



WELCOME INFORMATION PROGRAMME



Belfast
City Council

**Supporting and
Advising Asylum
Seekers:
Development Needs
in the Community
and Voluntary Sector
in Belfast**



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What is WIP?

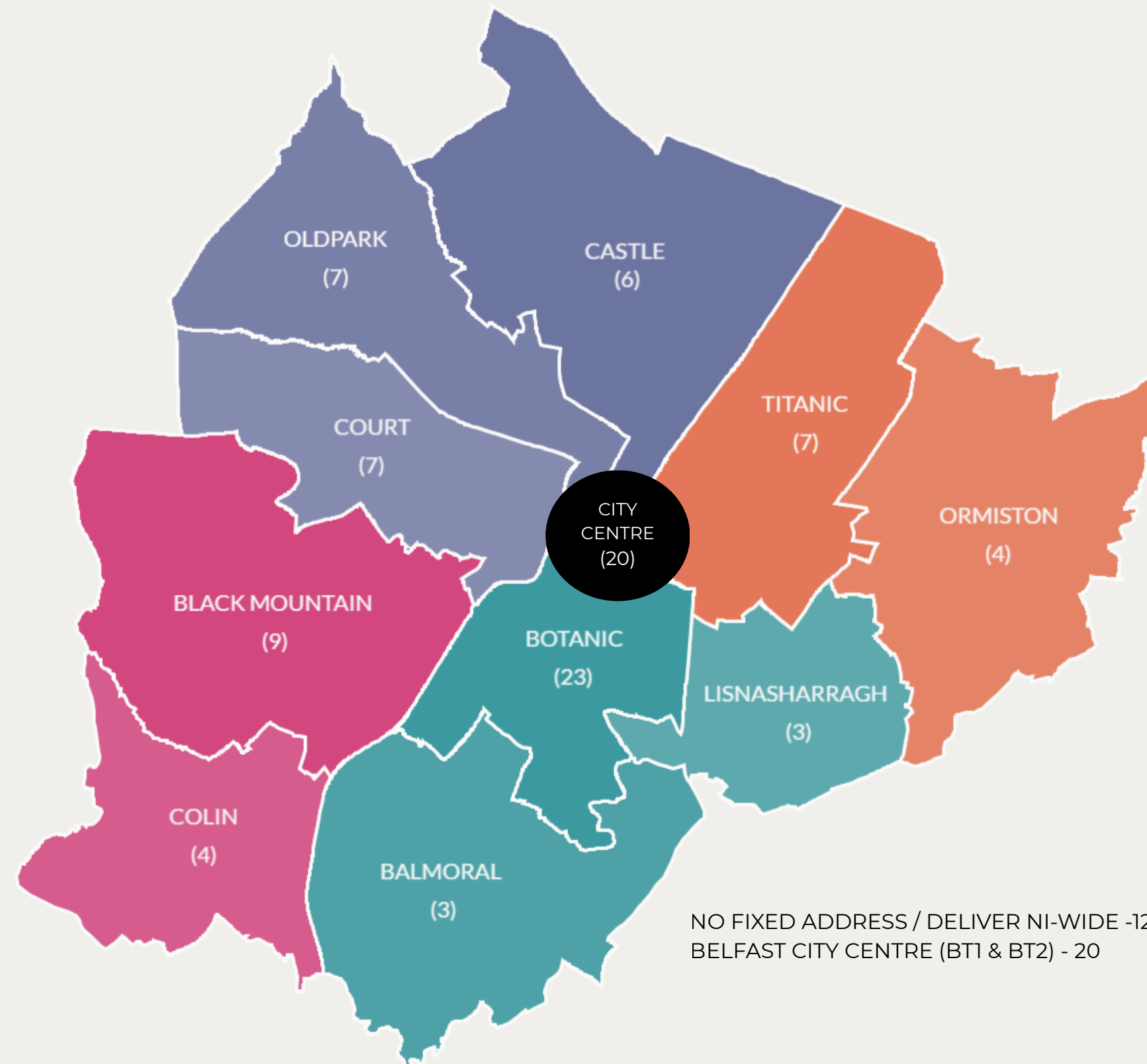
12-month capacity building project funded by Belfast City Council

- Identify existing community development needs in Belfast and assess what further support is necessary for organisations to advise and support asylum seekers.
- Deliver a three-tier training programme alongside the establishment of a Knowledge and Learning Network to enable organisations to be better-equipped to advise and include asylum seekers within their services.
- Produce a user-friendly online map of services available to asylum seekers and refugees in Belfast.

