022/2023 Statistics

The Science Shop supports community partners across Northern Ireland, to develop real world connected learning projects for Ulster University under or post graduate students, undertaken as module coursework or final year projects.



331  **Connected Real World Learning Projects Completed**

20 Disciplines

- Advanced Sports Development
- Architecture
- Culinary Arts
- Communication Advertising & Marketing
- Consumer Studies & Food Innovation
- Counselling Communications
- Digital Communications
- Environmental Management
- Interactive Media
- Law
- Psychology
- Public Relations
- Sociology
- Sports Coaching & Performance
- Sports Studies

30 
Academic Staff

63 
Community and Voluntary Partners

556 
Under And Post Graduate Students

21 
Science Shop Prizes

3 University Campuses

4 Faculties

For more info contact:

Tel: 028 7167 5992

Email: scienceshop@ulster.ac.uk

Search: www.scienceshop.ac.uk

Sociology

Sailortown Regeneration – Community Led Action!

In partnership with Dr Ciaran Acton, we facilitated a field trip to St Joe's Community Hub in Sailortown in North Belfast for first year students completing the Introduction to Sociology module. Terry and Niamh from Sailortown Regeneration explained how they were supporting the local community providing much needed services. The students witnessed how underinvestment has affected the local community and explored the impact new developments will have on regenerating the area.



Trip to St Joseph's Church

Harvesting Harmony - Creating Artisan Food Products with Locally Grown Soft Fruits



This exciting new initiative seen first year Consumer Studies and Food Innovation students at Coleraine campus work with Triangle Housing Association's Alternative Angels project. With Senior Lecturer Dr Amy Burns, we took the students on a field trip to Triangle's Ballycastle Garden Centre to see what was growing on site.

Norman Steritt from Triangle asked students to create a range of products using the soft fruits grown in the garden centre. Students understood that these seasonal creations ensured that the garden was meeting its sustainability goals and was providing opportunities for local neurodiverse trainees. These skills will help trainees to secure future supported employment.

MIXED BERRY COULIS

Ingredients:

- 100g of strawberries
- 100g of blackberries
- 100g of raspberries
- 60ml of water
- Half of teaspoon of lemon juice

Method:

- Add the weighed berries into a blender
- Then blend on the first or pulse setting until smooth
- Add the water and sugar into a small bowl and microwave for 2 minutes
- Then add the melted water/sugar into the blender with the blended berries
- Sieve any berry seeds out
- Then place in a sterilized jar and store in a cool dry place, then once opened place in fridge.



The Consumers Studies and Food Innovation Class with Ulster Staff and representatives of Triangle Housing Association

Advancing Sports Development for Local Clubs



In partnership with Dr Paul Donnelly and his final year class completing the Advanced Sports Development module, worked with Sported NI and their club members. In teams, the students explored planned capital projects with five clubs with students developing individual business cases.



Ballymena Youth Academy



Ballyclare Rugby Football Club



Lisburn Youth & Recreation Centre



Killyleagh Coastal Rowing Club

St Paul's Gaelic Athletic Club



Sports Dissertation

Paul was also academic supervisor for Courtney Stuart, a sports coaching and performance student who completed her dissertation with the IFA entitled "A Critical Examination of the Impact Danderball has on the Older Generation: A Local Case Study".



Courtney Stuart & Dr Paul Donnelly



Groundwork NI - Exploring New Corporate Clients!

During Covid, Groundwork NI were successful in pivoting their provision for families and local communities, creating garden boxes. This allowed people to continue to garden, to grow food and support their mental health during the pandemic. Cara Cash-Marley and the Groundwork NI team then used this experience to develop a new product: 'The Anywhere Garden'.

Joanne Faloon, lecturer from the School of Communications and Media and second year Communication & Advertising and Marketing students undertook a Science Shop project to create a digital marketing strategy for 'The Anywhere Garden'.

This project helped Groundwork NI to launch the product to corporate clients and to harness a potential alternative revenue stream for the organisation.



Academic Partner for the Groundwork NI project, Joanne Faloon, Lecturer in Marketing & Communication explained that

"These Science Shop projects were of a very high standard. The reports were professional, well-written and illustrated creative and engaging content. Both students have significant knowledge and understanding of core digital communication topics, with their application of theory into practice was exceptional".

Fostering Network Ensuring the Voice of Fostering Parents and Care Experienced Students are Heard!



