



**Celebrating
29 Years of
Community
Development**



Annual Review

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

**Greater Shantallow
Area Partnership**

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VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION...

The Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP) is a core community support organisation which seeks to bring together and support local residents, community/voluntary sector groups and statutory/private organisations that have an interest in or involvement with improving the social, community, economic and physical environment within the Greater Shantallow area thus helping to create sustainable communities that are:

Active, Inclusive and Safe; Well Run; Well Designed and Built; Well Connected; Thriving; Well-Served; Fair for Everyone; and Environmentally Sensitive;

OUR MISSION...

“To develop and sustain a vibrant community & voluntary sector in the Greater Shantallow area in which well-informed people enjoy high quality, sustainable and appropriate services in an accessible, well-managed environment.



TONY HASSON
GSAP TRUSTEE, 1998 - 2024



PETER MCDONALD
GSAP TRUSTEE, 1998 - 2024

CHARITABLE PURPOSE & PUBLIC BENEFIT

| CHARITABLE PURPOSE | PUBLIC BENEFIT |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>RELIEVING POVERTY</i> | Reduction in the impact of poverty on people's quality of life, the prevention of poverty, and physical, social, community, and economic improvements within the Greater Shantallow Area |
| <i>ADVANCING EDUCATION</i> | A more educated, skilled and qualified population within the Greater Shantallow Area, and a more informed, and capable C&V sector within the Greater Shantallow Area |
| <i>PRESERVING HEALTH</i> | Improved health and wellbeing of residents of all ages living in the Greater Shantallow Area |
| <i>PROVIDING FACILITIES</i> | Improved community life, new community infrastructure developed and maintained, and new and existing C&V sector groups based in the Greater Shantallow Area are developed and maintained so that they can be used by the local community |



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Charlie McDaid

As Chairperson of the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership, (GSAP), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this our 29th Annual General Meeting and to share with you a brief overview of a number of the key events and achievements that the GSAP team completed during the period **1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024**.

A key reflection and of particular significance was the sad and untimely passing of two members of this Board, namely, Councillor Tony Hasson and Peter "Duck" McDonald.

Tony served on the Board as an elected representative for the area and supported the Partnership through his work within the Sinn Féin Party and Derry City and Strabane District Council. He was a stalwart advocate for the area and could be always relied upon to champion local initiatives. He is sadly missed by this Board and the wider local community.

When one mentions Peter McDonald nothing I could say could adequately reflect the impact he had, not only within the Greater Shantallow area but wider afield across this divided province. He was instrumental in the development of many of the recent community infrastructural improvements within the area, Skeoge, Shantallow, Galliagh and Culmore, to name a few.

He served as Chairperson of the GSAP for 16 years and latterly began the process to purchase the GSAP building at Northside and shortly before his untimely passing, the strategic review of GSAP which will allow us to forge a vision for the short- and long-term goals of the organisation, as we try to position ourselves within an ever-changing C&V sector environment.

With the support of the Board and as a mark of appreciation, photographic portraits of Tony and Peter will be unveiled for display in the board room within the next few weeks.

To reflect on this past year a number of key events need special mention. These include:

As mentioned previously, the Boards decision to purchase the community building that 'houses' the GSAP. Project. This was achieved through funding secured from the Community Ownership Fund, GSAP's own capital reserve and via the financial support from Community Finance Ireland.

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Charlie McDaid

An ongoing refurbishment programme of works has been undertaken supported by funding packages from both the Department for Communities and the Shared Island Fund (administered by Donegal County Council) which to date includes improved lighting within and without the building, new IT / video conferencing facilities in the board /conference room, and the installation of new doors and windows, throughout the community building.

Our relationship with APEX Housing Association continues to prove very beneficial to the GSAP and in particular the Skeoge community and the team at the Skeoge Hub. This includes the continued financial support from APEX that affords us the opportunity to employ staff to open, close and oversee and manage the numerous play parks in the area.

Again, and with the financial support of both APEX Housing Association and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, resources have been secured to employ a full-time dedicated Family Support Worker for the Skeoge area. Housed at our Hub in Skeoge this worker is there to support local residents and in particular tenants of APEX – support which is critical given the current financial / cost of living crisis.

Additionally with a successful application to PeacePlus, administered by Derry City & Strabane District Council, the GSAP now employs a programme officer who will be responsible for the roll out of a two-year outreach programme - Skeoge United, across the City, and border region.

It is worth noting at this stage that the current funding cycle provided by the Big Lottery, to animate our service provision and schedule of activities at the Hub in Skeoge is due to finish in August 2025. To this end ongoing discussions are progressing with the Big Lottery, with the expectation that continued funding can be realised for the next three years.

Work on the new GSAP website is progressing, and it is hoped that the launch of new site – www.shantallow.net will happen in April 2025 which will enable the GSAP to “better promote” itself to the wider community, and allow the community to ‘see’ the ongoing activities that GSAP supports within the area.

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Charlie McDaid

This year has also seen the positive benefits that employment with GSAP affords as we have seen a number of staff move onto employment in many different key roles and sectors. This year, staff that have left the GSAP family include Rose McCrossan (Community Development Manager), Chris McDonagh (Projects Development Officer), Natalie Logue (TTOB Coordinator), and Claire Harkin (Employment and Mentoring Officer). I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their years' service to the GSAP and the wider Greater Shantallow community, and to wish them all the best for the future.