Survey highlights & report



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Surveying community development needs

- An online survey ran for six weeks
- Survey received 85 responses
- 16% migrant-led organisations, 84% "other"
- 19 engagement interviews

Survey highlights & report



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Confidence

- 42% said that staff/volunteers did not have a good understanding of available support services for asylum seekers
- 57% cited the need for more networking and better knowledge of signposting opportunities
- 99% supported the idea of a centralised map of services in Belfast

Accessibility

- 72% organisations do not provide services in additional languages, though there was a willingness to do so if funding was available.

Advisers

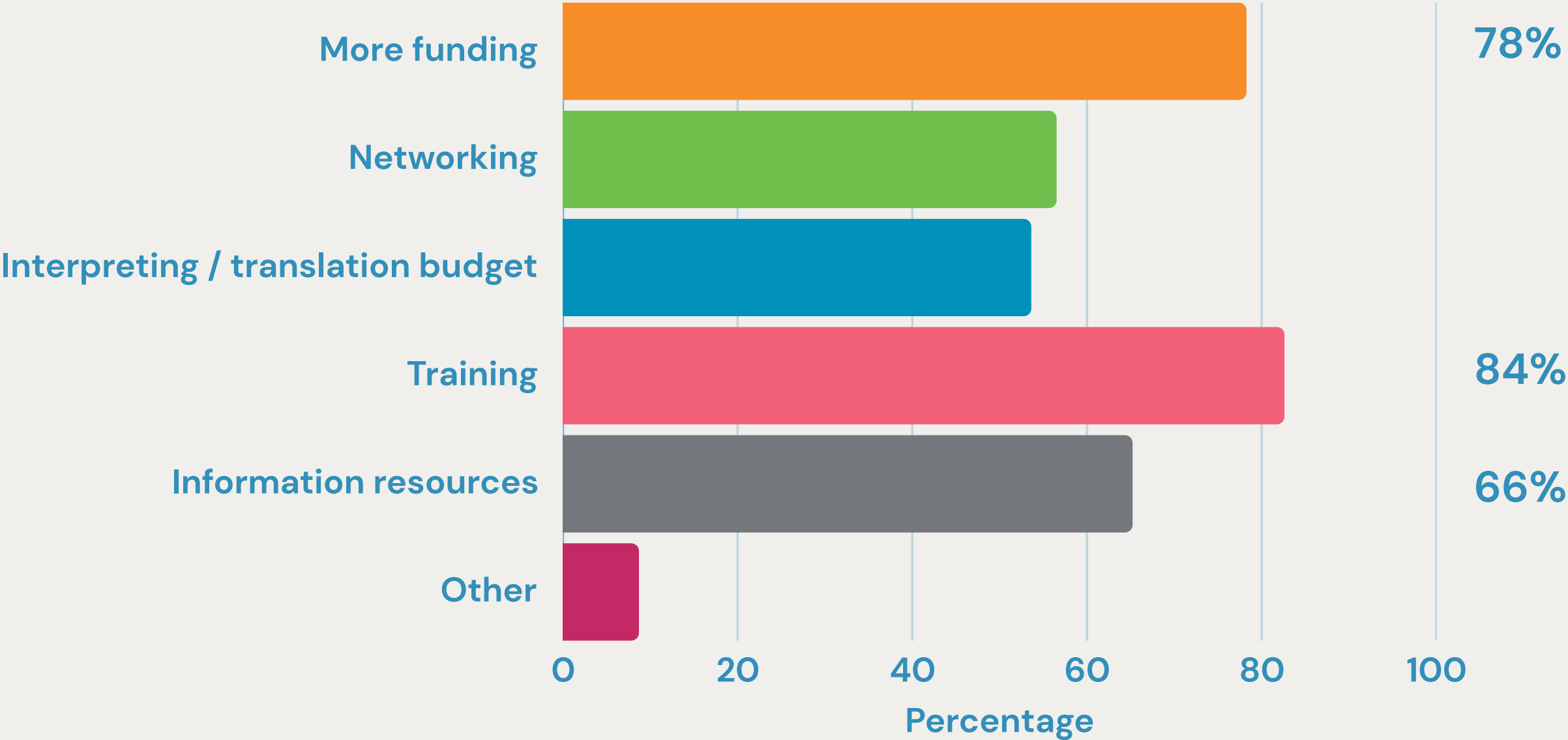
- Only 20% of organisations had a qualified Generalist Adviser to support with benefits, housing etc
- Only 7% had a qualified immigration adviser

