

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast  
City Council**

30th March, 2023

**MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid meeting (both in person and remote) in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 4th April, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

**AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Restricted**

- (a) TEO Asylum Dispersal Funding Reprofile Request (Pages 1 - 10)
- (b) Community Support Programme (Pages 11 - 26)
- (c) Micro and Medium Grants Scheme 2023/24 (Pages 27 - 40)
- (d) Outstanding Accounts (Pages 41 - 42)

3. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Response received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re Deposit Return Scheme (Pages 43 - 48)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Waste Collection Arrangements - Easter Bank Holidays - (verbal update)
- (b) GLL Community Engagement and Underrepresented Target Groups Update (Pages 49 - 78)
- (c) GLL service report for 2022 (Pages 79 - 94)
- (d) GLL current inclusivity programming and future development plans (Pages 95 - 100)
- (e) Public Access Defibrillator Programme Update (Pages 101 - 104)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Proposal for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 105 - 108)
- (b) Events in Parks (Pages 109 - 114)
- (c) Service Level agreement with Department of Justice for Fireworks and MSER inspections by BCC officers (Pages 115 - 118)
- (d) Pre-loved Toys scheme Christmas 2022 (Pages 119 - 134)
- (e) Update on Take 5 Benches (Pages 135 - 140)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
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<b>Subject:</b>	Response received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re Deposit Return Scheme
<b>Date:</b>	4th April, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 7th February, 2023, it had agreed to write to DEARA to express concern at the delay in rolling out the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).
3.2	A response had been received from Ms Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary (attached as appendix 1). In her correspondence she stated that the Department was working in partnership with its counterpart departments in England and Wales to deliver a joint Deposit Return Scheme that would operate in all three jurisdictions.
3.3	The Permanent Secretary also referred to the timescales for the implementation, explaining that these had been agreed by Ministers and had been designed to ensure that they were both ambitious and realistic.
3.4	She stressed that the timescales had been informed by formal consultation on the most appropriate timeframe for delivery of the scheme and by further stakeholder engagement and evaluation of delivery. This had led to the decision that the DRS for England, Wales and Northern Ireland should start from 1st October 2025.
3.5	She advised that the full consultation could be found at <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland</a> and the government response at <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response</a> .
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>  None associated with this report.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>  None associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – E-mail response from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.





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**From the Permanent Secretary**  
Katrina Godfrey

**Our reference: SCORR-0114-2023**

Sara Steele  
Democratic Services Officer  
Belfast City Council  
Obo: The People and Communities  
Committee

By email:  
[steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Office of the Permanent Secretary  
Room 636  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast BT4 3SB  
Telephone: 028 9052 4608  
Email: [perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk)

24 March 2023

Dear Sara

## **FUTURE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME PROPOSED TIMELINE**

Thank you for your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 conveying the concerns of the Council's People and Communities Committee about the timescales for implementing the planned Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) here.

It might be helpful for me to explain that the Department is working in partnership with its counterpart departments in England and Wales to deliver a joint DRS that will operate in all three jurisdictions. Timescales for its implementation have been agreed by Ministers and are designed to ensure that they are both ambitious and realistic.

It is also important to stress that the timescales have been informed by formal consultation on the most appropriate timeframe for delivery of the scheme and by further stakeholder engagement and evaluation of delivery. This has led to the decision that the DRS for England, Wales and Northern Ireland should start from 1 October 2025.

You can read the full consultation at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland> and the government response at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for the interest that the Committee has taken in the scheme.

Yours sincerely



**KATRINA GODFREY**

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

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<b>Subject:</b>	GLL community engagement and underrepresented target groups update
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide members with the annual update for 2022 on community engagement and underrepresented group focused promotional activity.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and record receipt of the information provided below and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. City &amp; Neighbourhood officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual report on community engagement initiatives for the preceding year. This report

	has previously been presented through Active Belfast Limited. As the contract is now under direct Council control, this and future annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.
3.2	GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of GLL's core priorities is to ensure full access for all members of the community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often. CNS works closely with GLL to encourage community outreach and regular participation amongst traditionally underrepresented target groups.
3.3	GLL employ a Regional Business Manager (RBM), whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity.
3.4	In support of this the RBM manages a team of three Community Sport Officers, a team of nine Healthwise Officers and one Group Exercise coordinator. All members of the team have work programmes designed to deliver on strategic objectives with the ultimate aim to increase participation in both the mainstream and underrepresented groups.
3.5	GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable, and non-inhibiting.
3.6	GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.
3.7	53% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.
	<u>Outcomes and proposals</u>
	<b>Sport National Governing Body (NGB) and club programmes</b>
3.8	GLL continue to support a number of Sport NGBs in the delivery of their holiday programmes, grassroots events and performance programmes. Holiday camps were delivered by the Irish FA, Ulster Badminton and NI Netball. All Ireland water polo league events are hosted regularly at Lisnasharragh LC and the venue has also hosted a number of Ulster Swimming Galas. Ulster Boxing competitions are regularly welcomed to centres including Girdwood CH, Ballysillan LC, Brook LC and Whiterock LC. Shankill LC hosts the Northern Ireland

	Futsal Federation league for both males and females. NGBs regularly deliver coach education courses at BCC leisure centres, most commonly the Irish FA and Swim Ulster.
3.9	BCC leisure centres, programmed by GLL, host over 200 local sports clubs and performance squads. Leisure centres in Belfast are utilised for club and performance training and service a variety of local and regional competitions. Gaelic games, boxing, football, futsal, rugby, tennis, table tennis, cricket, baseball, softball, dodgeball, swimming, water polo and martial arts are amongst the sports allocated essential training facilities for programme delivery and 'room to grow'.
3.10	GLL supports the delivery of Jog Belfast at Girdwood CH. The 10 week programme supports 25 attendees with the aim of participants completing a 5km run at the end of the programme.
	<b>School &amp; Youth programmes</b>
3.11	GLL works with local Primary and Post Primary schools to provide facilities to support physical education delivery. Over 70 schools accessed school swimming lessons accounting for an allocation of over 4,000 programmed pool lane hours.
3.12	Centres facilitated a number of primary and secondary school end of term celebrations in June. Schools were able to access a variety of junior products and swimming pools across the city to celebrate the conclusion of what had been a challenging year for many in education.
3.13	GLL were delighted to see the return of the Summer Scheme programme after a break of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Recruitment commenced in April and 9 Activity Supervisors and 36 Activity Instructors were selected to support the programme during July and August. Eleven centres in total delivered the programme with eight centres delivering a traditional summer activity scheme model and the remaining three delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel LC, gymnastics at Belvoir AC and tennis was delivered at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,454 children which represented 78% of the spaces offered. Additional detail is provided in Appendix 1.
3.14	GLL worked in partnership with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association and Table Tennis Ulster to deliver weekly sessions during the Summer Schemes. Boxing was delivered across 9 centres, 6 hours in each and Table Tennis delivered in 2 centres, 10 hours in each.

3.15	Girdwood CH worked in partnership with 'TAMHI' and 'Our Club, Our Community' to support a summer intervention programme which was funded by Belfast City Council. Approximately 240 junior players took part in 9-a-side small-sided games on Monday to Friday evenings throughout May to August. Football clubs from across Northern Ireland participated in the programme.
3.16	In the summer GLL worked in partnership with the 'Liverpool Football Club Foundation' to deliver a number of initiatives between the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> August. Eight members of the Foundation's health, sport and football, inclusion and skills team worked alongside GLL Community Sport staff to deliver a programme for local coaches and children. The programmes were delivered at Avoniel LC and Girdwood CH. Over 50 coaches attended the coach education CPD workshops and 114 children participated in the two day football camp. Additional information is provided in Appendix 1.
3.17	GLL delivers a lessons and courses programme currently focused on swimming, gymnastics, tennis and climbing. Throughout 2022 over 5,000 children have been enrolled on swimming lessons, 150 in tennis lessons, 100 in gymnastics sessions and 40 in climbing lessons. In the coming year GLL plan to expand the swimming programme to cater for 6,000 children weekly, over 200 in tennis, over 300 in gymnastics and 75 in climbing.
3.18	<p>Brook LC has engaged with a number of Special Needs schools to offer the Air Venture product to support with Physical Education delivery. This combined with the sensory pool has resulted in 30% of all Brook Leisure Centre programming being an inclusive offering.</p> <p><b>Community outreach</b></p>
3.19	In 2022 GLL established community engagement leads in each centre to drive local engagement projects but also support citywide initiatives. In December twelve centres supported the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. 487 gifts were donated with an estimated value of £7,500.
3.10	GLL continue to partner with 'Menshed' by offering space at Girdwood CH, Brook LC and Whiterock LC where the focus is on improving mental health for men.
3.11	GLL have supported a number of mental health charities and initiatives in the form of awareness and fund raising.



3.12	The Colin Autism Support Group uses Brook LC for parents of children with autism and other learning disabilities.
3.13	Andersonstown and Brook LCs hosted open days for over twenty community organisations to promote their work to customers within the centres.
3.14	The Belfast Community Sport team delivered an outreach event to Ulster University Sports Studies students in October at Girdwood CH. This event saw over 60 students participate in a variety of sports and activities. GLL also presented employment opportunities within Belfast highlighting student placement opportunities and their trainee manager scheme.
3.15	Lisnasharragh and Brook LCs delivered Community Fun Days over the Christmas period and had over 600 people in attendance.
	<b>Older Participant Programmes</b>
3.16	At the end of 2022 17.8% of all Belfast members were aged 60+. Council continues to provide free of charge access for over 60's before 11.00am Monday to Friday.
3.17	GLL delivers a daily programme of activities targeted at and suitable for older people. The programme expanded month on month throughout 2022. Belfast benefits from a citywide pool programme that ensures there is always Swim for Fitness (lane swimming) and Swim for All (family casual swim) options available every day across the city. GLL continue to deliver an introductory physical activity programme suitable for members looking for a lower intensity/low impact workout. Walking groups have also become part of the mainstream group exercise offering so that they can be accessed by the wider membership and not just those on Physical Activity Referrals (PARS).
3.18	GLL deliver a number of active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as Danderball, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia and Water Polo. These are being delivered at Avoniel LC, Falls LC, Girdwood CH, Lisnasharragh LC, Olympia LC and Shankill LC. GLL have plans in place to expand the programme in 2023.
3.19	The Winter Wellness Scheme has been delivered in Girdwood CH and Brook LC, with over 40 different people attending. Winter Wellness one day pop up events have also been delivered in Olympia LC, Avoniel LC, Girdwood CH, Falls LC and Andersontown LC with over 40 people accessing the programme of sporting and social activities.

3.20	On Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September Girdwood CH hosted the Better Club Games. After two years of cancellations, due to Covid-19 restrictions, six centres were represented. A total of 62 participants took part in seven sports/activities throughout the day which included Pickleball, Table Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boccia and a selection of physical challenges. In addition to GLL staff there was also support from Northern Ireland Athletics, Northern Ireland Bowls and Ulster Badminton. Additional information is provided in Appendix 2.
3.21	GLL deliver chronic conditions (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.
3.22	Strategic partnerships and working groups (attended by CNS and GLL) are well established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.
3.23	Girdwood CH partners with Chest, Heart and Stroke Association in offering weekly low intensity exercise along with arts and crafts.
	<b>People with disabilities</b>
3.24	GLL support the social enterprise NOW group in the delivery of a 'Lets Get Fit Now' programme which takes place in Falls LC. This programme offers participants with a learning disability the opportunity to participate in tailored fitness classes and gym inductions.
3.25	In 2022 the NOW group contributed to the work in Olympia LC by running the café provision under their 'Loaf' brand.
3.26	Orchardville, who support people with a learning disability or autism to live, learn and work, operated the café spaces at Andersonstown LC, Lisnasharragh LC and Grove LC.
3.27	Girdwood CH in partnership with Disability Sport NI provides a dedicated disability sports hub catering for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling.
3.28	Whiterock LC supports disability groups in Upper Springfield by offering sports and fun fitness sessions twice per week.