The community is still living in unprecedented times in relation to the cost-of-living crisis and the continued huge rise in prices of both fuel and food. There are clear challenges for the GSAP and others to continue to maintain high levels of performance in the coming years. We can achieve this by working together, sharing skills, knowledge, and resources thus continuing to make a clear commitment to involving local people in community affairs and local decision-making including influencing service delivery.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to praise local organisations for their continued responsive and unseen work, be it the women's sector, the youth sector, sporting organisations, community playgroups, the 50+ sector, early year providers, community arts organisations, and resident associations. This work represents the backbone of our sector and continues to create opportunities and enhance the quality of life for so many of our people, especially our most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend our thanks to all those organisations, service providers, facilitators, and individuals we have worked and engaged with over the last year.

Furthermore, I would like to extend a sincere word of gratitude to all those funding bodies who have invested and continue to invest in the GSAP, and who have contributed to the ongoing support work carried out by GSAP staff on a daily basis.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to all my fellow Trustees & and our staff for their hard work, commitment, dedication, and endeavours throughout the past year.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rory McParland
Manager

We at GSAP are delighted to be hosting our **29th AGM**. Over the years GSAP has continued to deliver a high-quality '**community support service**' to local individuals and organisations who in themselves are working hard to improve the area and the quality of life for residents locally. Despite the cost-of-living crisis, fuel poverty, and cuts in public expenditure, the loss of significant EU funding, and the uncertainty for the sector as a result of sustained core government funding intervention, GSAP has been able to sustain all our services.

Notable achievements by GSAP throughout the year include;

- ❑ Purchase of the Community Building, Northside in March 2024. This was achieved with the financial support of the Community Ownership Fund, through the DLUHC (£194,438), Community Finance Ireland (£95,000), and GSAP's own capital investment (£100,000);
- ❑ The GSAP continued to protect 13 key existing integrated local services, including the Outer North Community Support, Project, the ETHOS Family Support Hub, the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership, the Talking to our Babies Project, the ASPIRE NI Project, the Families Connect Project, the Success North West Programme, the Skeoge Community Hub, the Extended Schools Programme, the GSAP Foodbank, and Babybank, and the DENI WRAP Early Intervention Programme;
- ❑ This year the GSAP was able to develop 3 new local, integrated community-led projects, including the Family Support service, Skeoge, the Skeoge Play Parks Management Scheme, the on-going development of the new Skeoge Health Action Research Project – SHARP;
- ❑ The on-going support to the Boomhall Trust in their efforts to realise the restoration of the Boomhall Mansion House and Stables. Despite our real disappointment of not been able to secure the investment from the SEUPB, under measure 1.4 – (circa 13m Euros), the GSAP continues to forge ahead in partnership with Boomhall Trust to realise this ambition. We continue to work with Derry City & Strabane District Council – the land owner, the Shared Island Fund, and the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- ❑ The continued investment from the WHSCT in the ETHOS Family Support. A new three-year recurrent funding package has now been secured, which gives the project a semblance of security, which allows the project team to 'better plan' interventions and programming during the year
- ❑ The continued investment of DC&SDC in the Skeoge Community Hub, via the Community Venue Fund. Again, a three-year funding package is in place which allows the Skeoge Hub to better plan service provision in the area;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rory McParland
Manager

Among the other stand-out highlight for 2023/24 resulting from our integrated local services included:

- ❑ **299 Adults & 260 Children / Young People** were able to access intervention/treatment services through the family support hub, and **141 young people** were able to access specialist support to address their needs;
- ❑ A total of **1,658 referrals** were made during the year by our Family Support Service to **79 local service providers**;
- ❑ **268 people** engaged in parenting skills / development programmes during the year;
- ❑ **556 Year 8 pupils** attending St Brigid's College in September 2023 accessed a range of personal/social development and health programmes and resource packs;
- ❑ **190 local residents** participated in healthy lifestyle programmes such as Tai Chi, Chair Aerobics, Walking Club, Personal Development, Swimming, Minding Me Programme, Restore Nutrition, Outdoor Boot camp, Yoga etc; - reducing social isolation and improving their overall health and well-being;
- ❑ **818 young people** attending local schools accessed a range of extended school programmes and services such as counselling, speech therapy, outdoor environmental education programmes and literacy and numeracy tuition etc.;
- ❑ **379 food (week supply) parcels** donated by the four local Churches were distributed by GSAP to families in need across the area thus helping to reduce the impact of poverty and improve their quality of life;
- ❑ **2,710 local residents** availed of a range of programmes, interventions & initiatives at our Hub in Skeoge, as part of the Catalyst Project, which includes our Café Links, SAFE and STAR Programmes, providing a total of **7,317 interventions** - (**1,408 – Café Links, 5,402 – STAR, & 507 – SAFE**);
- ❑ **50+ external service providers** engaged in service provision at Skeoge Community Hub during the year;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rory McParland
Manager

- ❑ **184 new start** on the Success North West – Employment & Training Programme during the year;
- ❑ **44 people gained employment** following participation on the Success North West Programme;
- ❑ A total of **370 QUALIFICATION GAINED (177 accredited & 193 non-accredited qualifications achieved)** by participants on the Success North West Programme during the year;
- ❑ A total of **5 cross community / good relations programmes** were completed during the year, including the Heart of the Community Festival, Merhaba (Welcome) Festival, Traveller Support Service, the Skeoge Connecting Communities Programme, and the Women United Initiative;
- ❑ A total of **39 community organisations** supported during the year;
- ❑ **95 local people** received training in community development / capacity building during the year – including good governance training, first aid training, child protection training, and financial training for community groups;
- ❑ A total of **9 local charities** were supported with their Charity Commission NI annual returns;
- ❑ **36 ACCESS NI** applications were completed on behalf of **12 organisations**;
- ❑ The GSAP maintained links with / was represented on **16 citywide groups / initiatives**;
- ❑ The initiation of a comprehensive organisation review being carried out by Enterprise North West, setting out a number of key recommendations for the Trustees and Senior Management Team, along with GSAP staff to implement;



