

## Winter Festival Fund 2025

### Successful Applicants

#### **North Belfast – Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (Lead Partner)**

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum submitted a comprehensive proposal developed in partnership with The Ashton Centre, Ligoniel Improvement Association, and North Belfast Alternatives.

The programme will deliver 30 Winter Festival and Christmas activities across the North Belfast area, including pensioners' events, Christmas tree switch-ons, Winter Wonderland experiences, arts and crafts, family events, fun days, volunteer recognition activities, a children's disco, a pantomime trip, and healthy eating packs.

These activities will support some of the most disadvantaged groups in North Belfast, including disabled people; young people with Special Educational Needs; children with autism and their families; older people; and families experiencing significant hardship. Many local households face intense pressure during the Christmas period, heightened by poverty, poor health, mental ill-health, and issues related to alcohol and drug misuse.

The programme provides free, accessible, community-based alternatives that allow local residents to participate in festive celebrations, strengthen social bonds, and experience a positive sense of community spirit.

## **South – Forward South Partnership (Lead Partner)**

Forward South Partnership has coordinated Winter Festival activities involving 13 community organisations across the Inner South, South West, and Outer South neighbourhood areas, encouraging collaboration and partnership building throughout the locality.

Inner South Partnership organisations include:

- LORAG Mornington Community Project
- Albion Star FC
- Donegall Pass Community Forum
- An Droichead
- Happy Women's Group

South West Partnership organisations include:

- GVRT
- BSCR
- Windsor Women's Centre
- South City

Outer South organisations include:

- Belvoir Community Association
- Ballynaveigh Community Development Association
- Annadale Community Centre

The programme features a broad range of inclusive activities such as festive workshops, senior festive dinners and dances, Winter Wonderland experiences, Christmas breakfasts, Santa's grotto events, Christmas light switch-ons, drop-in sessions, and community celebration mornings.

These activities will engage families, older people, ethnic minority communities, newcomer families, individuals experiencing isolation or loneliness, and residents who may have limited access to creative or seasonal opportunities. The programme aims to strengthen community connection, encourage creative expression, and promote cultural inclusion.

## **East – Eastside Partnership (Lead Partner)**

EastSide Partnership will coordinate a series of cultural and community wellbeing activities taking place throughout December. These free community events will create opportunities for social connection, reduce isolation, and promote positive mental wellbeing, helping to bring East Belfast to life during the festive season.

EastSide Partnership will also provide administrative support, including financial management and monitoring.

Planned events include the annual Wandsworth Lantern Parade, a Christmas party for children with additional needs, a Christmas Parade, and Santa's grotto. Additional activities will be delivered in partnership with Walkway Community Association, Bloomfield Community Association, Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club Trust Ltd, Phoenix Education/Urban Youth Project, Pitt Park Residents Association, Ulster Tower Street, Megain Nazarene Church, Wandsworth Community Association, and Willowfield Church with the Willowfield Flute Band.

## **West - Féile an Phobail (Lead Partner)**

Féile an Phobail will create a large-scale festive experience by transforming Falls Park into a winter-wonderland on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December.

Partner organisations include Upper Andersonstown Community Forum, Upper Springfield Development Trust, Falls Residents Association, Lagmore Youth Project and Blackie River.

In addition to the main event, Féile will support multiple neighbourhood-based Christmas activities delivered in collaboration with local groups, including:

- A Christmas light show in Páirc Nua Chollann
- Santa's arrival and a Christmas parade in Andersonstown
- Christmas lights switch-on in the Upper Springfield area
- A community Christmas carol concert
- A series of local initiatives throughout the Lower Falls, including the Féile na Nollag outreach programme, which brings music, storytelling and seasonal activities to shopping centres, care homes, community facilities and neighbourhood groups

The overall programme will deliver a magical, culturally rich, and accessible festive experience for thousands of residents, while strengthening Christmas activities across West Belfast through coordinated partnership working.