3.29	Ballysillan LC and Girdwood CH support the Northern Ireland Powerchair Squad in their preparation for participation in the 2023 World Cup in Australia. In January 2022, Ballysillan LC hosted the Irish FA Powerchair football All Ireland Championships with over 200 participants in attendance.
3.30	The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 3 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will contribute to their individual coaching, travel, competition, and equipment costs.
3.31	Brook LC has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The centre runs six weekly 'quiet swims' currently attracting approximately 20 to 30 participants in each session. GLL engage with Swimming Buddies, an organisation that specialises in Autism friendly swimming lessons. Currently sessions are being offered throughout the week and the organisation is looking to expand into other areas of the city. Brook LC also supports the delivery of Air Venture inclusive sessions which are designed to meet the sensory requirements of participants.
	<b>Women &amp; girls</b>
3.32	45.5% of all current Belfast members are female (15,879).
3.33	In partnership with Irish FA, GLL provide female only football sessions at four centres across the city through the IFA Shooting Stars Programme.
3.34	GLL have supported Netball NI in the delivery of their social netball programme and are also in discussion about the potential for Lisnasharragh LC to become a regular training base for the senior international squad. GLL hope to deliver introduction to netball programmes in partnership with Netball NI in 2023.
3.35	GLL supports 69 female athletes through the GSF programme (55.2%) to enable them to compete at national and international level in their respective sports.
3.36	GLL works in partnership with WISPA in the delivery of female only classes at Andersonstown LC, Avoniel LC, Girdwood CH and Olympia LC.
3.37	Brook LC delivers an after schools multisport and fitness programme for girls and also works in partnership with local GAA clubs to deliver a 'Gaelic for mothers' programme.

	<b>Family programming</b>
3.38	GLL have created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate. GLL have created a basic group exercise offering which permits junior members to exercise with older family members.
3.39	Junior group exercise classes have been introduced into the group exercise timetable and GLL plan to expand this programme in 2023 subject to the availability of qualified staff. Adult and Child gym sessions have been added across the city which permits children as young as 9 to attend the gym as long as they are accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian.
3.40	Junior and family products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown LC, Air Venture at Brook LC and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh LC are all meeting the demands of families, particularly over the weekend and holiday periods.
3.41	Birthday parties are offered at all centres and represent good value for money. Provision includes bouncy castles, climbing wall, sports (indoor and outdoor) along with the new products mentioned above.
3.42	Wet centres provide family fun pool sessions, with floats and inflatables, as part of their weekly programme.
3.43	Brook LC offers weekly pool parties and family aqua aerobics sessions.
3.44	GLL continue to provide a citywide family membership which was first launched in August 2021. At the end of December 2022 there was 180 family memberships across Belfast which equates to 736 members.
	<u>Summary</u>
3.45	To consider and record receipt of the information provide above and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
	<u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u>
3.46	None
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>

3.47	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.48	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached (below)</b>
	Appendix 1 - GLL Summer programme report 2022 Appendix 2 – Better Club Games Report 2022

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## SUMMER PROGRAMME REPORT

Summer 2022

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**BETTER**

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### GLL Belfast Summer Scheme

#### Background

GLL in Belfast were delighted to see the return of the Summer Scheme programme after a break of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Recruitment commenced in April and nine Activity Supervisors and 36 Activity Instructors were selected to support the programme during July and August.

Eleven centres in total delivered the programme with eight centres delivering a traditional Summer Scheme model and the remaining three delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel, gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre and tennis was delivered at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex.

The traditional Summer Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools. In addition cooking was offered at Andersonstown Leisure Centre and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and new products such as Air Venture, Aqua Splash, Surf Belfast and Waterslides were offered at these specific centres.



*Image 1: Participants of Andersonstown and Whiterock Summer Schemes enjoying the activities*

A variety of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have supported GLL Summer Schemes in our centres that delivered a non sports specific offering.

Ulster Boxing delivered sessions for all children that attended our Summer Schemes across Belfast centres that had a traditional summer scheme. They delivered 50 sessions and attended centres from all corners of the city. Patrick Gallagher (Commonwealth Gold medallist) and Brendan Irvine (Olympian and European Silver medallist) delivered the sessions tailoring their coaching to suit the age and ability of the children.



*Image 2: Patrick Gallagher puts some young boxers through their paces at Olympia Leisure Centre*

Table Tennis Ulster delivered 15 sessions for children aged 7-14 in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and Grove Wellbeing Centre across the 5 weeks of their summer schemes. Sessions were taken by Jing Yi Gao (former Table Tennis Olympian) with the focus to get more kids involved in the sport and teach them the basic rules of the game.

Annadale Hockey Club delivered multiple sessions in Olympia Leisure Centre through their coach Philip Wilson. The sessions were delivered once a week to all summer scheme participants with the main focus being on having fun whilst learning basic hockey skills.

## Statistics

The programme offered an early drop off option at four of the centres. Interestingly this year the uptake was only 31.9% which was lower than in previous years with only 102 slots being booked. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,454 children which was 77.7% utilization of the spaces offered.

With the early drop off included 1,556 children were involved in GLL programmes this summer, representing 71% utilisation of the 2,192 spaces offered. 48.8% of the spaces take were from males and the remaining 50.1% from females and 1.1% for those that did not specific a gender. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 278 which represented 99.3% utilization, followed closely behind by Grove Wellbeing Centre with 205 (85.4%) and Olympia Leisure Centre 188 (94.0%). These figures do not include early drop off.

Further information can be found in figure 1 and 2 below.

Figure1: GLL Summer Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

CENTRE	5-7 years	8-10 years	11-14 years	Male	Female	Total
Andersonstown Leisure Centre	89	82	37	117	89	209
Ballysillan Leisure Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brook Leisure Centre	49	42	18	64	44	109
Falls Leisure Centre	31	27	9	71	43	93
Grove Wellbeing Centre	86	95	44	83	144	228
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre	97	111	83	98	173	302
Olympia Leisure Centre and Spa	71	94	43	113	92	213
Shankill Leisure Centre	63	44	38	87	59	141
Whiterock Leisure Centre	57	32	13	33	70	92
Belvoir Activity Centre	5	5	2	2	9	11
Avoniel	0	15	16	25	6	48
Indoor Tennis and Ozone	12	58	38	67	51	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>1,556</b>

Note that Ballysillan Leisure Centre did offer a Summer Scheme but due to limited numbers this did not take place at the centre. The Community Sport team redeployed staff members to Shankill Leisure Centre and encouraged children to transfer their reservation to this centre. This ensured that the numbers at Shankill were boosted and that all recruited staff were provided with an opportunity to work on the scheme this summer.

Figure2: GLL Summer Scheme Statistics – Capacity and Utilisation

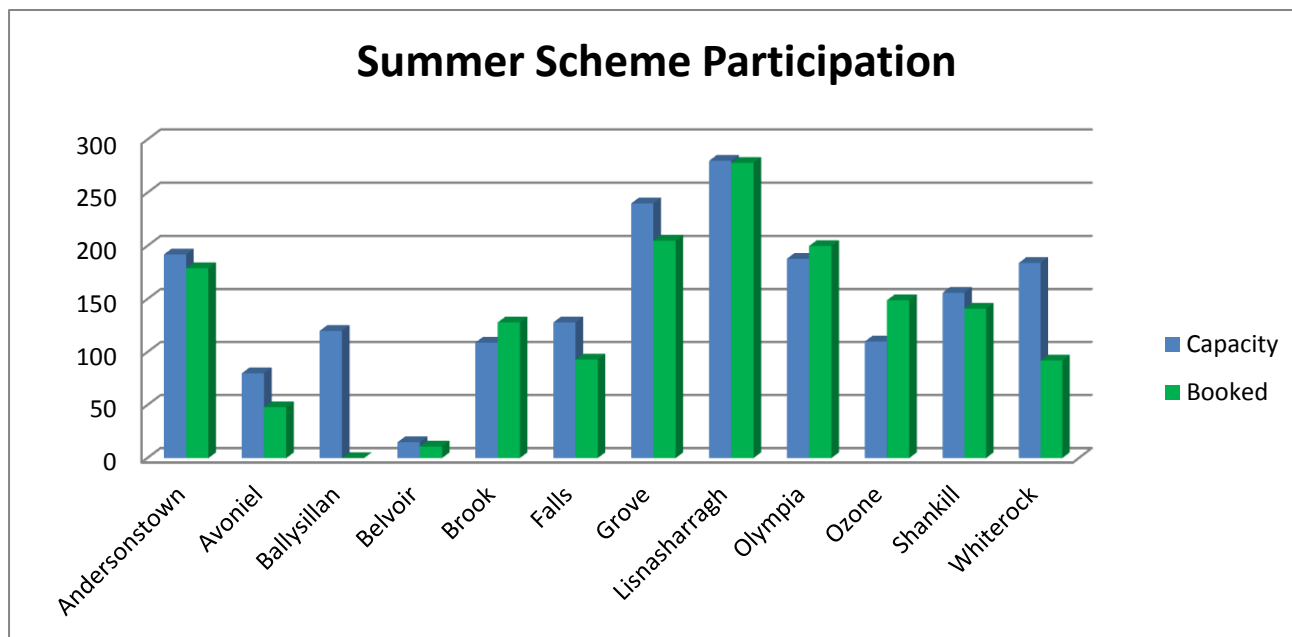


Image 3: Children learning to surf at Andersonstown Leisure Centre and playing table football at Shankill Leisure Centre



Image 4: Examples of art in Shankill Leisure Centre, boxing at Brook Leisure Centre and working in the community garden at Whiterock Leisure Centre



## Sports Specific Summer Schemes

### Belvoir Gymnastics Summer Scheme

The Belvoir Activity Centre Summer Scheme was delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August. The week involved 5 x 2 hour sessions delivered by two current GLL Level 1 gymnastics coaches and supervised by a Group Activity Instructor. The children had a range of ability so the sessions were structured in such a way that participants could be introduced to new skills, play fun games and develop core skills through instruction and play.

Eleven participants attended the scheme which represented 74% utilisation. 82% of the participants were female and 18% male. The age range of participants was from 5 to 12 years of age.

The scheme was designed to provide a sports specific option for those either current enrolled on GLL gymnastics programmes or who would be keen to enroll in September. The gymnastics programme in Belvoir Activity Centre took a break over the summer period and will resume on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

Avoniel delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 48 children attended the scheme which represented 60% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 8 to 10 and 11 to 14 age groups. Interestingly there were no participants aged between 5 to 7. 85% of these participants were male and 15% female.



Image 5: Bouncy Goalkeeper session @ Avoniel



Image 6: Collection of young footballers at the Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

### Ozone Tennis Summer Scheme

The Ozone Tennis Scheme was delivered for six weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August. 108 children participated in scheme representing 72% utilisation. 53% of participants were male and 47% female. The scheme was open to children aged between 5 and 14. 11% of participants were aged 5 to 7, 54% aged 8 to 10 and 35% aged 11 to 14.

GLL tennis coaches delivered the full programme which focused mostly on age specific tennis drills and fun games. The coaches also utilised the other facilities that Ozone had to offer such as Laser Quest and outdoor pitches.



*Image 7: Participants from the Ozone Summer Scheme participation in laser quest and dodgeball in their break time between tennis coaching*



### Summer Scheme Celebration Event

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August Olympia Leisure Centre was host to a Summer Scheme Celebration Event to mark the end of a successful summer programme. The day was supported by local social enterprise firm Loaf who provided catering for all children and coaches. The day welcomed 180 children from across six centres that were split into groups depending on age. The day began with the full group participating in a warm up lead by Olympia Leisure Centre Fitness Manager Ashleigh Baxter.



*Image 8: Children participate in warm up session and showcase the sports on offer at the celebration event*

After this the groups were sent to sports activity stations across the centre's sports hall, 3G pitch and studio. GLL enlisted the support of a number of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to deliver coaching sessions throughout the day. The participants rotated stations every 20 minutes so they could get a taste of all the sports on offer.

The NGBs included the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Netball NI, Ulster Badminton, NI Fencing, Antrim GAA and Athletics NI. Football sessions were also provided by local club Knockbreda and hockey session from Annadale Hockey Club.



*Image 9: Children participate in athletics and Gaelic games sessions at Summer Scheme celebration event*

GSF Athlete and British Para Olympic Athlete Eva Walsh Dann was present to support the children and provide her expertise coaching the athletics sessions. The event also welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Christina Black. Speaking about the event she said, "It's absolutely fantastic to see so many of our young people enjoying so many different sporting activities at today's Better sports day, with some of our national sporting partners. Taking part in sport is not only a great way of fulfilling an active and healthy lifestyle, it's also a brilliant way for young people to come together and meet new people and build friendships. I'm delighted to see the next generation using these facilities operated by our partner GLL who continue to deliver first class leisure provision for everyone across the city."



*Image 10: GSF Athlete Eve Walsh Dann with smiling Summer Scheme athlete and Belfast Lord Mayor Christina Black sparring with a young boxer*

The celebration event was a wonderful way to bring the summer of activity to a close and showcase the good work that had been delivered across the city in July and August. The Community Sports team in Belfast will review all aspects of delivery and consider feedback from participants, staff and partners as they formulate their summer plans for 2023.

The remainder of this report will highlight some of the other projects that were delivered across Belfast during June, July and August that formed part of our wider community engagement this summer.