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rory McParland
Manager

- ❑ The GSAP assumed the lead role in **12 local projects** to support the physical and social regeneration of the area. These have included the local PEACEPLUS programmes, the Bus Shelter Reimaging Programme, the Ballyarnett DEA Consensual Grant Making Programmes, the Skeoge Health Action Research Project, the Boomhall Estate Restoration Project, the acquisition of the Community Building, Northside, the establishment of the Healthy Living Centre Alliance – Shantallow, and the Community Climate Action Programme 2024;
- ❑ A total of **£323,000 of Funding** was applied for during the year, with a total of **£237,000 secured**;
- ❑ A total of **163 local people** benefitted from the DENI WRAP Programme 2023/24 – including **44 adults & 119 young people**;
- ❑ **650 interventions** provided as part of the DENI WRAP Programme 2023 / 24 along with our project partners Rainbow Child & Family Centre, and Shantallow Community Residents Association;
- ❑ **35 volunteers recruited / supported** at the Skeoge Community Hub during the year, as part of the Catalyst Programme;
- ❑ **11 staff employed** to provided a range of support services / interventions from the Skeoge Community Hub;
- ❑ **534 meals** provide to **196 local people** during the winter months at Skeoge Community Hub – Café Links;
- ❑ **Skeoge Baby Bank Scheme** set up and operating out of the Skeoge Community Hub, in partnership with Foyle Network Foundation (formerly Foyle Foodbank);

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rory McParland
Manager

Of significance this year was GSAP's successful application to the **DLUHC's Community Ownership Fund**, which has enabled us to secure the funding to purchase the Community Building at Northside. The purchase of the building will provide yet another key community facility for local people / service users well into the future.

GSAP staff and Trustees will work hard to remain at the centre of local development. This will be achieved by working even more closely with local residents and community & voluntary groups in the area, remaining actively involved in the delivery of the new Ballyarnett Community Plan, the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area Strategic Growth Plan and the delivery of the Outer North Regeneration Plan, continuously identifying the need and putting forward sound cases for investment and grasping opportunities that may arise from new Government policies and initiatives such as the City Deal.

Overall, there have been many positive and significant achievements throughout the past year, detailed within the body of this report, which would not have been possible without the commitment of our dedicated Trustees and also of course our funders, -without whom we could not function. Details of our funders are found at the back of our report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our affiliated groups, service providers and partner organisations for their continued support and for the positive, outward-looking contribution they have made in the last year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff members for their continued support during the year. I would also like to welcome to the GSAP Team Sean Carlin as our new Community Development Manager, Amanda Clarke as our Community Support Officer, Clare Muldoon as our front of office receptionist and administrator, Molly McBride and Georgina Lavy, our new Family Support Workers, Kayla Boyle and Mollie McMonagle as our project support staff at the Skeoge Hub, and to Ronnie Graham as our Administrative Support Officer .

A huge thank you to all the staff who have all adapted quickly and supported everyone in their new roles to continue to provide a warm, friendly and professional service to all those who contact GSAP.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



39 local community & voluntary groups provided with technical assistance support during the year;



95 local workers provided with training and support to continue to provide a professional service to the local community;



9 local community & voluntary groups received advice, information and on-going support to register as a charity with the Charity Commission NI;



13 networking events organised and facilitated by GSAP staff during the year;



GSAP staff and Trustees represented the local C&V sector on 16 city-wide strategic bodies;

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



A total of 56 **volunteers** were recruited and supported by GSAP staff to participate in a range of local events, programmes and initiatives;



GSAP staff provided ongoing support, guidance and advice to **39** local community & voluntary groups;



51 people received essential skills training during the year;



306 local parents participated in a range of early intervention / parenting programmes as part of our TTOB Early Intervention Initiative;



12 local community and voluntary groups provided with support to complete **36 ACCESS NI** checks;

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



On-going support and assistance to bring forward a range of capital projects in the area, including the purchase of GSAP premises at Northside and the continued work on realising the redevelopment of the Boomhall Estate;



ETHOS Family Support Hub provided 379 food parcels during the year;



35 funding applications submitted to funders including DC&SDC Support Grant Aid, DC&SDC Good Relations, Sport NI, Awards for All, Halifax Foundation, NIHE, etc..;



299 adults accessed intervention and treatment services via our Family Support Service – ETHOS;



556 Year 8 pupils from St. Brigid's College benefitted from our ASPIRE Programme;



Extended Schools Initiative

GSAP's core community development staff managed the delivery of the Outer North Extended Schools Programme. This is a key programme in supporting pupils and parents who attend pre-school, primary and post primary schools in the Outer North Area. The programmes delivered this year included an outdoor environmental education programme, counselling, speech and language face to face delivery, speech and language take home activity packs, Primary school literacy and numeracy support, Post Primary school literacy and numeracy support, Forest Schools and Adventure play, early years interventions & resources, youth diversionary programmes, and support for our ASPIRE Programme, 2023/24. A total of **813** pupils benefitted this year from these key projects.