Fiona McMahon, Lecturer in Advertising, Marketing and Digital Marketing Communication and Leadership, Denise O'Connor and Charlotte Bradford-Gibbs receiving their Science Shop Class Prize for her Digital Communications project with Fostering Network, with Claire Mulrone, Community Engagement Manager. (Amy Adair-McCourt was also joint winner of this prize)

Two sets of post graduate Communications and Media students worked with the newly appointed Fostering Network Marketing Officer, Emma McAleer. Under the leadership of Fiona McMahon, lecturer for the Post Graduate programme in Digital Marketing Communications and Leadership, her students created a digital media campaign for Fostering Fortnight. To ensure there was a particular emphasis on the voices of foster carers in NI, we invited them to attend a session with the students.

Partnering with Dr Phil Ramsey and engaging Post Graduate Public Relations students, they created a Public Relations strategy for the Tick the Box campaign here in Northern Ireland.

Tick the Box

Students were asked to raise awareness of Tick the Box with education staff in schools, colleges and universities, particularly the NI Event in October 2023.

- To reduce the stigma around ticking the box, encouraging care experienced young people to Tick the Box on their UCAS / FE application form.
- To increase aspirations for care experienced young people to attend university, helping them to see it as a realistic option for the future.

To ensure this was understood, we invited Ulster based students to share their experience of this journey.





Check out project-social.co.uk

In June 2023, we hosted the End of Year Show at the Coleraine campus, celebrating the work of final year Interactive Media students who worked with eight Science Shop community partners. This forty-credit module seen students produce professional media outputs including: new visual identities, logos, websites, video, motion graphics, merchandise, and corporate communication guidelines.

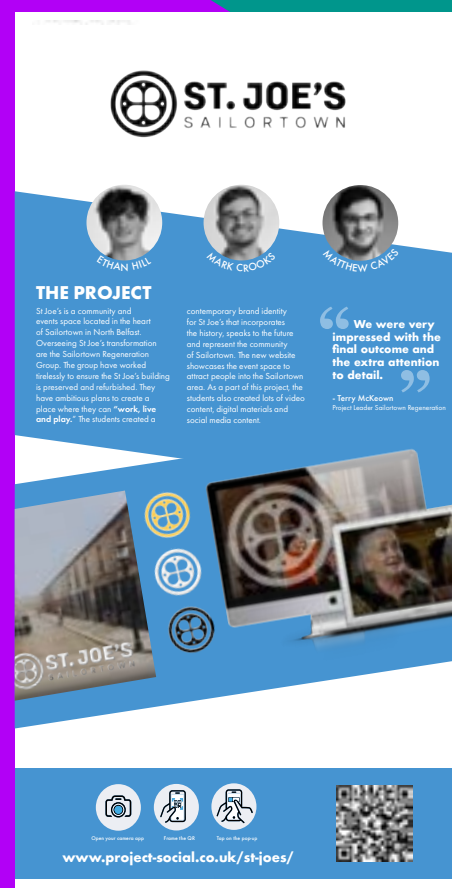
2023 Science Shop Digital Media Award Winners

PSNI

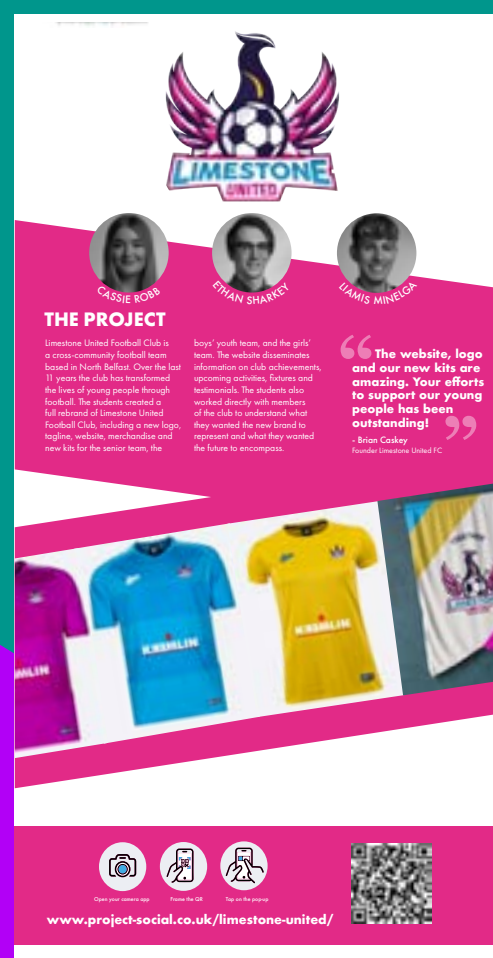


Professor Paul Connolly, Adrian Hickey, Jack Hayes, Laurence Adair, Louise O'Boyle and Ruth Fee

The winners of this year's Science Shop Digital Media Award were Jack and Laurence, who created an educational programme for secondary schools across Northern Ireland to explore social issues. Using a 360 camera, they created and captured two videos focusing on community safety and anti-social behaviour among young people. In the classroom school pupils will use VR headsets to view the video content and discuss the issues.