## Aquatics Short Courses

During the months of July and August a selection of Swimming Short Courses were delivered in Belfast. Shankill Leisure Centre delivered the first programme on the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> July. Occupancy was 34 and 33 children attended through the week. This represented 85% utilisation of the 40 spaces available.

The next course was delivered in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre on the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August. Occupancy was 96 and 73 children attended through the week. This represented 76% utilisation of the 96 spaces available. The second of Lisnasharragh's course was delivered the following week. Occupancy was 68 and 61 children attended through the week. This represented 64% utilisation of the 96 spaces available.

The final courses were delivered the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> August at both Lisnasharragh and Shankill Leisure Centres. Lisnasharragh recorded an occupancy was 81 and 63 children attended through the week. This represented 66% utilisation of the 96 spaces available. Shankill recorded occupancy of 14 and 14 children attended through the week. This represented 58% utilisation of the 24 spaces available.

In total 293 spaces were booked on short swimming courses this summer and 244 children attended. The data can be viewed in figures 3 and 4 below.

Figure 3: Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre Short Course Data

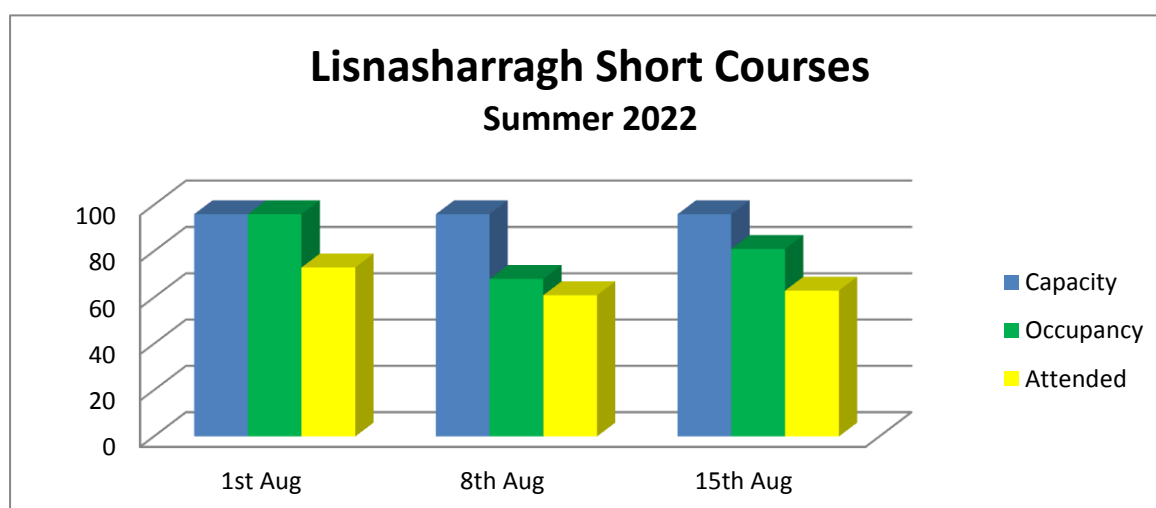
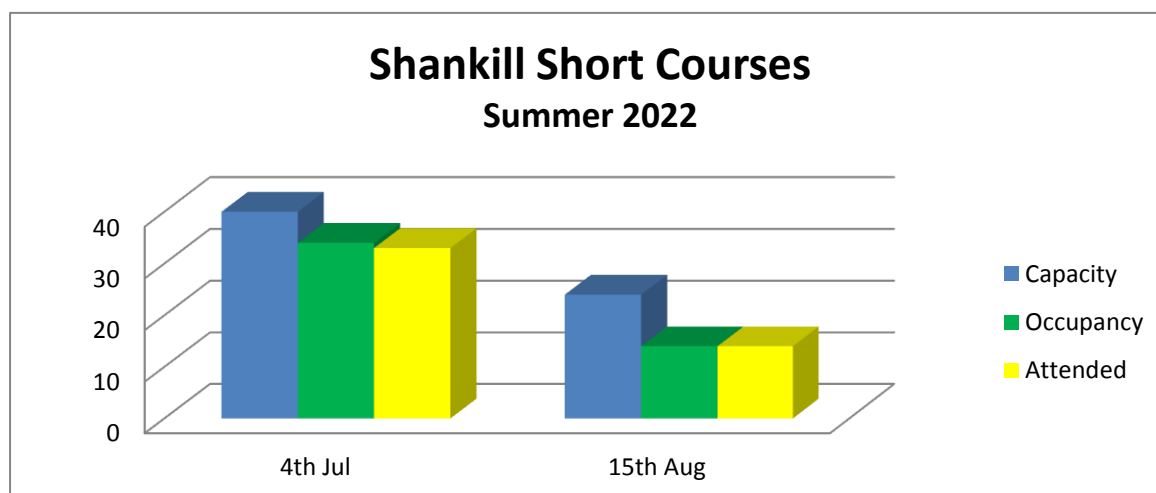


Figure 4: Shankill Leisure Centre Short Course Data





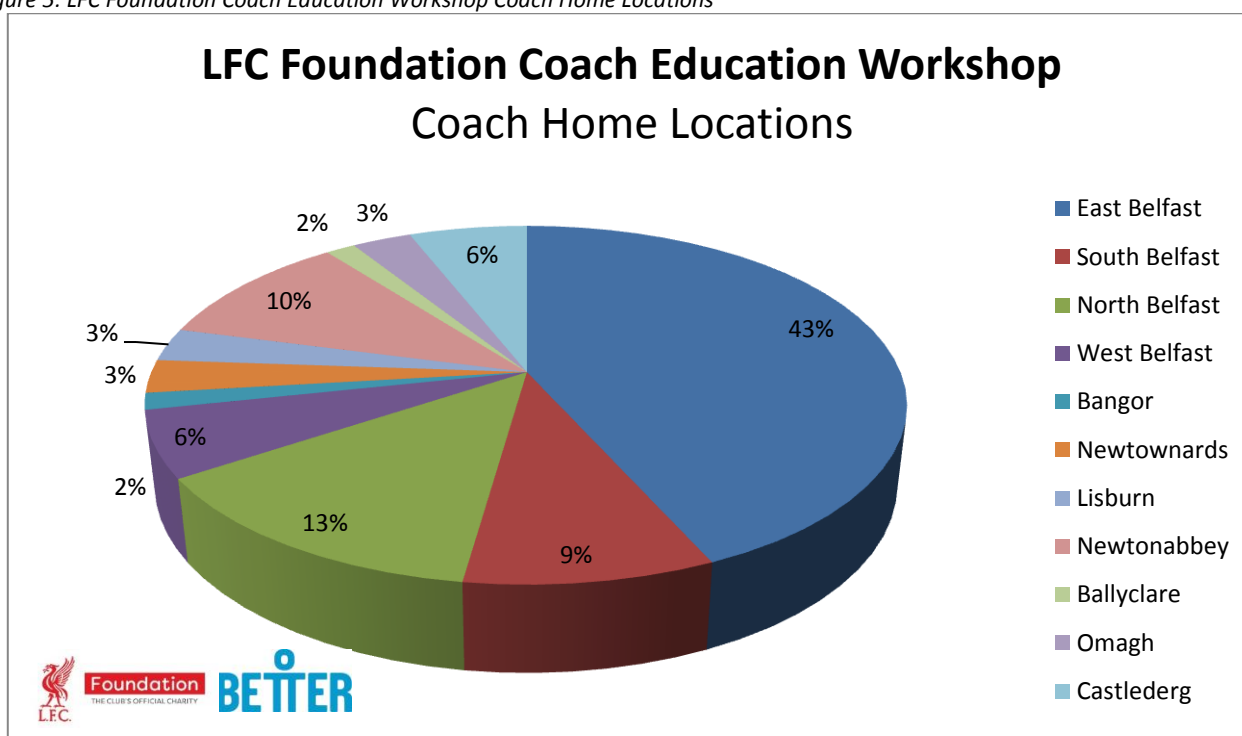
## Liverpool FC Foundation Partnership Programme

This summer GLL in Belfast worked in partnership with Liverpool Football Club Foundation to deliver a number of initiatives between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August. Eight members of the Foundation's health, sport and football, inclusion and skills team worked alongside GLL Community Sport staff to deliver a programme for local coaches and children. The programmes were delivered at Avoniel and Girdwood Community Hub.

A coach education CPD workshop was first delivered with GLL staff which covered theory elements of the 'Liverpool Way' with included presentations and group tasks which highlighted best practice in delivering mainstream, disability and inclusion coaching and explored other topics such as citizenship, wellbeing and mental health. Practical delivery was also provided which showcased drills and small sided games that would be delivered in a variety of Liverpool FC Foundation sessions across schools and community projects. This workshop was then delivered in the evening to local community coaches. Avoniel hosted both events which catered for over 50 coaches.

The coach education workshops were well supported from a cross section of the city as well as other parts of Northern Ireland. Over 71% of attendees were from Belfast, over 19% from surrounding council areas and the remaining 9% from further distances. The home locations of the coaches in attendance are outlined in figure 3 below.

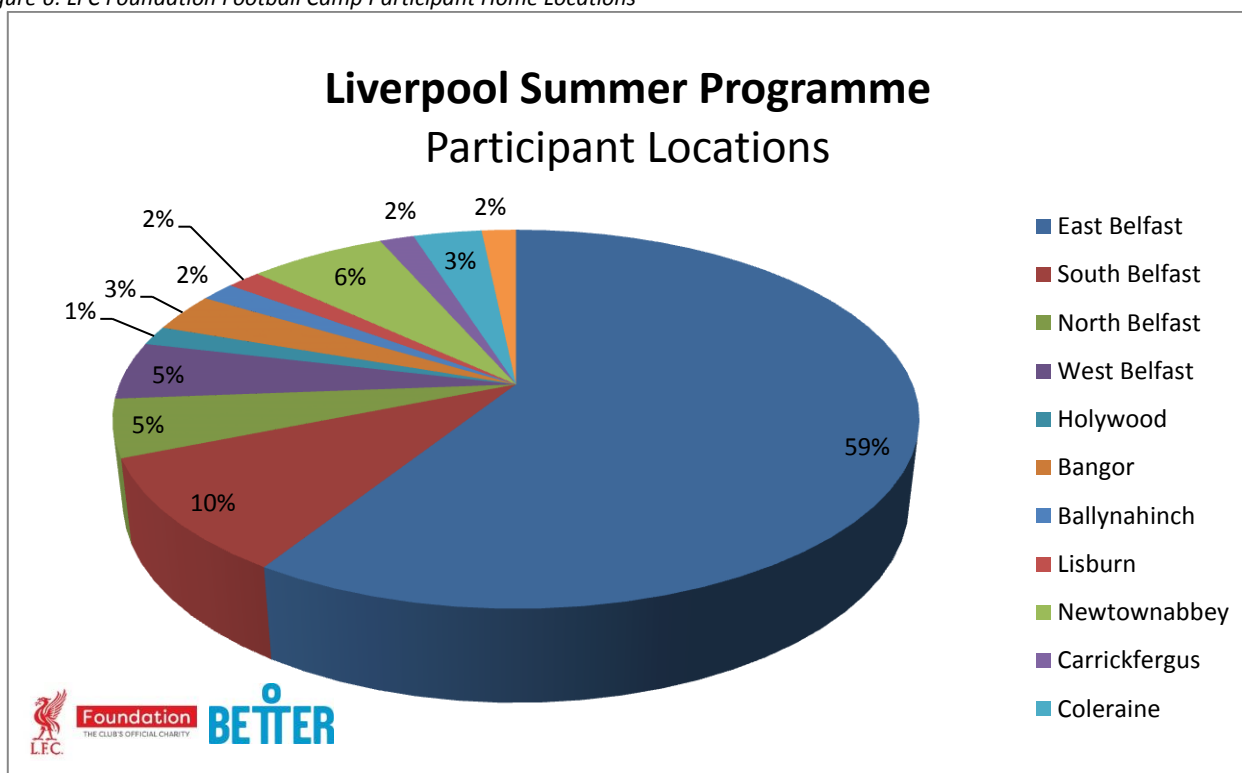
Figure 5: LFC Foundation Coach Education Workshop Coach Home Locations



On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August the Foundation staff shifted their attention to delivering a children's football camp at Girdwood Community Hub. 114 children participated in the project over the two days which included a mixture of skills stations, small sided games activities, matches and health and wellbeing workshops.

Almost 79% of participants were from Belfast with 59% of that coming from East Belfast. Similarly to the coach education workshops, the football camp did attract participants from outside the greater Belfast area with over 8% traveling beyond local neighbouring councils to attend the programme. The home locations of the children in attendance are outlined in figure 4.