ASPIRE

ASPIRE NI is a unique education programme working in partnership with St Brigid's College and targets all Year 8 pupils within the school. It aims to promote social and personal development, improve literacy and numeracy achievement & increase the pupil's desire and belief to succeed both inside and outside school. Children engaged in Mini Professor Science, arts and crafts, Archery, Football challenges, Easter Art activities & much more. **556 pupils benefitted this year and 43 parents engaged in parenting skills programmes.**



Talking to our Babies

Talking to Our Babies has continued to provide vital support to parents and carers within our community in enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of how babies and children aged 0-3 years develop language. The programme continued delivery providing key activities to parents and carers looking after children on a full-time basis at home. **899** children benefitted from Early Years programmes and activities including online Mini Professors Rhyme time, Baby Sensory, Play Together, Learn Together, Seasonal craft packs, Seasonal "Share a Story, Share a Smile", with a total of **306** parents being supported during the year.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Relieving Poverty

Information Dissemination

A core element of GSAP's work is to continually inform local groups, individuals, and residents about a range of community issues. This year the GSAP has continued to provide information in a range of formats including, information leaflets to residents/groups, newsheets that cover a range of events and services including local training/education programmes, open days, clean up campaigns, fun days, extended school activities, public services, campaigns, consultation events, public meetings, information workshops, new local and available services etc... GSAP continues to regularly update the community notice board for the general public who drop into the office for advice, information, support, meetings etc... and we forward the info/posters etc... to around **39 local premises** within the area including parish halls, the local shopping mall at Northside, local shops, health centre, schools, local C&V groups for them to display.



Technical Assistance

During the year the GSAP also provided extensive **Technical Assistance** to **30+** existing / new local groups / organisations / projects, Outer North NR Partnership, Leafair Men's Health, Leafair Community Association Galliagh Women's Group, On Street Youth Initiative, Cornshell Community Network, St. Joseph's Community Playgroup, Pennyburn Community Playgroup, Aurora Counselling, Northside 50+, Extended Schools Cluster Groups (Outer North), Teach Na Failte, Foyle Harps FC, Culmore Community Partnership, Hilltop Day Nursery, Hollybush Daycare Nursery, Carnhill Community Association, Rainbow Child & Family Centre, NHIP, Skeoge Community Association, St Brigid's Women's Group, Don Bosco's FC, Elite Community Gym, Skeoge House Women's Group, Friends of St. Brigid's, Friends of Ardnashee, the Legion of Mary, New Buildings FC, Team Torres, PRAXIS, Rainbow Child & Family Centre, Light at the end of the Tunnel, Studio 2 / Greater Shantallow Community Arts, Kombat Ju-Jitsu, NW Pest Control, Little Theatre Group, LENS, etc...

PROGRAMME REVIEW

Relieving Poverty

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



753 Parents / carers accessed parenting skills development programmes via our ETHOS Hub/Families Connect, TTOB & ASPIRE Projects;



479 year 8 pupils attending St. Brigid's College accessed a range of personal / social development and health initiatives;



306 parents of children aged 0 to 3 years participated in a range of early intervention / parenting support programmes;



44 parents completed non-specific training and 135 parents completed job specific training;



899 children (aged 0 to 3 years) participated in a range of early intervention programmes through GSAP's Talking to our Babies initiative;

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



136 parents / carers ; and 137 children and young people participated in our Families Connect programme;



51 adults in the local community obtained a formal qualification from participating in a variety of programmes- Essential Skills/First Aid/Child Protection;



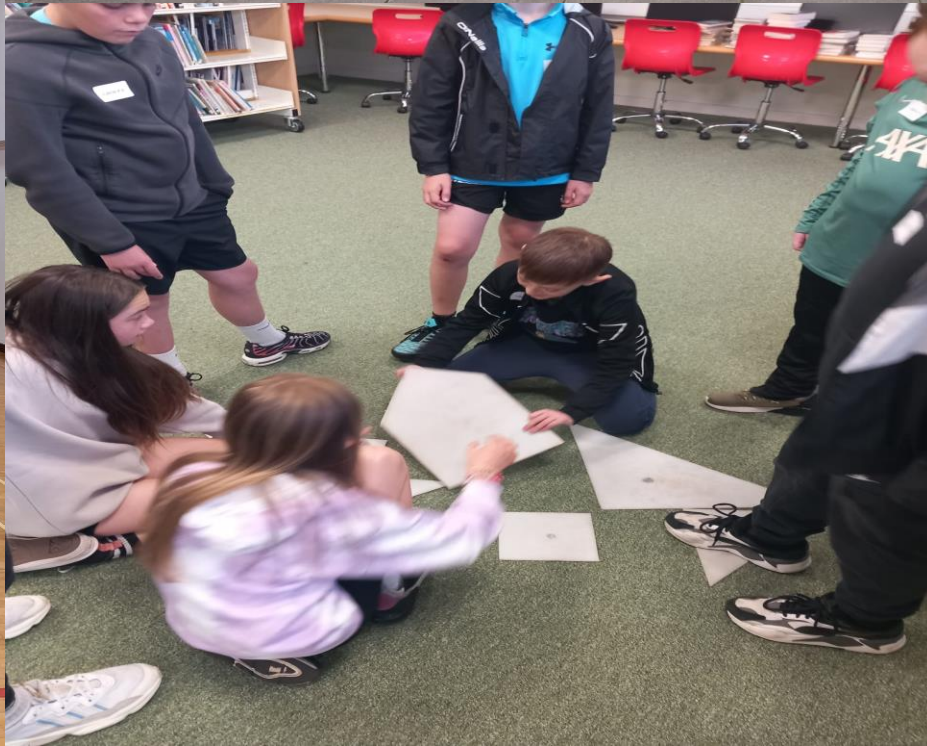
A total of 190 local residents participated in healthy lifestyle programmes, reducing social isolation and improving health and wellbeing;