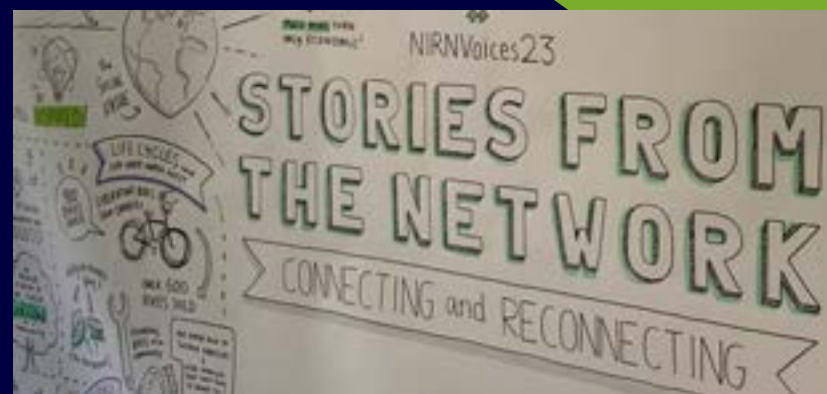
LIMESTONE UNITED



Sustainability Conference @ HEN HOOSE

NI Resource Network is the representative body for organisations, promoting sustainable reuse and repair as a practical and effective way of tackling Northern Ireland's waste. We were delighted to contribute to the Voices and Vision for the

Circular Economy in Northern Ireland Conference. The event took place in newly established Lislagan Farm, the new home for Compass Advocacy Network, a long time Ulster partner who are starting exciting new venture outside Ballymoney.



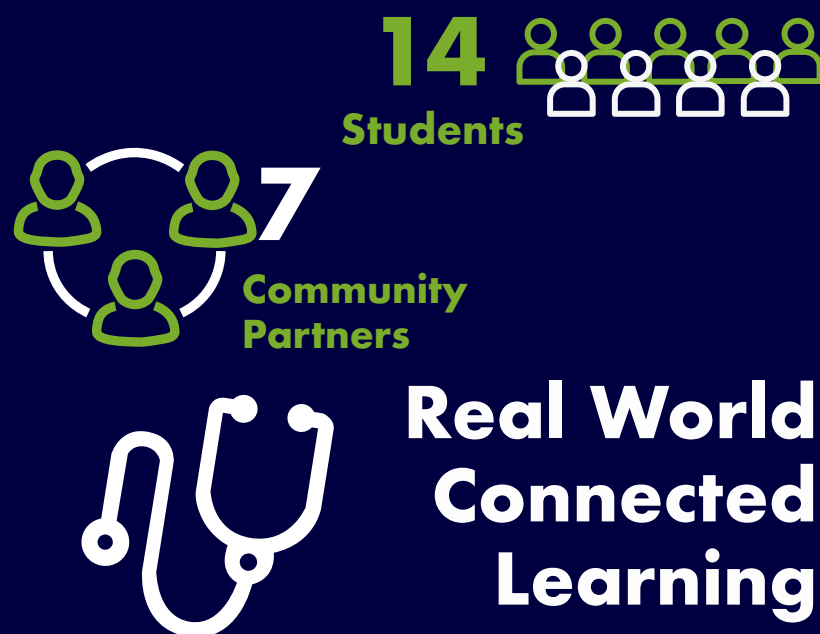
Susan Lagdon with young people from Lagmore Youth Project and representatives from Rainbow, Banardos, NI Women's Aid Federation, HERe NI, The Northern Trust, Queens University Belfast, Cara Friend, Department of Justice, and Health & Social Care NI.

Healthy Young Adults Relationships



With Psychology academic, Dr Susan Lagdon, we supported young representatives from Lagmore Youth Project to participate in a workshop exploring methods, awareness and diversity education (MADE) for the Healthy Young Adult Relationships project (HYAR). The participations from Lagmore are training to become Ulster researchers for the HYAR project and they will undertake research with young people to explore their understanding of unhealthy and harmful relationships.