Survey highlights & report



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Development needs



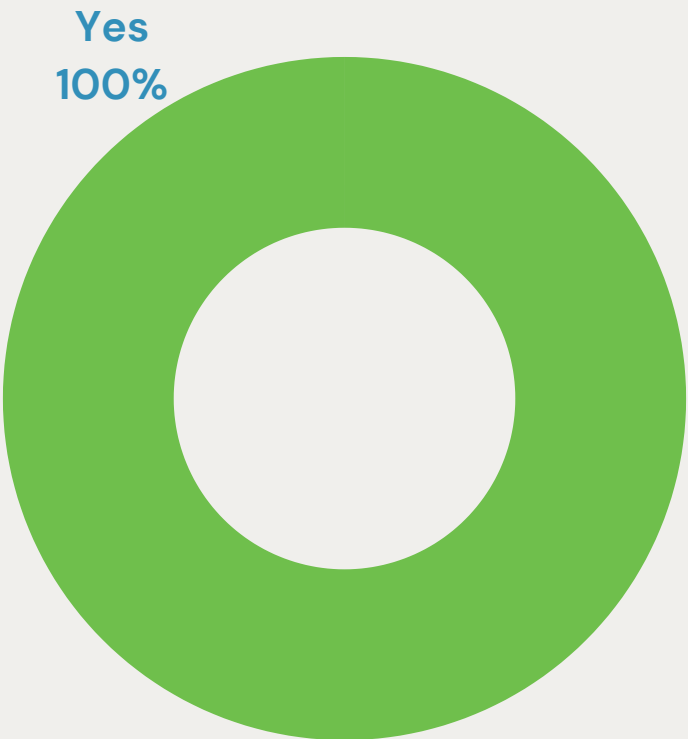
Survey highlights & report



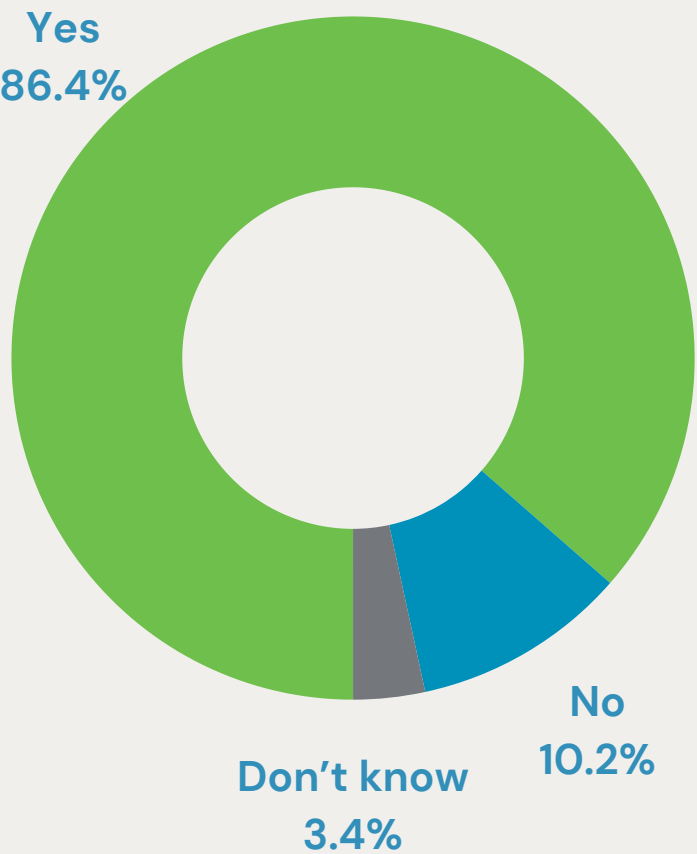
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Are you concerned about anti-migrant rhetoric in your area of Belfast?

Migrant-led organisations



Other organisations



“Our organisation has been targeted during race-related riots, forcing the closure of classes and raising deep concerns for the safety and well-being of our service users”

“We no longer advertise who we are on our office windows”

“It impacts the people we support. It causes fear and people at times have stopped coming to our services because of it. It means we have additional work to do in reassuring and supporting and showing care”