813 young people accessed our extended schools programmes and initiatives;



177 residents participated in our locally based employment support programme – Success North West;



Greater Shantallow Food Bank

Greater Shantallow Area Partnership has continued to work with 'The Four Churches' and the Foyle Foundation Network (formerly the Foyle Foodbank) in order to provide food parcels to families most in need within the area. This is a service which has been greatly welcomed by local residents, many who face financial difficulty and a day-to-day to day basis. This is a confidential facility used to aid our clients who find that they are struggling to provide adequately for their families. This year our staff provided **379 food parcels**.

Financial Support and Guidance

Given the on-going cost-of-living crisis financial support, guidance and advice remained one of the highest needs for local families, with many families receiving food parcels, fuel vouchers, budgeting support, referrals to the local foodbank, and community fridge. This year a total of **379 referrals** were received in to the family support service for this type of support and assistance.

ETHOS – Family Support Service

Our ETHOS Family Support Hub has continued to provide critical support to families in the Greater Shantallow Area. This year in particular has seen an increase in referrals and programmes carried out by the ETHOS team in an attempt to ease the strains of the cost-of-living crisis. **299 Adults** have accessed intervention/treatments. **260 young people** have benefitted from the project, due to issues / difficulties faced by families. This year our staff have continued to work with many local providers, engaging with **79 local organisations/providers**. **268 people** have availed of parenting skills/development programmes to enhance their personal development/skills that in turn enhances their interactions at home as a family unit.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Relieving Poverty

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



£237,000 of funding secured for local Community & Voluntary Groups;



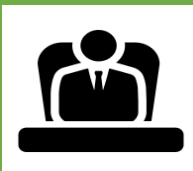
A total of 1,658 presenting issues dealt with by our Family Support Service with referrals to 79 providers;



177 qualifications gained by clients on our Success North West Employment Support Programme;



184 Participants (Mothers & Babies) attended a range of services @ Skeoge hub – Baby Massage, Baby Yoga & Rhyme Time;



53 Families Supported at Skeoge Community Hub;

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



27 local organisations / agencies engaged to support the delivery of our ASPIRE NI Programme during the year;



121 pupils attended a 6 days summer scheme held in St Brigid's College, in 24th-25th August, including pupils from the ASC Unit;



479 pupils from St. Brigid's College took part in healthy lifestyle projects;



12 parent volunteers recruited during the year to support the delivery of the ASPIRE Programme;



GSAP Staff engaged with a total of 39 local providers / agencies / organisations to help deliver new programmes and initiatives in the area;



Success North West – Employment Support Programme

Success North West offers support to those who are economically inactive through various community hubs across the DC&SDC area. Our hub here at GSAP offers a wide range of services including one-to-one mentoring, individual needs-based training, employability workshops with employer-targeted training, and guaranteed interviews. For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, our employment and mentoring staff has supported **177 local people**.

This has helped them gain a total of **313 qualifications (both accredited and non accredited)** in food hygiene, domiciliary care, CSR, paediatric first aid, plant induction, plant construction, child protection & safeguarding, etc... Our staff have also enabled **44 clients to gain employment**, and **70 clients gain industry specific qualifications**.

Access NI Checks

The GSAP continues to act as a registered body (umbrella group) for Access NI. Our staff provides organisations, companies, self-employed people, and individuals with a speed and professional service for vetting.

Our staff handles many aspects of the vetting procedure, supporting, advising, and guiding both organisations and individuals through the application process. This year our staff completed **36 applications** and worked with **12 organisations/companies**.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Relieving Poverty

Funding Advice & Support

The provision of a comprehensive funding advice/support service continues to be a key element of GSAP's work. Despite funding cutbacks/pressures on government departments, during the year staff continued to offer advice and practical support and assistance on fundraising [application processes], tendering and how to best maximize funding opportunities from Government agencies, charitable trusts, grant-making organisations, and European funds. Despite these funding pressures, the GSAP has facilitated and assisted numerous community development proposals and community group funding applications throughout the year. Over the course of the year, GSAP has facilitated a total of **15** local groups / organisations / initiatives to make **35 APPLICATIONS** to a range of funding bodies and has resulted in groups securing funding totalling **£237,000** from bodies such as:- Awards for All; Children in Need, Big Lottery – Supporting Families Fund, CYPSP, ON Arts and Culture, DCSDC Emergency Covid Fund, Sport NI, Nationwide, Halifax, Screen NI, Screwfix, Community Relations Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council Good Relations and Grant Aid, Education Authority (Extended Schools), etc...



