

WELCOME to REACT's quarterly newsletter, providing information on local community events and training.

New Victims Service launched...

The REACT Office at 2 Mallview Terrace was the setting for the formal launch of Armagh's new dedicated service to victims and survivors of the conflict. In his opening remarks, Chairman William Bradshaw welcomed the guests, friends, public representatives, and especially the victims/survivors to the launch of what was their programme.

Dr James Wilson, project co-ordinator gave a powerpoint presentation outlining the range of services available and describing the legal criteria as established in the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Key note speaker Brendan McAllister, Commissioner for Victims & Survivors congratulated REACT's committee and staff on the rapid progress of the programme since its establishment on 4 July 2011.

The Commissioner continued, **"the future of services to victims and survivors depends on a social partnership between government agencies and grass root community organisations."**

Mr McAllister concluded, **"organisations such as REACT will play an important role in helping services to be grounded in the reality of life on the ground for victims."**

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.reactni.org
for all our latest news and events!**

New Victims Service hosts Armagh



REACT played host to the October meeting of the **Armagh Clergy** at their Mallview Terrace premises in Armagh city.

Rev Tony Davidson paid tribute to the work of REACT and their kindness in hosting the meeting. He continued, “ We as clergy feel that it is absolutely essential to get out into our community and connect with groups such as REACT. This morning’s meeting has been very useful at a number of levels, not just in briefing us on this new and comprehensive service to victims of the conflict, but in gaining an invaluable insight into the many ways REACT strives to improve and develop our community here in Armagh. In this mission you will enjoy our support and our prayers ”.

Dr James Wilson, Co-ordinator of REACT Victims and Survivors Project, welcomed the local churchmen and complimented the clergy on their proactive approach. He briefed clergy on the dynamics of the project, the current demand for Victims’ services in Armagh , the Strategic Support Fund, the vital role of Community Relations Council, and how this project enjoys the unique juxtaposition with a community development group.

Dr Wilson concluded. “ This has been a very positive meeting. We acknowledge the unsung role of local clergy in being the shock absorbers of our conflict, and look forward to working with them very closely as we get on with the task of ministering to the victims and survivors.”

Victims & Survivors Programme - Background

While there are at least five dedicated organisations offering services to victims in the Greater Armagh area, what makes the REACT programme distinct and discreet is that we are not a victims group per say, but an umbrella community association. Our service is therefore deliberately couched as ‘non aligned’ and will specialise in the re-integration of victims back into society through the recognition and acknowledgement of the victims by that society. The REACT Victims Service programme is funded by the Community Relations Council through the Strategic Support Fund for groups working with victims and survivors of the Troubles.

The Programme currently funds two members of staff - the project co-ordinator Dr James Wilson (21 hours per week) and the administrator Gillian McKeown (10 hours per week).

To date the project has engaged with 38 Victims and Survivors and has delivered reflexology and aromatherapy programmes under ‘Mental Health and Wellbeing’, ‘Colour Me Beautiful’ under ‘Personal and Professional Development’ and a trip to the Portrush Airshow.

On Saturday 10 December we’re running a trip to George’s Market in Belfast , followed by free time for shopping/sightseeing and finishing off with dinner in Lisburn. We are also hoping to begin some cookery sessions before Christmas - watch this space!!

In the next quarter of the project, the programmes will include yoga, storytelling, dedicated individual counselling sessions and a visit to the Commission for Victims & Survivors to meet with Anne Dorbie, the new Chief Executive of the Victims Service.

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

Ulster Scots Summer Scheme

REACT held an Ulster Scots Summer school from Monday 15th August to Friday 19th August 2011. 30 children were involved in the event, allowing them the opportunity to play fun games and sports with educational workshops on subjects such as Scottish Country Dancing, Ulster Scots culture, language, cookery, drumming and arts and crafts projects based on designing family crests. The children also had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, where they got to take a glance back in time at schools, community and how this has changed.



On Friday the 19th August the Summer school came to a superb end with a presentation of certificates for each child from the Lord Mayor of Armagh City and District Council – Freda Donnelly. There were also prizes for the participants and a small celebration for children and their parents.