Figure 6: LFC Foundation Football Camp Participant Home Locations



The success of both of these programmes highlighted the ‘power of the badge’ and how this partnership has the potential to reach far beyond GLL’s current presence in Belfast. GLL were able to partner with industry experts to deliver engaging and challenging content which arguably would not have been as well supported if just advertised as a GLL/Better programme.



Image 11: LFC Workshop delivery at Girdwood and GLL Belfast Community Sport meeting LFC Foundation Department heads at Olympia to plan the next steps of the partnership

The Belfast partnership has used this pilot experience to commence discussions about a more long term arrangement with the LFC Foundation which would result in project teams visiting Belfast regularly to deliver a variety of sport and diversionary programmes during the holiday periods of Easter, Summer and Halloween. In addition the partnership will provide regular coach education CPD opportunities in which GLL Belfast staff will be upskilled to improved football delivery for after schools projects across the city.

Finally the project will expand to train up staff to deliver a broad range of programmes which will include health and wellbeing, education and life skills, employment and training, youth interventions and community engagement.

### Local Community Group Summer Programmes

GLL have supported numerous organisations and community groups throughout the summer in all of our centres to deliver community events and sports programmes. Below are just some of the most significant events that took place in some of our centres.

#### Andersontown Leisure Centre

On 28<sup>th</sup> July YMCA Childcare visited from Derry/Londonderry to attend a waterslides session as part of their programme. This included 32 children aged between 4 and 9.



*Image12: Derry/Londonderry YMCA Childcare visit Andersonstown Leisure Centre to participate in waterslides session*

#### Avoniel

In June, Avoniel hosted Elmgrove Primary School's end of year Sports Day. Over 350 people were in attendance, including children and parents.

A Men's' Health Fair took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June coordinated by the Community Sports Network. The event included a Danderball tournament for senior men along with a health fair delivered in the centre studio space for participants to gain more details from eight health related organisations including our own healthwise team.

On the weekends of 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June, Clonduff Football Club hosted a series of four youth football tournaments. This included over 60 teams throughout the four days, with teams coming from across the city and further afield to attend. Clonduff FC also delivered a Family Fun Day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June in the outdoor caged pitches.

Sports Changes Life delivered a Good Relations Programme with six schools in a programme that lasted numerous weeks. As a celebration on the final week of the programme they hosted a sports day for all six schools at Avoniel on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. This included playing football, dodgeball and also an African Drums class. Over 200 children were in attendance and they were treated to a special visit from footballer players from Glentoran Football Club.

Avoniel hosted multiple football camps during the summer including the Irish Football Association, Playing for the Future, Clonduff FC and TW Sports Group.





*Image 13: African drum session delivered at Avoniel as part of the Sports Changes Life Good Relations Programme*

On 9<sup>th</sup> July, Avoniel attended the Eastside Partnership Family Fun Day at C.S. Lewis Square to help with the running of the event, promote Better and engage more with the local community.

The Digital Arts Academy ran a Minecraft Programme for three weeks over the summer period. 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August. 50 children engaged in the programme aged between 6 and 11. The programme gives children the opportunity to look at famous landmarks that exist in Belfast. They then create their own versions of the H and W cranes, Salmon of Knowledge and much more in their own bespoke Minecraft worlds. Across the weeks they also explored a range of subjects including music production, graphic design, photography, VR and Digital comic making. They also looked at music genres from different cultures and created unique stop motion and time lapse animations around their own identities.

Disability Sport NI ran a coach education workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> August which involved educating coaches on how to manage and coach children with autism while also raising awareness of autism. Over 15 adults were in attendance.

### Ballysillan Leisure Centre

The 3G pitch at Ballysillan hosted two Irish Football Association football camps over the weeks commencing 18<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August. Over 50 children were in attendance at each camp.



*Image 14: Young footballers enjoying the Irish FA Holiday Camps at Ballysillan*

### Brook Leisure Centre

Brook Leisure Centre hosted the Irish Football Association's Shooting Stars Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> June. All children from the girls only project across Belfast came together to celebrate at the end of the programme.

The Irish Football Association also delivered their School Girls tournament at Brook Leisure Centre on the two 3G pitches on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June in partnership with Electric Ireland. This included 20 teams from across Northern Ireland with an age range from 12-16 years old.

Brook Leisure Centre hosted multiple sports days for schools throughout June which included Holy Evangelists Primary and Scoil na Fuisseoige.

During the months of July and August, Brook Leisure Centre hosted several youth summer schemes in their Air Venture indoor inflatable. This included Lagmore Youth Project and Tullymore Youth Empowerment Project who both utilised the facility to celebrate the conclusion of their own summer schemes. In total several hundred participants from local youth summer schemes accessed the facility.

Westside Netball held their three day Netball camp from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July at Brook Leisure Centre. This camp catered for young females in the local area and the club used this opportunity to recruit new players for the coming season.

Brook Leisure Centre organised a female only 7-a-side football tournament on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July. This included ten teams from across Belfast. The centre worked in partnership with local restaurant Pizza Guyz who provided food for all participants involved.

Kelly's Roller Skating held their roller disco at Brook Leisure Centre on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August in which GLL members could book into and pay an additional fee. A range of ages took to roller skates in the centre sports halls as it was converted into a disco with accompanying lights and music. Over 115 people were in attendance.

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and Feile an Phobail worked together to deliver a Diversionary Day at Brook Leisure Centre. The NI Fire Service was in attendance and an old school sports day was facilitated for all participants to join in. Over 70 people were in attendance.



*Image 15: Female Football Competition and Diversionary Day activities at Brook Leisure Centre*

Lisburn Rangers Ladies delivered their summer football camp at Brook Leisure from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August. This included 50 girls playing football throughout the week.

As part of their partnership with Better in Belfast the Belfast Giants Ice Hockey squad took part in a hurling session delivered by Ulster GAA.

A group of 15 children from a local GAA club were on hand to support the Giants as they learned about the sport and challenged themselves to see if their hand eye coordination skills could cross between sports. The event took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August to announce continued partnership between Belfast Giants and GLL.

<https://www.belfastgiants.com/news/better-are-back>



Image 16: Belfast Giants sample hurling at Brook Leisure Centre

### Belvoir Activity Centre

Belvoir Activity Centre hosted an activity session in partnership with Squiggles & Giggles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August. This included children aged between 2-5 years old and their parents. The programme is about having fun based around Music & Movement for toddlers. The aim is to provide an outlet to explore movement whilst developing social skills in a fun, relaxed and inclusive environment.

### Falls Leisure Centre

Falls Leisure Centre hosted a Pickleball taster session on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July for 25 young children. This event offered the children involved the opportunity to try a new sport and the interest generated from the day has led to this activity being added to the centre programme for September.

### Girdwood Community Hub

Our Club, Our Community in partnership with TAMHI held their summer camps at Girdwood Community Hub from 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August, 10am – 1pm each day. They also delivered a programme called Girdwood 4 All summer intervention which ran in June to July every evening except Sunday from 6pm to 10pm.

Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues hosted a football tournament as part of the Newlodge festival on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

St Malachys Old Boys ran their summer camp at Girdwood Community Hub from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum in partnership with Personal Youth Development Programme had their summer scheme in Girdwood's shared space from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Lower Old Park Community Association utilised the Girdwood Community Hub to host Aunt Sandra's chocolate factory as part of their summer scheme.

Belfast Trust had their summer scheme at Girdwood from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July as they delivered a multi sports programme as part of the scheme.



Newlodge Arts hosted a summer drama scheme at Girdwood. A children's programme was delivered from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July and an adult scheme was facilitated from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

As part of the Newlodge Festival they used Girdwood Community for a Movie Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues hosted a wellbeing day and Colour Run alongside on North Belfast Harriers on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. There was also a junior boxing showcase by Ashton Centre and a Family Fun day in partnership with Newlodge Arts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Belfast City of Sanctuary hosted an exhibition centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June which had 210 people in attendance.

The Red Cross delivered a Refugee Week Integration Journey Event at Girdwood Community Hub on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June which was aimed at how to support refugees integrating into Northern Ireland. The event had over 150 people in attendance.

### Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted an Aqua Splash session every Thursday during the school summer holidays. Several hundred children and adults attended the wet inflatable sessions.

Local social enterprise Orchardvale catered for a number of events at Lisnasharragh, partnering up with the centre to help deliver the Commonwealth Games Day and the Lifeguard Top Team competition.

### Olympia Leisure Centre

Olympia Leisure Centre hosted an Irish Football Association Autism Awareness camp from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August which included 24 children from the local area.

### Whiterock Leisure Centre

Whiterock Leisure Centre assisted with a community fun day for the Whiterock community as part of the Féile on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Whiterock Leisure Centre also hosted a sponsored female only Aqua Aerobics programme during the summer in partnership with Upper Springfield Development and Women in Sport and Physical Activity.

### Celebration of Sport Event

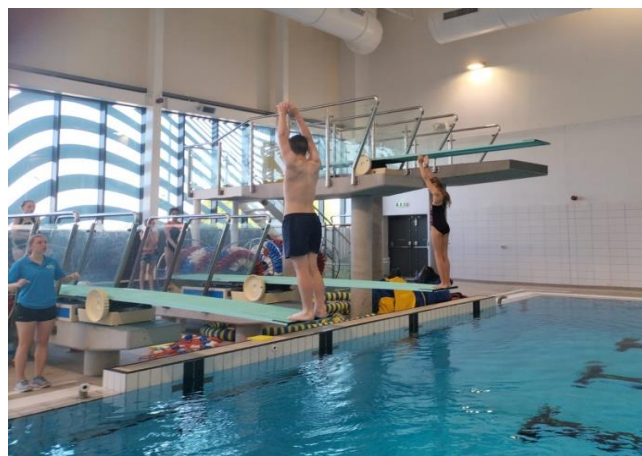
On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted a celebration of sport event to highlight the success of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and encourage local participants to try a number of new sports. The event catered for over 840 children and adults and all activities were provided free of charge.

Swim for All sessions were provided on the Saturday and Sunday with 723 people availing of free pool time on a weekend that was particularly hot. Drop in sessions were provided for racquet sports and 80 people participated in a mixture of badminton, pickleball and table tennis. These sessions were supported by local clubs and players to provide their expertise and explain the laws of the game.

Bookable sessions for diving and gymnastics were also provided which showcased new youth products that will be available in the centre from October onwards. 14 children participated in the diving session provided by Ulster Diving coach Alan Cogan and GLL qualified diving coach Dempsey Brown. 27 children took part in the gymnastics sessions delivered by GLL gymnastics coaches Daniel Leeb and Daniel Black.



*Image 17: Gymnastics tumbling sessions delivered as part of the Belfast Celebration of Sport event*



*Image 18: First time divers being coached by Alan Cogan (Ulster Diving) and Dempsey Brown (GLL)*



## Better Club Games

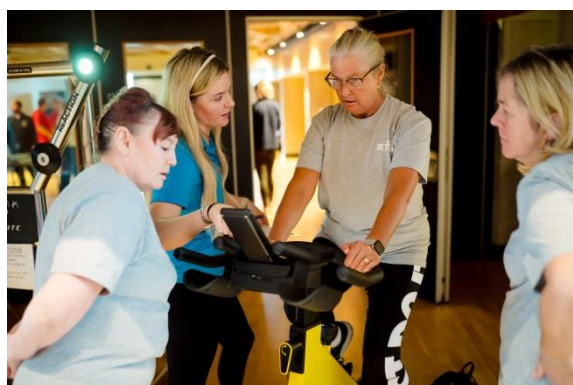
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September @ Girdwood Community Hub



On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September Girdwood Community Hub hosted the Better Club Games. 6 centres were represented at the event and a total of 62 participants.

7 sports/activities were on offer throughout the day which included pickleball, table tennis, athletics, badminton, bowls, boccia and a collection of physical challenges. In addition to GLL staff there was also support from Northern Ireland Athletics, Northern Ireland Bowls and Ulster Badminton.

The Better Club Games had not been delivered in Belfast since 2019 due to the pandemic so all in attendance we delighted to be back to compete on behalf of their centre and socialise with the other competitors.



Congratulations to Team Girdwood who were the overall winners. The group won 4 out of the 7 events so were worthy champions on the day. Please see the following list of winners:

## Better Club Games

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September @ Girdwood Community Hub



Boccia – Team Girdwood

Short Mat Bowls – Team Falls

Physical Challenge – Team Girdwood

Table Tennis – Team Avoniel

Badminton – Team Girdwood

Pickleball – Team Girdwood

Athletics – Team Shankill



The Belfast Community Sport and Health team organised and delivered the event. They were so appreciative of the centres and participants who took part and made the day a massive success. The staff at Girdwood Community Hub should also be congratulated for all their help and assistance in facilitating the day.