Capacity Building Support

The GSAP continues to provide capacity building support to local community groups / organisations and specifically has supported interventions in the form of initiatives, projects, facilities, services and community development programmes. Through 'Capacity Building' measures, our staff assisted groups / organisations within the Greater Shantallow / Outer North area to be more capable and therefore more successful in seeking whatever help and assistance necessary to implement projects, initiatives and programmes that address their issues and concerns. This support has helped develop the local community infrastructure to ensure effective and efficient targeting and use of government and other related funding. During the year capacity building and technical support provided by GSAP to local groups has covered the following areas: - development of internal policies, staff handbooks, community surveys, facilitating meetings, planning/supporting recruitment and selection procedures, drafting press releases, managing procurement processes, Access NI checks, project monitoring and evaluation, designing leaflets/posters/annual reports, costing projects/services, managing volunteers, financial management, support with PAYE Procedures (RTI), developing tender documentation, setting up management accounts, research, compiling statistics, developing exit strategies, support with applications to the Charity Commission (NI).



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Relieving Poverty

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



95 local people received training in community development & capacity building during the year;



51 adult education qualifications gained during the year via our core community support programme;



48 young people benefited from youth inclusion & diversionary programmes;



A total of 21 local providers engaged in the delivery of our Families Connect Programme, including schools, training providers, statutory partners;



46 local people gained a qualification through our Success North West Programme;

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS 2023/24

*(An Active, Influential,
and Learning Community)*



44 full time / part time jobs secured as a result of participation on our Skills North West Programme;



136 non accredited / soft skills acquired by participants on our Success North West Programme;



299 adults accessed interventions/treatments with our Family Support Service.



379 food parcels distributed by GSAP staff to families in need during the year;



27 Agencies/Schools/GPs/Health Providers made referrals to Family Support Service during the year;



DENI WRAP AROUND PROJECT

Our Deni WRAP Educational Support Programme 2023/2024 is run locally in partnership with Shantallow Community Residents Association, Rainbow Child & Family Centre, ETHOS Family Support Hub. The programme encompasses 5 programmes: Youth Pre-employment, Family Therapy Intervention, Youth Engagement, Mini Questing and Learning Hub.

Family Learning Interventions & Play (FLIP)

- 12 ADULTS & 24 YOUNG PEOPLE
- 300 Interventions
- Also 89 Play therapy sessions
- 12 – 1-1 parent and child sessions
- 5-week parenting programme
- Forest skills/Art therapy/Home learning packs

Mini Questing Project

- 12 ADULTS & 45 CHILDREN SUPPORTED
- 240 Interventions - 20 Families x 12 sessions
- 180 home visits & 60 parent meetings
- Cookery fun programme (3 families)
- Transitional work for families going to P1
- Magical winter wonderland/Bowling alley trip/W5 trip
- Weekly family packs to encourage family games/fun.

Pre-Employment, Education & Training Programme

- 10 YOUNG PEOPLE – 7 completed
- 9 parents supported - 45 interventions
- Math's and English basic levels completed
- Food Hygiene/Health and safety/First Aid & Communication Skills training attended.
- Personal development & 4 trips

Youth Opportunities & Community Investment Programme

- 20 YOUNG PEOPLE - 42 interventions
- 20 personal development/training sessions
- 20 volunteer placements & 2 study trips

Rainbow Children's Learning Hub

- 20 ADULTS & 20 CHILDREN SUPPORTED
- 20 Interventions - 23 weeks of after school activities
- Stem science kits & Homework skills



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Advancing Education

Families Connect

Families Connect is an evidence-based programme supporting families to help their children succeed in school and live within strengthened family environments. By establishing early partnerships between families, schools & communities, FACT empowers parents to help their children learn and removes obstacles that prevent children from succeeding at school. FACT. This is a Save the Children signature project, designed to improve the relationship between classroom learning & the home learning environment. Families Connect's long-term aim (targeted at children between 4-6 years) is to give children a greater chance of achieving their potential and do better in school. As an extension to this for families GSAP added many cookery programmes to help tackle food poverty and a healthy eating approach at home and brought in a Cookery facilitator for the parents and children to learn new skills received packs. A total of **137 Primary School Children & 136 Parents benefitted** from this project and continue to extend this learning into their homes.



FAMILIES CONNECT



Community Education Initiatives

A key element of GSAP's core community support role is to provide local residents with access to both formal and non formal training and education programmes and courses. This year we continued to offer our training programmes – **51 local residents** availed of the programmes on offer, including Essential Skills (ICT), Essential Skills (Literacy), Essential Skills (Numeracy), Pre-Literacy Essential Skills, Make-up and Nail Art.

PROGRAMME REVIEW

Advancing Education

Skeoge Community Hub

Summary of Programmes to Date

- ❑ A total of around **7,317** participants have benefited from the Catalyst Project this year;
- ❑ A breakdown of the total **7,317** is as follows: (**1,408 – Café Links, 5,402 – STAR, & 507 – SAFE**);
- ❑ A total of **8 staff operating out of the Skeoge Community Hub**, now employed by GSAP - Project / Centre Coordinator, 2 x Project Support Workers, Café Links Assistants, 2 x Play Park Assistants, & Family Support Worker, and Youth Support Worker;
- ❑ To date the Skeoge Community Hub has been able to create a total of **35 volunteers, (including 25 adult volunteers, 10 junior volunteers)**. Volunteer opportunities have been created for local residents to support the Hub in the delivery of a range of local programmes / activities including summer schemes, fun days, festivals, community cleanups, community games, Saturday cinema, development & upkeep of community garden, etc...;
- ❑ A total of **50+ external organisations / service providers (including statutory organisations)** used the Hub during the year to facilitate the delivery of regular (weekly / monthly) outreach programmes / projects;
- ❑ All staff & volunteers participating in **SEVEN (7)** accredited and non-accredited training programmes, including Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, First Aid Training, Child Protection & Safeguarding, Youth Work (Level 2), Introduction to Autism & ADHD, Health & Safety Training;