Training delivery



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2 x Small Worlds Workshops

- 80 participants

4 x Understanding Asylum and Refugee Rights sessions

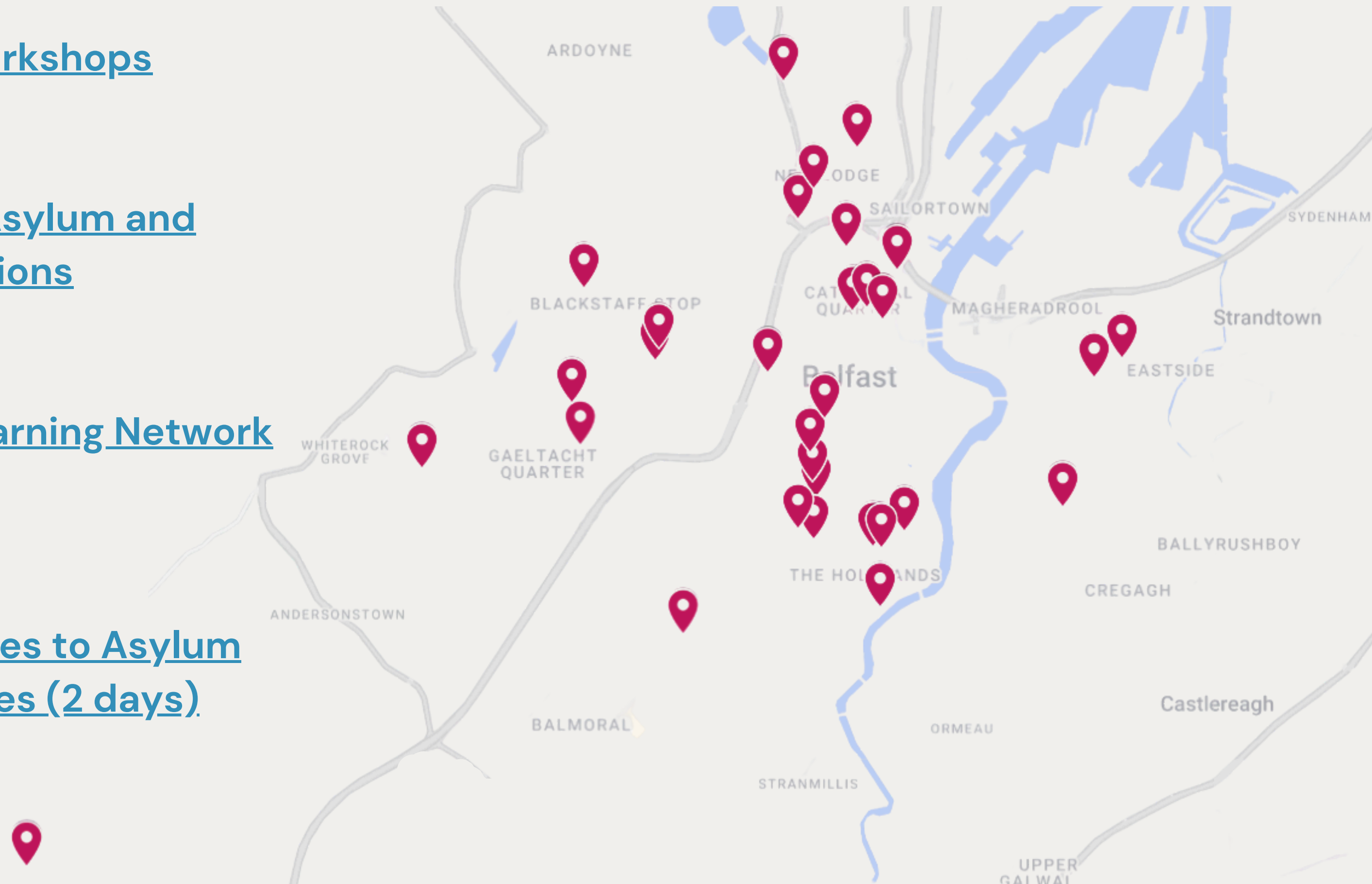
- 80 participants

8 x Knowledge & Learning Network sessions

- 80 participants

1 x Delivering Services to Asylum Seekers and Refugees (2 days)

- 12 participants



Organisations offered training



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- Act Now NI
- Anaka Women's Collective
- Ashton Community Trust
- Barnardos
- Beechmount Sure Start
- Belfast Islamic Centre
- Belfast Trust
- Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre
- Chinese Welfare Association
- Common Youth
- Community Restorative Justice
- Diverse Youth
- Early Years
- East Belfast Mission

- East Belfast Sure Start
- Factcheck NI
- Footprints Women's Centre
- Friends of Africa
- Gems NI
- Glow NI
- Groundwork
- Happy Women's Group
- Homeplus
- Include Youth
- International Meeting Point NB
- King's Trust
- LORAG
- Mornington Community Project

- NIACRO
- NSPCC
- Quaker Service
- The Rainbow Project
- Refuge Language
- Shankill Women's Centre
- Starling Collective
- Street NI
- Suitcase Project
- Victim Support (HCAS)
- West Belfast Partnership Board
- Whiterock Children's Centre
- Windsor Baptist Church

Current recommendations



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- Continuation of a programme of training and capacity building for organisations.
- Continuation of a Knowledge and Learning Network.
- Increased provision of free training across Belfast, to be available to community organisations and statutory agencies.
- Ensure migrant-led organisations are included within any capacity building initiatives.
- Commission more translatable information resources – especially on rights, entitlements, restrictions.
- Commission further research on the impact of anti-migrant rhetoric and hate crime on the provision of support for asylum seekers and refugees.
- Promote and encourage the connectivity and information exchange between Belfast's existing Migrant Forums.
- Purchase translation devices for organisations that are struggling to provide services in additional languages.
- Include funding for interpreters in all community advice tenders.

Thank you!

Any questions?



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