<b>Subject:</b>	GLL service report for 2022
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To present members with the annual GLL service report for 2022 as required within the terms of the leisure management contract and as previously reported through Active Belfast Limited.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information provided below and at Appendix 1. City &amp; Neighbourhood Services officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual service report for the preceding year. This report has previously been presented

	through Active Belfast Limited. As the contract is now under direct Council control, this and future annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.
3.2	GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand.
3.3	GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping to transform leisure facilities and services across the city. GLL seeks to deliver a successful social business focusing on customer needs. As a not-for-profit organisation, GLL reinvests back into the community by developing staff, investing in BCC centres, supporting young athletes and increasing participation across all user groups.
	<u>Outcomes and proposals</u>
3.4	<p>The 'GLL in 2022' document, attached at Appendix 1, highlights our key successes and challenges in 2022 focusing on the four guiding principles at the heart of our business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better People</li> <li>• Better Service</li> <li>• Better Communities</li> <li>• Better Business</li> </ul>
	<u>Summary</u>
3.5	Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided above and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
	<u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u>
3.6	None
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.7	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.8	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 GLL Service report for 2022



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# LEISURE IN BELFAST



Belfast  
City Council

**GLL**  
better for everyone

**BETTER**

GLL operate Belfast City Council owned leisure centres under the Better Brand

# INTRODUCTION

GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand. We work to provide the best leisure services available. Our mission is to get more people, more active, more often, in our 16 leisure centres and gyms across Belfast.

GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping transform leisure facilities across the city. To ensure our growth, we deliver a successful social business focusing on our customer's needs. As a Not for Profit organisation, we reinvest all our surplus back into the community by developing staff, investing in our centres, supporting young athletes and increasing junior and senior participation.

GLL manager 16 leisure facilities across Belfast.



This document highlights our key successes and challenges in 2022 focusing on the four guiding principles that sit at the heart of our business.

- [Better People](#)
- [Better Service](#)
- [Better Communities](#)
- [Better Business](#)



## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE...

WAVE MACHINE

6  
GROUP CYCLE  
STUDIOS

INDOOR  
INFLATABLE

SOFT PLAY  
AREA

9  
SWIMMING  
POOLS

3  
HIGH SPEED  
WATERSLIDES

41  
BADMINTON COURTS

CLIMBING WALL

5  
STEAM ROOMS

LASER  
QUEST

8  
3G PITCHES

3  
CAFES

OVER  
1,000  
GYM STATIONS

4  
AUSTRALIAN OPEN STANDARD  
TENNIS COURTS

SURF  
SIMULATOR

CONFERENCE  
FACILITIES

9  
SAUNAS

WATER BASED  
INFLATABLE

14  
5-A-SIDE PITCHES

17  
GROUP EXERCISE STUDIOS

1  
7-A-SIDE PITCH

# BETTER SERVICE

- Putting the customer at the heart of our business helped us increase our memberships to 34,897.
- Prepaid membership increased by 3,454 in 2022 which represents a 20% improvement as prepaid membership broke beyond 20,000 for the first time in Belfast.
- Concessionary membership options across all centres offered more affordable access to leisure for all sectors of the community.
- Spa Experience, our award winning day spa is accessible and affordable for the whole community.
- Over 17,000 customers participated in our UK annual user survey giving us a 4.0 satisfaction rate out of 5, which we will continue to work to increase.
- 11 centres achieved Quest – The UK Quality Accreditation for Sport and Leisure and is a tool to help us offer 5 star service every time.
- Girdwood Community Hub hosted a range of conference, theatrical and sporting events. It now completes with established and versatile venues across the region.
- Top Team Life Guard competition was hosted at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and included participants from two other local government authorities as well as partnerships from England.
- Over 5,000 children take part in swimming lessons every week learning a key life skill. This represents a 23% increase from the previous year.
- Supported 125 GSF athletes to enable them to compete at national or international level in their respective sports. Three athletes brought home Commonwealth Gold in August 2022.

**20%**  
**INCREASE IN PRE**  
**PAID MEMBERS**

**23%**  
**INCREASE IN**  
**SWIM SCHOOL**  
**MEMBERS**

**11**  
**CENTRES**  
**ACHIEVED QUEST**

**4.0**  
**SATISFICATION**  
**RATE**



GLL Customer Service Centre located in the heart of the city and servicing the UK



GLL Communications Day Prizes



Making a splash at the waterslides at Andersonstown Leisure Centre



Team Olympia competing at the Top Team Lifeguard event



GSF Athlete and Ambassador Aidan Walsh with his Commonwealth Gold Medal



Children take part in a Junior Exercise Class delivered by specialist instructors

# BETTER PEOPLE

- We employ 701 staff with over 85% living in the Belfast area.
- We have worked to create an environment where our staff understand the importance of our social enterprise message.
- We continue to invest in our staff with a comprehensive internal and external training and development programme delivering various courses from National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification, Pool Plant Operator to Coaching & Mentoring Leadership programmes. We also have an array of online training courses available to all staff across the business.
- A coaching and mentoring programme was created to support team work and motivation among staff across the city.
- We recruited 45 Children's Activity staff to deliver Holiday Schemes to 1,454 children at 10 centres.
- Our 2 year Trainee Manager Development Programme is in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, with 4 new recruits joining us each year to gain experience across all areas of the business.
- We recruited 2 student coach placements to work within our Community Sport team, delivering a variety of young and senior sport and physical activity programmes.
- Absentee rates remained a focal point and whilst sitting slightly above the Company average we are actively working with management teams to reduce high sickness levels.
- We made improvements to our self-service Human Resources management and payroll system continuing to give staff more control and access to their personal information.
- Staff to income ratio continued to reduce from 193% in 2016 to 94.7% in 2022, with an ongoing focus on the management of absence levels.
- We have been shortlisted in various awards in 2022 with Jacqui Pope winning Emerging Leader at the Social Enterprise NI Awards and Customer Service centre winning Customer Service Excellence in the Belfast Business Awards.
- The importance of providing fully qualified staff was again championed at the Top Team Lifeguard event with participation from 40 staff from across Northern Ireland and England.
- We recognised the contribution of our teams at the GLL Communications Day with over 150 nominations for local staff awards. Held in the Clayton Hotel this year we had a record 370 in attendance.

# BETTER COMMUNITIES

- We continued to offer our services to all user groups and actively promoted people getting involved in physical activity.
- Our GLL Sports Foundation supported 125 local athletes with over £70,000 bursaries, injury rehabilitation, education assistance and free memberships to all 16 centres.
- 1,454 children from across the city enjoyed our Summer Schemes, taking part in activities such as football, swimming, dodge ball, tennis, basketball and arts and crafts.
- Our 12 week Healthwise exercise referral programme helped 923 people referred through their GP to increase physical activity and rehabilitate from cardia, cancer, coronary, obesity and other health related issues.
- The return of Club Games saw 62 participants from 6 teams of over 55s competing in a range of sports and activities including pickleball, table tennis, athletics, badminton, bowls, boccia and a collection of physical challenges.
- Girdwood Community Hub continues to service as a disability sports hub in partnership with Belfast City Council and Disability Sports NI.
- Our Move More programme in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support worked with 150 people who survived or are living with cancer.
- We deliver a number of active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as danderball, pickleball, table tennis, boccia and water polo.
- Developed a partnership with Liverpool Football Club Foundation to deliver a holiday camps with community relations messages and coach education CPD workshops for local volunteer coaches.
- Warm Places and Winter Wellness programmes delivered in 6 centres and engaging with over 100 residents aged 40 and over.





Meeting room at the new Avoniel



Health Referral Manager Victoria Irving working with a Healthwise participant



Participants play a game of Pickleball at the Club Games at Girdwood Community Hub



Belfast Lord Mayor takes part in a boxing session at the Olympia Summer Scheme



Aqua Splash inflatable at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre



Better employees take part in the Belfast City Marathon

# BETTER BUSINESS

- Our continued social impact is only possible through sound business practice. We grew our memberships and usage while continuing to offer a variety of concessionary options for everyone.
- £215,000 investment in a new reception area, changing rooms and replacements flooring in the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex.
- £21,000 investment in new social areas at Falls Leisure Centre and Whiterock Leisure Centre.
- £130,000 investment in LED lighting at Whiterock Leisure Centre, Grove Wellbeing Centre, Belvoir Activity Centre and Ballysillan Leisure Centre ensuring facilities become more energy efficient.
- £102,000 investment in new gym equipment at Olympia Leisure Centre, Girdwood Community Hub, Brook Leisure Centre and Better Gym Connswater.
- Digital innovation helped attract new customers and compete with other operators in leisure with 93% of bookings being made online and 89% of members joining online.
- 46,300 people engaged with the Better brand across social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Increased professional profile through memberships and award applications of business networks including Social Enterprise NI, Women in Business, Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officers of the Third Sector.





5-a-side Tournament at Avoniel



Young person catches a wave at  
Andersonstown Leisure Centre



Working with Social Enterprise Orchardville  
to deliver café service across the city



Bouncing fun at Brook Leisure Centre on  
Air Venture



Reception refurbishments at Indoor Tennis  
Centre at Ozone Complex



Belfast Head of Service Jacqui Pope at the  
Aisling Bursaries



# LOOKING FORWARD IN 2023

- **Better People** – We will ensure that our staff are well trained and customer focused, while continuing to better themselves. We will continue to offer staff exciting pathways to develop within the company and build a career. We will continue to expand our team and expertise as we prepare for the opening of Templemore Baths in 2023.
- **Better Communities** – Our focus remains on encouraging those in our community who are less active to become involved in physical activity. These initiatives will target juniors, over 55s, women and people with a disability. Our GLL Sports Foundation continues to grow and we will support over 125 local athletes. We will develop a wide variety of holiday schemes to encourage more children to try new sports and activities.
- **Better Service** – We continue to offer clean, friendly and modern facilities, using technology and innovation to benefit our customers. We will continue to expand our group exercise programme bringing a wider range of activities to suit everyone from juniors to senior participants.
- **Better Business** – We will continue to operate high quality facilities that embrace technology and meet our customer's needs. We will continue to invest in centres outside the Leisure Transformation Programme ensuring they continue to cater for the needs of the local community. We look forward to launching another new centre in Templemore Baths and will celebrate the next phase of completion within the Leisure Transformation Programme. We will continue to offer a range of membership options suitable for all members of our community to help them become involved in physical activity.

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<b>Subject:</b>	GLL current inclusivity programming and future development plans
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide members with an update on current leisure centre inclusivity programming and future development/expansion plans including a specific update on engagement with Swimming Buddies.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and record receipt of the information update provided below.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	At the People and Communities committee on 6 <sup>th</sup> December, Members requested that a report on inclusivity programming and future development initiatives be presented at its April

	meeting. Members further requested on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023 that an update on the current relationship with 'Swimming Buddies' be brought back at a later date.
3.2	This report seeks to cover both updates and is based on management information provided by GLL.
3.3	GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of their core priorities is to ensure full access for all members of the community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often. CNS officers work closely with GLL to review provision and continue to improve facilities to ensure that our facilities and services are inclusive for all.
3.4	GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of the core priorities of GLL is to ensure full access for all members of the community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often. GLL continue to improve facilities and review programming to ensure our facilities and services are inclusive for all.
	<u>Outcomes and proposals</u>
	<b>Memberships and customer initiatives</b>
3.5	GLL offer an inclusive membership for people with a disability. The membership offers access to gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes at a discounted rate. There is currently 327 prepaid members accessing this option within Belfast.
3.6	BCC/GLL grant free of charge admission to centres for all carers when accompanying the person in their care. Carers can then support the person in their care in accessing the gym, pool or group exercise class.
3.7	GLL operates the JAM Card scheme which allows people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need a little extra time and understanding. The scheme was originally developed by and for those with learning difficulties and disabilities but has now expanded to include anyone with a hidden disability or communication barrier. GLL management and concierge staff are trained to operate the scheme within all Belfast centres.