PROGRAMME REVIEW

Providing Facilities

Community Café – Café Links

- ❑ 2 staff employed in the Café through the JobStart Employment Programme – finished June'24
- ❑ 2 x local (resident) volunteers in place supporting the running of the café at peaks times and at weekends;
- ❑ Continuing to coordinate development of the café and promotion throughout the local community and amongst local service providers (Sure Start, EA, WHSCT, etc...);
- ❑ Café links is **averaging 65 customers per week**;
- ❑ 341 local residents using the Internet Café in place - (CV's, job search, online shopping, advice, support, guidance, online passports application etc...). Printing facility available when required;
- ❑ Piloted an afternoon entertainment event for local people. Facilitated by George Murphy, providing story-telling, music and song;
- ❑ Now opened 6 days a week from 10am – 5pm. Late night opening on Monday & Wednesday
- ❑ Child holiday hunger initiatives – e.g., mid-term “Brekie Clubs” took place during the month of Feb'24 (Monday - Friday) with **31 children supported**;
- ❑ Weekly gaming (board games) night in Café Links for local young people (every Monday night). Participants are provided with tea and toast; Initiative is to provide local kids with a warm, safe, welcoming space during the winter nights;
- ❑ **534 meals** provided to **196 unique beneficiaries** during the period Nov'23 to Feb'24;

PROGRAMME REVIEW

Providing Facilities



STAR PROGRAMME

- ❑ Ongoing weekly housing and welfare advice service (APEX Housing Association & ASK);
- ❑ Dedicated Family Support Worker now based at the Hub (3-year funding);
- ❑ **152 families** from Skeoge area supported during the year
- ❑ Weekly parenting programmes (including Sure Start Shantallow);
- ❑ Weekly over 50's Women's Group programme of activities;
- ❑ Weekly Men's Group programme of activities;
- ❑ Weekly Youth Groups activities / sessions;
- ❑ Weekly early years intervention programmes (Talking to our Babies – 0- to 3-year-olds);
- ❑ Weekly health visiting clinic (WHSCT / SureStart);
- ❑ Weekly Baby Bank Service, in partnership with Foyle Food Bank;
- ❑ Weekly "Supporting Mums" Initiative;
- ❑ Weekly Health Initiatives / Interventions / Therapies (including Smoking Cessation, Arthritis Pain Management);
- ❑ On-going work with local GP's / PHA / Developing Healthy Communities – Reducing Health Inequalities Community Consultation in Skeoge;

PROGRAMME REVIEW

Providing
Facilities

Northside 50+

This year the GSAP continued to provide support to our very popular Northside 50+ group, applying for funding, managing the group's finances and budgets, and arranging facilitators. It now successfully runs 5 days a week.

The club also operate a digital aspect to the programme running a speakeasy and book club online an additional 2-day activities a week. The programme has a health and well being emphasis, facilitating activities such as aerobics and movement, tai chi, health check-ups. **190 people** benefited from these Health intervention services:

Chair exercises & Mindfulness programmes, Self Esteem & confidence building, Tia chi, Zumba dance therapy, Age Friendly Projects

Schools Counselling Support Programme

With funding secured through the Extended Schools Programme, the GSAP was able to offer all of our primary and post primary schools access to an early intervention counselling programme. As a result of funding this year a total of **36 pupils via 12 local schools** were able to avail of the early intervention counselling support programme. This year our counselling support service dealt with a wide range of issues including anger management, emotions and frustrations, bereavement, anxiety management, support with difficult family environments, parental illness, and separation anxiety. Pupils and family members were also given the opportunity to learn positive techniques that enabled them to develop strategies to improve positive thinking.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Preserving Health



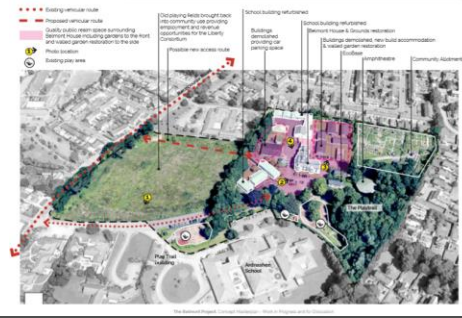
OUTER NORTH PHYSICAL RENEWAL

In the 2023 / 24 period the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership (ONNP) has supported the Physical Renewal agenda within Outer North, helping to progress a range of capital projects to a more advanced state of readiness through feasibility studies, economic appraisals, planning applications, design stage, land acquisition, [statutory] permissions /approvals and funding leveraged. Support for projects which have been completed, are currently under construction or have been progressed in the past (23/24) year include:

- ❑ **Restoration / Renovation of Boomhall (House, Stables, Walled Garden & Estate);**
- ❑ **Promotion of a new (APEX led) Community Hub in Beraghvale, Skeoge;**
- ❑ **Promotion of community / housing led development for the Galliagh Linear Park;**
- ❑ **Ballyarnett Country Park, Culmore Country Park and the Belmont Campus;**
- ❑ **Progression of 2nd pitch developments at Steelstown Brian Óg's GAC and Na Magha Hurling & Camogie Club;**
- ❑ **Progress on the Ballynagard Field Environmental Improvement Scheme;**
- ❑ **Progression on plans/proposals for a new Culmore Community Centre;**
- ❑ **Progression on Plans for RCD Redevelopment;**