Community Placements for Medical students



The Community Engagement Team has supported the Medical School to provide unique community based learning placements for fourteen second year medical students with partners. The placements provided students with a unique opportunity to understand the critical support services provided by the community sector. The community based opportunities were matched to the clinical placements the students had recently completed.

REACH Across

The Community Engagement Team welcomed REACH Across to Derry/Londonderry campus to explore the facilities, participate in planned practical activities and gain career inspiration.

On a further visit REACH Across members visited our Belfast campus and participated in a campus tour.



"Our members were highly impressed with the facilities and they are more aware of the bigger picture of student life including student finance, accommodation and entry levels."

-Barney McGuigan, Project Co-ordinator, REACH Across

Repair Cafe Foyle The Big Fix in The Great Hall

CELEBRATING THEIR 1st BIRTHDAY

We were delighted to support the first birthday of Foyle Repair Cafe by facilitating the The Big Fix in the Great Hall in Derry – Londonderry campus. The event encouraged members of the public to bring items to support the Repair, Reuse, Recycle project. Ulster University also availed of the expertise of talented volunteer fixers, who breathed new life into an antique brass gong and baton that has been a fixture of the Martha Magee building for many years.



#Rethink-Reuse-Repair

BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Ideas Fund

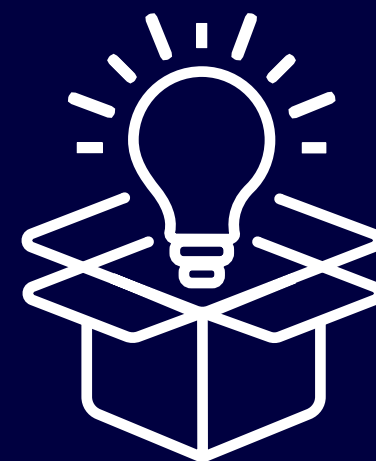
North West Community Network, Developing Healthy Communities and Ulster University have in partnership secured £97,000 from the Ideas Fund, a grants programme run by the British Science Association and funded by Wellcome.

This new Community Research and Innovation Collective's principle aim is to build on learning from existing community and university research projects that the Ideas Fund have already funded.

The Collective will also seek to take a more strategic approach in creating systems which support community partners and university-based researchers' collaboration more effectively.



The Ideas Fund Team



IN 2022/23 **£97,000**
WAS SECURED FOR THIS
YEAR'S FUNDING.

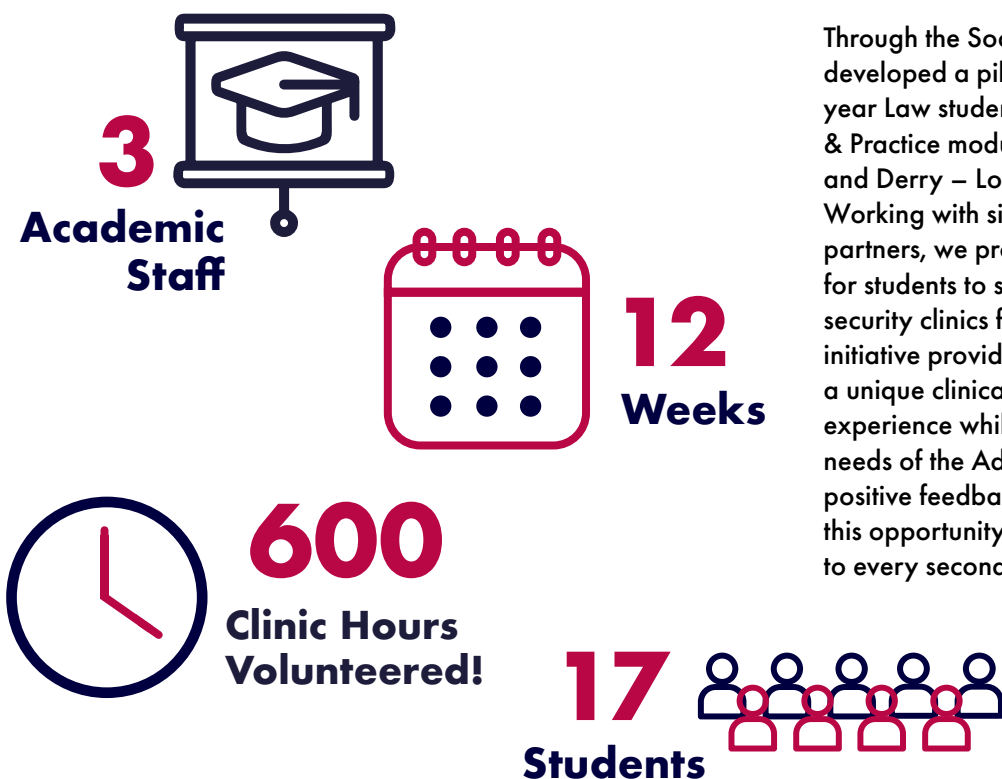
"We are very excited about this work and are looking forward to strengthening relationships between community and the university and to develop an environment where community-university equitable partnerships will thrive."