3.8	Most of the new LTP leisure facilities include a 'Changing Places' facilities. These accessible changing/toilets were created to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who require carer support, specialist equipment and more space.
3.9	BCC centres currently provide 'Poolpods' in 8 pools across the city. These pool platform lifts have transformed pool access and are used by customers with a variety of mobility issues to safely access the water.
3.10	GLL in partnership with Belfast City Council provide services at our facilities to meet the physical and communications needs of people with disabilities, including those with impaired hearing.
3.11	GLL work with Technogym to provide accessible gym equipment. Machines such as arm bikes and cable crossovers can be utilised by participants with a variety of mobility and other physical disabilities.
	<b>Programming</b>
3.12	Girdwood CH in partnership with Disability Sport NI provides a dedicated disability sports hub catering for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling.
3.13	Whiterock LC supports disability groups in Upper Springfield by offering sports and fun fitness sessions twice a week.
3.14	GLL supports the social enterprise 'NOW Group' in the delivery of a 'Let's Get Fit Now' programme in Falls LC. The programme offers participants with learning difficulties the opportunity to participate in tailored fitness classes and gym inductions.
3.15	GLL supports the Irish FA in the delivery of inclusive camps during holiday periods. These programmes have been delivered in Avoniel LC, Girdwood CH and Olympia LC. GLL will continue to work in partnership with the national governing body to support the ongoing development of these initiatives.
3.16	Ballysillan LC and Girdwood CH support the Northern Ireland Powerchair Squad in their preparation for participation in the 2023 World Cup in Australia. In January 2022, Ballysillan

	LC hosted the Irish FA Powerchair football All Ireland Championships with over 200 participants in attendance.
3.17	The swimming pool at Brook LC has been specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The programme includes specialist teaching sessions (delivered by GLL and independent user groups) alongside weekly 'quiet swims' currently attracting 20 to 30 participants in each session.
3.18	Brook LC also supports the delivery of 'Air Venture' inclusive sessions which are designed to meet the sensory requirements of participants. This provision has expanded to include a number of special needs schools and support their physical education delivery.
3.19	The Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex supports the delivery of wheelchair user sessions. This is delivered by a group called 'Spokes in Motion' and the centre team have established a long-term relationship with the programme. GLL staff have been trained to meet the specific needs of participants in this programme.
3.20	GLL lessons and courses are all inclusive with staff trained to be able to coach participants with both physical and learning disabilities. In cases of complex conditions participants are encouraged to avail of the one-to-one coaching support provided by GLL.
3.21	GLL's Healthwise team delivers chronic conditions (Cancer & Cardiac) and Musculo-skeletal rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people who often extend their initial intervention into ongoing continuation/retention programmes and ultimately on to full leisure centre memberships.
3.22	GLL deliver a number of active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as Danderball, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia and Water Polo. These are being delivered at Avoniel LC, Falls LC, Girdwood CH, Lisnasharragh LC, Olympia LC and Shankill LC. GLL have plans in place to expand the programme in 2023.

	<p><b>Staff Training</b></p>
3.23	Swimming Buddies have provided Autism Awareness training to the team at Brook LC to ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to deliver inclusive sessions in both the sensory pool and Air Venture environments.
3.24	GLL are considering a proposal from Swimming Buddies to deliver this CPD accredited training throughout the city. In addition, GLL are considering enrolling some of their swimming teachers onto the Swimming Buddies swimming teacher course with the view of establishing 'all abilities' specific swimming lessons within the current GLL Swim School programme. This could support the development of more inclusive swimming lessons across the city at an affordable price.
3.25	All GLL staff will complete online Equality Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Training via the Flex Training portal. Centre management have been tasked with encouraging their teams to complete this training in 2023.
	<p><b>Swimming Buddies</b></p>
3.26	Swimming Buddies is a commercial business that specialises in Autism friendly swimming lessons although this has now expanded to accommodate individuals with 'other abilities'. Sessions are currently being offered at Brook LC and the organisation is keen to expand into other areas of the city including other BCC pools. In addition to existing pool allocations at Brook LC, 30 additional lane hours have been offered at Falls LC, Olympia LC, Shankill LC, Whiterock LC and Templemore Baths. CNS and GLL senior officers are engaged in ongoing discussions with Swimming Buddies to explore opportunities to develop and expand services including, in addition to pool sessions, supported dry activities and staff training.
3.27	Andersontown LC have also engaged with Swimming Buddies to explore opportunities for the delivery of inclusive waterslide sessions and will look to add these to the programme in 2023. This will include advice about how to deliver sessions and the delivery of CPD accredited training for GLL staff.
3.28	Pool programming is a challenging area of centre management. The service caters for many and varied pool user groups, often with competing demands and priorities. CNS works very closely with GLL to ensure that the principles set out in the Councils Aquatics Strategy are

	<p>observed. Competing priorities include swim for all access (casual swimming), fitness lane swimming, competitive swim clubs, teaching lessons, schools swimming, specialist lessons for those with special needs, water polo, diving, aquarobics, canoeing, sub-aqua, triathlon, and many more.</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p>
3.29	<p>Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information update provided above.</p> <p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p>
3.30	<p>None</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.31	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.32	<p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None





<b>Subject:</b>	Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, City & Neighbourhood Services Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, City & Neighbourhood Services

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on changes to BCC's list of defibrillators previously agreed through BCC's Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme in 2016/2018 and a request for inclusion of two further locations on the list of priority sites for future provision.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the changes in regard to previously agreed defibrillator locations - the removal of the Woodlands Playing Fields and Ulidia Playing Fields defibrillator designations as 'publicly accessible', and the installation of Council's device previously located at Ulidia Playing Fields to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In response to a request from Edenderry Residents Association for Council to install and take on the management of an externally funded defibrillator device - to agree the inclusion of 2 further BCC sites on our 'priority list for future public access defibrillator provision' – Edenderry Village Playground and Hannahstown Village Playground given their unique status as rural villages within our Council boundary.</li></ul>						
3.0	<b>Main report</b>						
	<b><u>Background</u></b>						
3.1	Between 2016 and 2018 Council successfully implemented a Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme through three phases which saw the installation of a total of 22 defibrillators at 14 of our parks and playing field sites across the city. Although the first two phases were funded internally, its third phase of 8 devices was made possible thanks to an external donation received from the family of the late Mark Murphy.						
3.2	Following the success of the programme, at March 2018 People and Communities Committee, Members agreed a further list of 8 priority park/playing fields sites (as well as 8 Community Centres) to be the focus of any future provision as money became available.						
3.3	Given the resource implications associated, not only with the purchase of devices (circa £1,400 per unit), and with their long-term daily management and maintenance to ensure 'emergency ready' at all times – the focus of the programme has continued to on sites that contain recreational facilities, and have significant public access or high footfall; with final agreement for installation at the sites agreed also being subject to officer identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply; and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators in proximity.						
3.4	<b>Public Access Defibrillator Provision Programme (2018)</b> <table><tr><th>Phases 1-3 Defibrillators Installed (BCC Parks /Playing Fields)</th><th>Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Parks/ Playing Fields)</th><th>Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Community Centres)</th></tr><tr><td>-Victoria Park -Waterworks Park -Fullerton Park -Tullycarnet Park -Boucher Road Playing Fields -Falls Park -Botanic Park</td><td>-Dunville Park -Sally Gardens -Sir Thomas and Lady - Dixon Park -Blythefield -Dixon Playing Fields</td><td>-Cregagh Community Centre -Dee Street Community Centre -North Queen Street Community Centre</td></tr></table>	Phases 1-3 Defibrillators Installed (BCC Parks /Playing Fields)	Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Parks/ Playing Fields)	Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Community Centres)	-Victoria Park -Waterworks Park -Fullerton Park -Tullycarnet Park -Boucher Road Playing Fields -Falls Park -Botanic Park	-Dunville Park -Sally Gardens -Sir Thomas and Lady - Dixon Park -Blythefield -Dixon Playing Fields	-Cregagh Community Centre -Dee Street Community Centre -North Queen Street Community Centre
Phases 1-3 Defibrillators Installed (BCC Parks /Playing Fields)	Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Parks/ Playing Fields)	Agreed priority sites for future installation (BCC Community Centres)					
-Victoria Park -Waterworks Park -Fullerton Park -Tullycarnet Park -Boucher Road Playing Fields -Falls Park -Botanic Park	-Dunville Park -Sally Gardens -Sir Thomas and Lady - Dixon Park -Blythefield -Dixon Playing Fields	-Cregagh Community Centre -Dee Street Community Centre -North Queen Street Community Centre					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Grove Playing Fields</li> <li>-Cherryvale Playing Fields</li> <li>-Blanchflower Stadium</li> <li>-Wedderburn Playing Fields</li> <li>-Woodvale Playing Fields</li> <li>-Henry Jones Playing Fields</li> <li>-Woodlands Playing Fields*</li> <li>-City of Belfast Playing Fields</li> <li>-Ormeau Park</li> <li>-Orangefield Park</li> <li>-Shore Road Playing Fields</li> <li>-Suffolk Playing Fields</li> <li>-Strangford Playing Fields</li> <li>-Loughside Playing Fields</li> <li>-Musgrave Park</li> <li>-Ulidia Playing Fields*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alderman Tommy Patton Park</li> <li>-Clarendon Playing Fields</li> <li>-Glenbank Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ardoyne Community Centre</li> <li>-Hammer Community Centre</li> <li>-Highfield Community Centre</li> <li>-Morton Community Centre</li> <li>-Markets Community Centre</li> </ul>
	<p><i>* Device no longer categorised as publicly accessible</i></p>		
3.5	<p><u>Removal of 'publicly accessible' designation for two Council defibrillators</u></p> <p>Two of the previously installed defibrillators i.e., Ulidia Playing Fields and Woodlands Playing Fields, are no longer considered to be 'publicly accessible' given that site access is restricted to hours of bookings – and therefore we are now required to remove these sites from Council's list of 'publicly accessible defibrillators. Members should note that this will not impact the availability of devices at these locations as the intention is to retain the Woodlands Playing Fields in situ under continued Council management, and Rosario FC will continue to manage their own defibrillator onsite at Ulidia Playing Fields.</p>		
3.6	<p><u>Relocation of Ulidia Playing Fields device to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park</u></p> <p>The surplus Ulidia Playing Fields defibrillator has provided an opportunity for installation at a new location from our list of priority park and playing field sites. Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park in south Belfast has been selected as this new location following requests from the community for a device to be placed there after a recent medical emergency within the park, as well as officer's confirmation of a suitable location by the café at the Stables building.</p>		

3.7	<p><u>Proposed addition of two sites onto list for future public access defibrillator provision</u></p> <p>Members are asked to agree the inclusion of two further Council sites on the list of priority Council park/playing fields sites identified for future public access defibrillator provision, on availability of funding – Edenderry Village Playground and Hannahstown Playground and the widening out of the focus of the programme to date (i.e. sites demonstrating significant public access or high footfall) to include these two rural villages in reflection of unique peripheral locations within our council boundary.</p>
3.8	<p>A proposal to include these sites follows a request for the installation of a defibrillator at Edenderry Village Playground, with the device itself to be made available from Edenderry Residents Association. As one of the city's only two villages the rationale for a publicly accessible device is the location's lack of proximity to other publicly accessible devices (closest device 2 miles away by car). In addition, high footfall on Lagan Valley Park walking trails in and around the village are demonstrated by adjacent Giants Ring historical monument and Minnowburn each welcoming over 190,000 visitors in 2021.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Should members agree to the inclusion of the two rural sites Edenderry Residents Association will provide the defibrillator device. All other costs associated with this proposal are included within existing revenue estimates.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for dual language street signs
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for four existing streets within the city.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	As at least fifteen percent of the total numbers of persons surveyed in the streets are in favour of the proposal to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Lake Glen Drive, Lagmore Dale, Iris Walk and Abyssinia Street the Committee is asked to consider the applications.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

3.2

Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.