Overall Vision >> To secure & restore Belmont House and its environs to become a state of the art community facility providing an array of activities and opportunities for all.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Physical Renewal

OUTER NORTH PHYSICAL RENEWAL

- ❑ Bus Shelters Enhancement (Galliagh);
- ❑ Promoting GSCA's Plans for a Regional Arts Centre in Ballyarnett Country Park / further investment in Studio 2;
- ❑ GSAP's refurbishment of Northside Community Building;
- ❑ Refurbishment of Culmore Fort and upgrade to surrounding public realm;
- ❑ Ongoing work with local soccer / GAA clubs regarding local provision and developing proposals to improve local facilities;
- ❑ Promotion of St.Brigid's College Redevelopment;
- ❑ Promoting Investment in Skeoge Community Infrastructure;
- ❑ Promotion & Construction of NW Greenways - Derry to Culmore / Muff;

Investment has been made also in smaller-scale initiatives such as allotment projects, community arts / cultural projects, estate clean-ups (graffiti removal, landscaping etc.) and neighbourhood environmental improvements.



PROGRAMME REVIEW

Physical Renewal

| GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA PARTNERSHIP | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| INCOME FROM GENERATING FUNDS | | | |
| Income from Donations and Legacies | 11,955 | 1,137,174 | 1,149,129 |
| Income from Other Trading Activities | 73,983 | 54,761 | 128,744 |
| Other Income | 5,000 | - | 5,000 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL INCOME | 90,938 | 1,191,935 | 1,282,873 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | |
| Staff Costs | 40,874 | 528,519 | 569,393 |
| Establishment Costs | 21,669 | 69,032 | 90,701 |
| Motor & Travelling Expenses | 1,770 | 1,976 | 3,746 |
| Auditor's Remuneration & Accountancy Fees | 1,760 | 2,740 | 4,500 |
| Legal & Professional Fees | 6,639 | - | 6,639 |
| Communications & ICT | - | 3,700 | 3,700 |
| Other Office Expenses | - | 16,472 | 16,472 |
| Interest Payable & Similar Charges | 3,020 | - | 3,020 |
| Depreciation & Impairment | 1,485 | 10,164 | 11,649 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 16 | - | 16 |
| Donations | 250 | - | 250 |
| Project Costs | 970 | 260,980 | 261,950 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 78,453 | 898,126 | 976,579 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Net Income / (expense) for the year | 12,485 | 293,809 | 306,294 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Total Funds Brought Forward | 151,766 | 7,841 | 159,607 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | 164,251 | 301,650 | 465,901 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

**1st APRIL 2023 –
31st MARCH 2024**



GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA PARTNERSHIP STAFF

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| RORY MCPARLAND | MANAGER |
| SEAN CARLIN | COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER |
| DARREN KIRBY | STRATEGY MANAGER – NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP |
| TINA DOOLIN | PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER |
| AMANDA CLARKE | COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER |
| MINTY THOMPSON | SENIOR EMPLOYMENT & MENTORING OFFICER |
| CONOR MCCOURT | EMPLOYMENT & MENTORING OFFICER |
| CLARE HARKIN | EMPLOYMENT & MENTORING OFFICER |
| NATALIE LOGUE | PROJECT COORDINATOR - TTOB |
| SHARON JONES | PROJECT COORDINATOR – ASPIRE NI |
| LAURA GALLAGHER | PROJECT COORDINATOR – FAMILIES CONNECT |
| MARTY DALY | FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR |

GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA PARTNERSHIP STAFF

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| RUTH CARR | FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER |
| MOLLY MCBRIDE | FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER |
| NICOLA MULLAN | CENTRE COORDINATOR – SKEOGE COMMUNITY HUB |
| ORLA JACKSON | PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER – SKEOGE COMMUNITY HUB |
| KAYLA BOYLE | PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER – SKEOGE COMMUNITY HUB |
| MOLLIE MCMONAGLE | PROGRAMME OFFICER – SKEOGE UNITED |
| CATHY GREEN | CAFÉ LINKS ASSISTANT |
| GEORGINA LAVY | FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER - SKEOGE |
| SEAN POL MCLAUGHLIN | PLAY PARK ATTENDANT - SKEOGE |
| JEANNIE GLENN | VOLUNTEER PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER – SKEOGE |
| MARISA MCCALLION | FINANCE OFFICER |
| CLARE MULDOON | ADMINISTRATOR / RECEPTIONIST |

GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA PARTNERSHIP TRUSTEES

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| CHARLIE MCDAID | TRUSTEE & CHAIRPERSON |
| CATHAL MCCAULEY | TRUSTEE & COMPANY SECRETARY |
| SANDRA DUFFY | TRUSTEE & VICE CHAIRPERSON |
| ELAINE YOUNG | TRUSTEE & SECRETARY |
| MARTIN CONNOLLY | TRUSTEE & TREASURER |
| BRIAN TIERNEY | TRUSTEE |
| MARIE GILLESPIE | TRUSTEE |
| VIVIENE LYNOTT | TRUSTEE |
| MICHAEL DOYLE | TRUSTEE |
| GERRY MCMONAGLE | TRUSTEE |
| CAOLAN CAMBELL | TRUSTEE |



Greater Shantallow Area Partnership Annual Review 2023-2024

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