-Roisin McLaughlin, Director, North West Community Network

"The investment provides an opportunity for community-based organisations to access valuable expertise from researchers. The unique approach will help forge genuine relationships across the sectors, creating new perspectives to grassroots community health improvement."

-Edel O'Doherty, Chief Executive of Developing Healthy Communities

Law and Practice Modules



Through the Social Justice Hub we developed a pilot project for final year Law students undertaking a Law & Practice module at both Belfast and Derry – Londonderry campuses. Working with six Advice sector partners, we provided opportunities for students to support weekly social security clinics for their clients. This initiative provided students with a unique clinical legal education experience while supporting the needs of the Advice sector. The positive feedback has ensured that this opportunity will now be offered to every second year Law student.

2 Campuses, 6 Community Partners

Advice North West The PILS Project The Vine Centre
Dove House Law Centre NI Ardoyne Association



Winning students and Sponsors at Law School Prize Giving July 2023



Ulster Staff and guests at the opening of the Moot Court on the Belfast Campus

Schedule of Loss

Over the last two years the Social Justice Hub and the Law Clinic have developed an online Personal Litigants Resource in Northern Ireland. This year we have added an additional resource the Schedule of Loss.

The resource will support claimants navigate taking a case to an employment tribunal. Ulster staff, in partnership with visiting Professor Paul Buggy and Mark Potkewitz, former Co-Director of the Legal Innovation Centre (LIC) at Ulster University, have collaborated and developed this online tool.

A Schedule of Loss sets out the losses a claimant believes they have suffered and want to recover, both up to the date of the hearing and beyond.

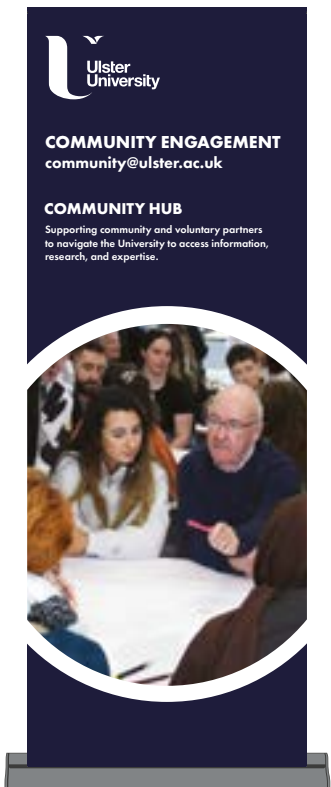


Check out- <https://personallitigantsni.org>

STUDENT PLACEMENTS & INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

This year Ben Faulkner and Jessica McConkey were appointed as Media Design placement and intern students. Throughout the course of the year they have creatively collaborated on numerous graphic and media design projects, here is an example of some of the outputs they have created.

Ben and Jessica worked on creating the Community Engagement Team's pop-ups stands. They developed a range promotional products for the Community Engagement Team. They advertised for The Big Fix event in Magee and created a banner to gift the Repair Cafe. They created digital content for the Law and Social Justice Hub and also created content through-out the year for many events. They contributed to the design of "The Pathways to Further and Higher Education for Looked After and Care Experienced Young People".



Through-out the year, Ben took photos for the team, going to multiple events to capture all the work that was completed this year, which took him all around Northern Ireland and to each one of the Ulster campuses.



Ben completed video work that included creating a contemporary motion graphic that showcased the work of Interactive Media students through the Science Shop.



Check out the motion graphic at <https://www.project-social.co.uk>

Lucie

Lucie joined the Community Engagement Team on placement from her studies as a Business Studies student.

During her time with the department, Lucie participated in planning community outreach activities, engaging with academic staff and community partners through our Access Ambassador programme. Lucie also created a social media plan for the team and was responsible for developing evaluation tools to measure the impact of Access Ambassador activities.



"My placement year with the Community Engagement Team has been a phenomenal learning experience, I have been able to build a wide skills profile with the work I did this year along with the team, which will help me massively during and after my studies."

-Ben Faulkner

Community Partners

2022-2023





community@ulster.ac.uk