3.3

English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed
Lake Glen Drive, BT11 8TF	Céide Ghleann an Locha	Off Falls Road	72
Lagmore Dale, BT17 00TQ	Gleanntán an Laig Mhóir	Off Stewartstown Road	414
Iris Walk, BT12 7BX	Siúlán na Seileastar	Off Springfield Avenue	30
Abyssinia Street, BT12 4LY	Sráid na hAibisíne	Off Leeson Street	24

3.4

The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.5

In accordance with the Council’s policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

3.6

**Lake Glen Drive, BT11**

- 18 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 54 occupiers (75%) did not respond to the survey

	<p><b>Lagmore Dale, BT17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 152 occupiers (37%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (1%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 260 occupiers (62%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p><b>Iris Walk, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 occupiers (43%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 17 occupiers (57%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p><b>Abyssinia Street, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 occupiers (21%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 19 occupiers (79%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, in order to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £1,650 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
3.9	<p>The initial assessment has not identified any adverse impact.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for the use of Parks for 2023 events
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>Committee is asked to note that Council has received several requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2023 and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardens</li> <li>ii. Lantern Parade – Alexandra Park</li> <li>iii. Chinese Language School – Ormeau Park</li> <li>iv. Gospel Van Ministry – Ballysillan Park</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Council's Commercial Manager;</li> <li>ii. Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' &amp; take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction.</li> <li>- The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.2	The committee is also asked to note that other event requests are likely to be submitted to the department during the period that Committee and Council are in recess. Committee are asked to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to consider and approve any such event requests during this time. The Director will liaise with the Chief Executive of Council where appropriate.
2.3	Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Council's Commercial team.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of each event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.
3.2	<p><b><u>Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardens</u></b></p> <p>Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with ArtsEkta, the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly adds to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The event requires the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility at times to allow for set up and de-rig. The key dates required are as follows:</p>

	<p>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Site Build</p> <p><b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Live Event</b></p> <p>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – De-rig</p> <p>In addition, since 2013 the Mela has been engaged with a highly successful strategic partnership with Belfast City Council in relation to enhancing cultural provision in council's parks and open spaces. With this strategic partnership there has been an annual funding package of £20,000 offered in support of the event in terms of promoting one of the city's key outdoor spaces – Botanic Gardens as an accessible, welcoming and shared space. This year's funding contribution was agreed at the March Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>3.3 <u>North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park</u></b></p> <p>The North Belfast Lantern Festival event is led by Ashton Community Trust and delivered by New Lodge Arts as part of the North Belfast Community Pride Programme. The event is supported by a variety of funding sources. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year that this event has been organised and the seventh year at Alexandra Park. The event activities, at Alexandra Park, will involve a firework display, live music stage, walkabout acts, amusements, street performers, art workshops and refreshment stalls.</p> <p>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Site Build</p> <p><b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October &amp; Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Event Dates</b></p> <p>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October – De-rig</p> <p><b>3.4 <u>Chinese Language School 40 years anniversary celebration – Ormeau Park</u></b></p> <p>The Chinese Language School NI have requested the use of Ormeau Park to host their 40-year anniversary celebration.</p> <p>The event organiser has requested the use of Ormeau Park on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 9am to 7pm. Although this date is during the Belsonic residency, there is no live concert taking place on this date and the area requested by the Chinese Language School does not fall within the concert area or arena.</p> <p>The event organisers plan to hold this event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Chinese Language School NI. Chinese Language School has currently nearly 300 children aged from 5yrs to 18yrs across Norther Ireland. The event will include live performances in the</p>
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	<p>band stand along with other children's entertainment, such as face painting, balloon modelling, bouncy castles, origami, dragon dance and Chinese calligraphy.</p> <p>The event organiser has also expressed their interest in hiring the pavilion to access the kitchen and toilet facilities for the families. This however will be dependent on the outdoor bowling schedule and may not be possible. In that event, the organiser will need to make alternative arrangements. The event is open to pre-booked ticket holders only with all proceeds being donated to the Chinese Language School, a registered charity. Because this event is closed to members of the public and an entrance fee is being charged; a small hire fee for use of the park may be negotiated in consultation with the Council's Commercial Manager</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Gospel Van Ministry – Ballysillan Park</u></b></p> <p>The event organisers for the Gospel Van Ministry have requested the use of Ballysillan, Park specifically the car park at Ballysillan Leisure Centre, to deliver their outdoor Gospel Service</p> <p>The organisers have requested the use of the car park from Sunday 20th August until Sunday 3rd September 2023. Services will take place daily starting at 7pm and ending at 9pm. The gospel had previously taken place in the park in 2021.</p> <p>The gospel van ministry for many years have organised outdoor drive-in church and ministry services and have a dedicated and experienced team to deliver these events. Each service normally lasts around 60 minutes with set up and take down time roughly lasting 30 minutes each.</p> <p>GLL will be advised of any likely disruption to their users</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Director of Neighbourhood Services will negotiate any appropriate fees where required that takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></b></p> <p>Council officers will liaise with Event Organisers and promoters in relation to any potential environmental impact from events.</p>

3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Service Level agreement with Department of Justice for Fireworks and MSER inspections by BCC officers
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager Mark McGovern, Senior Environmental Health Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Service level agreements have existed for many years with the Department of Justice (DOJ) setting out arrangements for BCC employees who are authorised by DOJ to act as agents in carrying out inspections of premises storing items under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (NI) 2006 (MSER). Such premises typically store fireworks or air bag components. The most recent version was signed by BCC following Committee approval in 2016.
1.2	The service level agreement has been amended to increase the fees payable to Councils by Department of Justice for inspections carried out for storage of fireworks

	and items being stored to which the MSER Regulations apply. No other significant changes have been made to the SLA.
1.3	The service level agreement is a common document which applies to all District Councils in Northern Ireland, and there is agreement across Councils at technical level via EHNI that Councils should seek approval to sign up the updated SLA to enable cost recovery via updated fee charges to the Department of Justice.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree that Council sign up to the revised service level agreement with the Department of Justice for Fireworks and MSER enforcement by BCC officers.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	The service level agreement covers training, authorisation/warranting of Council employees to enforce the relevant fireworks and MSER legislation and the working procedures and arrangements between DOJ and BCC.
3.2	The SLA also covers the fees to be paid by DOJ to BCC for the service provided and the invoicing arrangements for recoupment of fees. As the previous SLA was agreed in 2016, the revised SLA has increased the fees payable to Councils by DOJ to address increased costs being incurred by Councils for carrying out this work.
3.3	In the Belfast City Council area, prior to the Covid Pandemic there were typically in the region of 20-25 Fireworks displays inspected per annum. This number has reduced slightly over the past 3 years, however could return to pre-covid levels in the future. There are 18 premises currently registered to store explosives such as fireworks and air bag components
	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	This work is carried out on a full cost recovery basis and is included in existing work programmes.
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.5	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None.



4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Pre-loved Toys scheme Christmas 2022
<b>Date:</b>	4 April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Matthews, Director Resources and Fleet, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet), City and Neighbourhood Services Department Brendan Murray (Waste Manager)

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the outcomes from the pilot, pre-loved toys scheme operated at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in the run up to Christmas 2022. The aim of the initiative was to ease the burden on families during the current cost of living crisis, increase reuse and reduce waste going to landfill during this period.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the outcomes from the pilot and the key lessons learned going forward</li> <li>Approve that the Christmas pre-loved toys scheme should continue as an annual event until further notice.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<p data-bbox="252 230 427 253"><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="164 331 1455 510">3.1 Members will recall that in November 2022, delegated authority was granted to the Director of Resources &amp; Fleet to operate a pre-loved toys scheme at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres in the run-up to Christmas. This followed a Members motion previously raised on this matter.</p> <p data-bbox="164 577 1455 768">3.2 The scheme was a clear example of a circular economy project, seeking to reduce waste while at the same time delivering social benefits to the local community. It was operated in 2022 as a trial initiative with a view to assessing its value and learning lessons for future potential schemes. The evaluation report is included as Appendix 1.</p> <p data-bbox="164 835 1455 1126">3.3 Donations were accepted at the Council's four recycling centres from 9 November – 11 December and distributed back into the community through a range of charity partners. Some items were resold at affordable prices through charity shops but the majority were gifted free of charge to households in need. East Belfast Mission (EBM), the organisation which currently collects the majority of re-use materials from the Household Recycling Centres, operated as the lead partner and co-ordinated with other charities.</p> <p data-bbox="164 1193 1455 1328">3.4 The appeal was supported by a communications campaign and attracted an overwhelming volume of donations. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) paper was created for the Customer Hub and site staff to respond to any queries from members of the public.</p> <p data-bbox="252 1395 403 1417"><b><u>Outcomes</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="164 1485 1455 1888">3.5 Most of the items were processed by East Belfast Mission who provided the following feedback/ estimates:</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1597 1455 1888" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thirteen van loads of toys were collected from the HWRCs</li> <li>• This translated to approximately 2,500 bags/boxes distributed by EBM (there was an unquantified but much lesser amount distributed through the other partners who had less capacity)</li> <li>• Around 700 families benefitted and over 2,000 individual children were given at least one full bag of toys which would have been valued at £40-50 if new</li> </ul>

3.6	If each bag of toys weighed 3kg (conservative estimate), the items distributed through EBM alone equate to 7.5 tonnes of items reused and diverted from disposal.
3.7	While toys vary in their material construction, one study <sup>1</sup> showed that the carbon footprint for the lifecycle (from material extraction to eventual product disposal) of a typical plastic toy was 1.8kg CO2 eq/ kg. On that basis and assuming that 50% of the donated toys were of plastic construction, this scheme has avoided around seven tonnes of CO2eq compared to buying new.
	<b><u>Evaluation</u></b>
3.8	The scheme attracted significant positive media attention and was an overwhelming success in terms of the public response and the number of local families and children who were helped.
3.9	The initiative also connected multiple Belfast organisations and businesses in formal and informal volunteering roles to benefit the local community. It would have been impossible to deliver the scheme without this network of help.
3.10	However, the short notice for planning the scheme, and the significant volume of donations, meant that a number of aspects were unforeseen which created challenges for all parties concerned. This can be mitigated by a suitable planning window to deliver this scheme and adopting the lessons learned in the evaluation report, subject to Members approval.
	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b>
3.11	It is envisaged that the minimal costs incurred through any future scheme can be met through existing resources.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b>
3.12	There are no Good Relations or Equality implications associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Pre-loved toys evaluation and lessons learned report

<sup>1</sup> Robertson, Madeline R. and Klimas, Christie (2019) "A Playful Life Cycle Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Children's Toys," DePaul Discoveries: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 7. Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-disc/vol8/iss1/7>





**Belfast**  
City Council

# **Pre-loved toys appeal at Household Waste Recycling Centres (December 2022)**

## **Evaluation and Lessons Learned**

Final 06-03-23

## **1.0 Background**

In October 2022, officers from the Resources & Fleet Service met with an elected member of Council to explore the idea of launching a pre-loved toys scheme at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The member had previously raised this as a Members Motion aimed at easing the financial burden on families at Christmas and reducing waste to landfill.

Officers discussed the scheme with their counterparts in neighbouring Councils which had operated similar initiatives, in order to confirm the value of such schemes, establish good practice and fast-track the project, especially given the tight timescales involved.

This was an obvious example of a circular economy project by reusing items to benefit the local community. The circular economy model creates a more sustainable pattern of consumption, production and waste. This has obvious environmental benefits while delivering social and/ or economic benefits at the same time.

The scheme was operated in 2022 as a pilot with a view to assessing its value and learning lessons for any potential future schemes.

## **2.0 Outline of scheme**

The Council operated the initiative at its 4 HWRCs from Wed 9 Nov – Sun 11 Dec 2022.

It was operated in conjunction with 3 local charities to facilitate distribution of toys across the city:

- East Belfast Mission (EBM) – East & West Belfast (lead partner)
- Vincent's (retail arm of St Vincent de Paul) – North Belfast
- Save the Children – South Belfast

East Belfast Mission acted as the lead partner, collecting items from all sites and distributing them to the other partners. During the course of the scheme EBM reached out to Barnardos to provide additional distribution capacity.

The scheme was publicised via social media, press release and using signage at the HWRCs. The signage is shown in Appendix 1.

Members of the public deposited toys into supermarket style delivery cages (see Appendix 2). When the cages were filled, site management contacted East Belfast Mission to collect the toys.

East Belfast Mission delivered some of toys to other partners (according to their capacity) but they took the majority to a separate facility for their own sorting and distribution.

Checking, sorting and preparing the toys involved volunteers from a range of local businesses and organisations.

A 'Questions & Answers' document was developed for the Customer Hub and on-site staff to respond to any queries from members of the public. This is included at Appendix 3.

A number of photographs are included in Appendix 4.

## **3.0 Detailed discussion of operation**

### ***3.1 Overall approach***

This approach worked well in principle, garnering an overwhelming response. One of the main challenges was the short timescale for effective planning and preparation of the initiative.

During the review of lessons learned, one respondent highlighted that some social media users asked whether items could be picked up from homes; another option might be to use other facilities (e.g. Community Centres or churches) as collection points. Both are seemingly reasonable suggestions, but the



pilot scheme encountered significant logistical challenges collecting from just 4 sites, and the legislation as it stands presents barriers to the Council operating reuse schemes at unlicensed premises; these barriers could be addressed through close management but that requires extra resource. Given the scale of the response to the pilot scheme, there seems to be no compelling need to radically change the approach.

### 3.2 Site operations

The Council accepted a range of pre-loved toys at its four recycling centres from Wed 9 November to Sunday 11 December (approx. 5 weeks).

The donated toys were stored in supermarket cages (Appendix 2) which were housed in the existing re-use containers which are used for other reusable items (namely furniture and bicycles).

However, due to the overwhelming response, the cages and the re-use containers filled up very quickly. There was not enough capacity (space or collections) to cope with the volume of toys on top of the normal reusable items.

Quality control was difficult; this included policing the condition of items and the type of items (the Council's Environmental Health Service advised that soft toys and electricals should not be accepted, on hygiene and safety grounds respectively). Site staff removed as many unsuitable items as they could, but a proportion slipped through. However, there were no obvious gaps identified in the messaging in relation to this and it seems more likely that the public either ignored some of the messages or did not take in the detail.

On the other hand, the start and end dates for the scheme were missing from the signage on site and this led to continuing donations after the scheme had closed.

Some items were found to have parts missing on arrival at the EBM sorting area; it wasn't clear whether the parts were already missing when donated or whether they were lost subsequently.

HWRC management suggested that:

- 1) More frequent collections would be required (every 2-3 days). *NOTE: This may have a cost implication.*
- 2) The cages were not entirely suitable for the different types and sizes of items and required double handling at collection. At least one site started using large 'builders bags' instead; full and empty bags could be swapped at collection.
- 3) Different storage boxes/ methods might be needed for items with small parts.
- 4) Scheme start and end dates should be included on the site signage.

### 3.3 Charity/ community partners

Resources & Fleet had an existing arrangement whereby East Belfast Mission collected furniture and bicycles from the reuse containers to be resold in its shops in East and West Belfast. EBM agreed to act as lead partner for the reusable toys scheme. It was important to ensure that the scheme served the whole city and Community Provision assisted the Resources and Fleet Service to identify distribution partners for North and South Belfast.

EBM undertook to collect the toys from each HWRC and deliver them to the partner serving that area of Belfast (N/ S/ E/ W).

The partners were at liberty to resell the toys at affordable prices to the public or to gift them to households as they saw fit. The vast majority of items were gifted.

The one 'lead' partner approach worked well in principle.

The 'Volunteer Now' database was a good resource for recruiting volunteers to help with checking, sorting and preparing the items.

The quality of items distributed overall was good; the partners encountered no problems or complaints from customers or recipients.

The main issues encountered by the partners were in terms of the short timescale for planning and the overwhelming volume of donations:

- Some of the partners were simply not equipped to handle the volume of items available and, therefore, took much less than expected.
- This meant that EBM processed the vast majority of items themselves, checking, sorting and preparing them for distribution to families.
- There was not enough time to properly arrange sufficient staff/ volunteers or space for storage/ sorting.
- EBM were unable to service their 'business-as-usual' on top of the scheme.
- There were unforeseen costs to the partners in terms of collections, storage space, extra waste generated and buying sacks/ bags/ boxes for onward distribution to recipient families.

EBM conceded that their own approach to distribution was very tailored to specific families, which made it complex and time-consuming. They also noted that donations for the 12-17 year-old bracket were light.

EBM in particular rose to the challenge in order to successfully deliver the scheme, but made the following recommendations:

- 1) Start planning earlier.
- 2) Engage potential partners earlier.
- 3) Ensure that partners:
  - a. Are equipped (space, staff, flexibility) to deal with the volume of items and multiple deliveries
  - b. Have a named/ dedicated contact for delivery of the scheme
- 5) Consider hiring/ using a dedicated vehicle. *NOTE: This may have a cost implication.*
- 6) Hire a dedicated space. *NOTE: This may have a cost implication.*
- 7) Engage/ appeal for volunteers earlier.
- 8) Add books, boxed games and PS2-PS5 games to the item list to cover teens.
- 9) Extra commercial collections/ bring-back-to-HWRC option for waste generated in the sorting process.
- 10) Consider a different approach to distribution e.g. pop-up shop akin to MEA approach

### 3.4 Communications and publicity

The scheme was publicised via social media, press release and using signage at the HWRCs. The signage is shown in Appendix 1.

The communications provided the public with all of the key information that they needed about what they could donate and the start and end dates of the scheme.

The scheme attracted significant media attention (TV, radio, online) which no doubt contributed to its success and the volume of toys collected.

While the media attention was welcome and beneficial, it did create extra time demands on those involved, especially the lead partner.

HWRC management indicated that they did have to deal with a fair number of unsuitable items and some people were still arriving with donations after the closing date.

As noted above, the start and end dates for the scheme were missing from the signage on site, items donated for the 12-17 age range were light and there were some negative social media comments from members of the public who assumed that the Council was benefitting from the sale of the items.

There did not appear to be any other obvious gaps in the messaging but some of the messages did seem to be missed or ignored by the public.

In light of these observations:

- 1) We should plan for significant media interest and how this will be managed.
- 2) Certain messages could be emphasised at different periods of the campaign.
- 3) Messaging could be clearer about how the donations will be used and who will benefit.
- 4) Add books, boxed games and PS2-PS5 games to the item list to cover teens.
- 5) Scheme start and end dates should be included on the site signage.

### *3.5 Costs and funding*

The costs to the Council for delivery of the pilot scheme were minimal but the lead partner did incur unexpected costs with respect to collections, storage, waste disposal and packaging materials, which would need to be considered in future schemes.

However, given the nature of the scheme, the recommendation is to:

- 1) Explore meeting the various costs through funding from beneficiary organisations, sponsorship and in-kind donations.

### *3.6 Results and metrics*

Given the overwhelming volume of donations and the resulting pressure on all partners, capturing accurate metrics took second place to operational delivery of the scheme. Despite this, EBM, who processed the majority of the items themselves, were able to provide fairly detailed estimates on their own operations, but there was very limited information relating to the other partners.

The recommendation for future schemes is to:

- 1) Agree, at an early stage, simple metrics along with mechanisms for capturing data from all partners.

## **3.0 Outcomes**

East Belfast Mission processed the majority of the items themselves and provided the following feedback/ estimates:

- 13 van loads of toys were collected from the HWRCs
- This translated to approximately 2,500 bags/boxes distributed by EBM (there was an unquantified but much lesser amount distributed through the other partners)
- About 90% of the stock collected was of acceptable quality
- Around 700 families were gifted toys
- The families were given at least one full bag of toys per child
- Likely over 2,000 children benefited
- EBM estimate that an average bag contained £40- 50 worth of toys (if new)
- Many of the gifted toys would have cost £50 or more (if new)

If each bag of toys weighed 3kg, the items distributed through EBM alone equate to approximately 7.5t of items reused and diverted from disposal.

While toys vary in their material construction, one study<sup>1</sup> showed that the carbon footprint for the lifecycle (from material extraction to eventual product disposal) of a typical plastic toy was 1.8kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/ kg. On

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<sup>1</sup> Robertson, Madeline R. and Klimas, Christie (2019) "A Playful Life Cycle Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Children's Toys," DePaul Discoveries: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 7. Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-disc/vol8/iss1/7>

that basis, and assuming that 50% of the toys donated were of plastic construction, this scheme has saved almost 7t CO<sub>2</sub>eq compared to buying new.

#### **4.0 Evaluation**

The scheme attracted significant positive media attention and was an overwhelming success in terms of the public response and the number of local families and children who were helped.

The initiative also connected multiple Belfast organisations in formal and informal (volunteering) roles to benefit the local community. It would have been impossible to deliver the scheme without this network of help.

However, the short notice for planning the scheme, and the huge volume of donations, meant that a number of aspects, including some unforeseen costs, were not properly planned for; this created significant stress and pressure on the Resources & Fleet Service and the various partners.

The scheme is undoubtedly worth operating on an annual basis, but planning must start earlier (August/September) and take into account the lessons learned from the pilot (2022) scheme.

#### **Contact for further information**

For more information about the scheme email: [WasteManagement@BelfastCity.gov.uk](mailto:WasteManagement@BelfastCity.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1 – Signage artwork



# Pre-loved toys donation point

Please donate quality  
used toys here.

- Bikes, trikes, scooters
- Ride on toys
- Go Karts
- Toy kitchens and work benches
- Doll houses
- Dolls and prams
- Jigsaws, puzzles, board games, books and DVDs
- Figures and figurines
- Lego

The items and their boxes or packaging must be clean, complete, working and in good condition.

- Soft toys (teddy bears etc.) (hygiene)
- Electric/ electronic (mains or battery-operated) (safety)

[www.belfastcity.gov.uk/toyappeal](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/toyappeal)



**Belfast  
City Council**

## Appendix 2 – Supermarket cages



## **Appendix 3 – Customer Q&A**

### **Belfast City Council - Pre-loved toys scheme 2022**

#### **Customer Q&A – Version iv @ 08-11-22**

#### **1. What is happening?**

The Council is operating a pre-loved toys scheme at its Household Recycling Centres for Christmas 2022. These toys will be used to help families in need in the community.

This is an example of the *circular economy* in action - keeping good quality items in use and reducing waste while meeting social need.

#### **2. When does the campaign start and end?**

Start date 9 Nov 22 / End date 11 December 22

#### **3. Where can I bring my pre-loved toys?**

You can bring your pre-loved toys to any of our 4 Household Recycling Centres – Alexandra, Blackstaff, Ormeau or Palmerston

#### **4. What kind of toys can I drop off?**

Pre-loved/ second-hand/ used toys, games, books, DVDs and other items suitable for children of all ages.

The items and their boxes or packaging must be clean, complete, working and in good condition.

Examples include:

- Bikes, trikes, scooters
- Ride on toys
- Go Karts
- Toy kitchens and work benches
- Doll houses
- Dolls and prams
- Jigsaws, puzzles and board games (must be complete)
- Figures and figurines
- Lego

#### **5. Are there items I can't drop off?**

- Soft toys (teddy bears etc.) are not acceptable (hygiene)
- Electric/ electronic (mains or battery-operated) devices are not acceptable (safety)
- The items and their boxes or packaging must be clean, complete, working and in good condition.

#### **6. What will happen to the toys?**

The toys will be used to help families in need across the city, through the charity organisations listed below.

Some will be gifted directly to families in need; some will be sold at affordable prices in charity shops:

- East Belfast Mission – Restore shops Newtownards Rd (east Belfast) & Park Centre (west Belfast)
- St Vincent de Paul – Vincent's shop Antrim Road (north Belfast)
- Save the Children – Botanic Avenue (south Belfast)

#### **7. Where can I donate toys when the scheme has finished (ie after 11 Dec)?**

You can always take good quality used toys direct to local charity shops including those listed above.



## Appendix 4 – Photographs







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<b>Subject:</b>	Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing Benches in BCC Parks
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director Neighbourhood Services, CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Jim Morgan, Senior Project Development Officer, BHDU

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Committee on the installation of sixteen 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' benches across Belfast City Council (BCC) parks.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the content of the report.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
	<b>Background</b>
3.1	The Public Health Agency have adopted the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing messages as a key component in their work supporting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing is a set of evidence-based public health messages aimed at improving the wellbeing of the whole population.

3.2	<p>The 5 steps are; 'Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning and Give' – please refer to the leaflet in Appendix 1 for more information or visit: <a href="https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/take-5-steps-wellbeing-english-and-11-translations">https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/take-5-steps-wellbeing-english-and-11-translations</a> to access downloadable PDFs. Evidence indicates individuals who practice all '5 steps' have the highest level of wellbeing regardless of circumstances.</p>										
3.3	<p>In June 2022, Council agreed to the installation of sixteen 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' benches across Belfast City Council (BCC) parks. It was agreed that locations would be identified in consultation with staff in Open Space and Streetscene (OSS) and Property Maintenance.</p>										
3.4	<p>Property Maintenance colleagues began the work in October 22, and 16 existing benches in parks across the city have now been rebranded as 'Take 5 benches', as such they have been painted in bright colours and incorporate the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' messaging, along with a QR code linking to the PHA's Minding Your Head website. The benches are located in the following parks with coverage across all four geographic areas.</p>										
3.5	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West Belfast</th><th>South Belfast</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dunville Park</td><td>Blythfield Play Park</td></tr> <tr> <td>Falls Park</td><td>Ormeau Park</td></tr> <tr> <td>Springfield Dam</td><td>Botanic Gardens</td></tr> <tr> <td>Suffolk Play Park</td><td>Cherryvale Pitches</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	West Belfast	South Belfast	Dunville Park	Blythfield Play Park	Falls Park	Ormeau Park	Springfield Dam	Botanic Gardens	Suffolk Play Park	Cherryvale Pitches
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3.7	<p>The work was completed on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, when the final bench was put into Dunville Park. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Christina Black, officially launched the Take 5 benches by cutting the ribbon at the bench in Dunville Park (image included in Appendix 1).</p>										
3.8	<p>Three of the benches could not be painted (as made of composite plastic and stainless steel – paint does not adhere) and so only had the Take 5 plaque put onto them. The</p>										

	location of these three benches are Springfield Dam, Victoria Park, and Lagan Lands End (image included in Appendix 1).
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications to the recommendations/actions outlined above. The required financial resource (£5,000) was allocated to the Belfast Heath Development Unit via the Public Health Agency and the work was carried out by BH DU staff with assistance from colleagues in other teams.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications to the recommendations outlined above.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1 - Images of Take 5 benches</b>

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Dunville Park



Springfield Dam