REACT is extremely pleased with the outcome of the event. REACT's Youth development worker Caoimhe Connor said, "I was extremely nervous about the Summer school, as it was my first time running the event, after the great success of my predecessors' Sarah McNeill and Charmain Jones in 2009. Nonetheless, I received a lot of support from my colleagues in REACT, Anne, Barbara and Nadine making it possible to create an excellent summer school. I also could not have ran the week of activities and workshops without the outstanding support of my volunteers, Ann Symington, Ashton Faulkner, Jennifer Baird, Gareth Baird, Shanice Faulkner, Jade Marno and Michael Wilson. Their commitment and energy each day to the children has been incredible. I am very fortunate to have a great team of volunteers and staff. The children have showed their enthusiasm for the programme with great big smiles and participation in every activity. It has been an absolute pleasure running the week! Programmes like this really emphasize the positive and amazing things children and young people can do and be a part of".

Up and Coming Events!

ON GOING: Rural Programme exploring identity/culture, diversity/citizenship for any youth group interested.

Contact Caoimhe for more information.

REACT Drop-In

For all 12 to 18 year olds
Why not come along to the
Crozier Memorial Hall

Each Thursday from 7–9pm

Why not come along for a chat or
to play sports!!!

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

Cooking up Change



Cooking up Change programme targets Young people aged 15-21 years old, who are at risk due to number of factors such as, unemployment, lack of support, making wrong/negative life choices, homelessness, mental health etc.

The programme challenges young people's choices and the consequences of their choices. Whilst allowing them to put in place an action plan that will be worked on over the 10 weeks which is reviewed regularly. Young people are provided with support and have the opportunity to meet people from various local businesses and organisations such as Fire and Rescue Service, PSNI, Southern Regional College, WADE to help them in make positive career choices. They get involved in a 6 week Cook IT programme, learning new skills in an informal environment and getting the opportunity to talk about their day to day lives. The last 3 weeks of the programme offers young people the opportunity to work with a life coach, reflect on who they are, how they have changed, where they wish to go in life and challenge themselves. We also will provide further programmes and support as a follow on programme.

Tuesday - Men's programme/Drop In

Tuesday Drop In and Men's programme night started 25th October. A programme for young men 16+ in the Armagh area based on 'Understanding, myself and others', started on Tuesday 15th November. The programme looks at issues such as, self esteem, assertiveness and motivation. The programme is delivered through the 'Man Matters' Programme. There are still a few places on this programme, if you or know of someone who would be interested please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Thursday - drop -in

Thursday Drop In is still running every week from 7-9pm. Aim is to provide young people aged 12-20 years a safe space to meet other young people, have a chat and a cup of tea, identify issues and get informal advice or to be referred onto other services or programmes.

If you want to find out more about REACT's youth programmes or volunteering at REACT please contact Caoimhe on 028 37 526869 or call into the REACT office between hours of 9am and 5pm to 2 Mallview Terrace, Armagh.

NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE!

REACT received a grant from the Big Lottery Awards for All programme to develop their new website - www.reactni.org

The website has all the latest news on programmes and what's happening at REACT. There is up to date information on the Good Relations Programme, Youth Development Programme, Victims and Survivors Programme and the Community Development Programme; and contact details of the programme officers. There is also a wide variety of information received from other local groups on funding opportunities, programmes running and event taking place.

If you have a programme running and you would like to include the details on our website please contact Gillian for more information.

Bag pack at Sainsbury's raised £323.47!!!

The bag pack was a brilliant success with 15 young people from our youth drop-in offering their time to volunteer for 2 hours slots between 2pm and 8pm. We will have another Bag pack fundraiser in Sainsbury's in February.

EAST Armagh Forum

As part of an ongoing Community Development Programme a public meeting was held in September in the REACT office to explore community interest in developing a forum for the residents of East Armagh. The Forum will cover the area from Barrack Hill and Victoria Street through to the Ashley and Ardmore Estates and will incorporate the Drumadd area as well as Gough Avenue, Folly, Orangefield, Ballinahone and Jubilee Estates. The focus of the group will be to identify issues in the area whether social, environmental, health, age or gender specific and provide a united voice for residents to assist the appropriate agencies in addressing these issues.

Some residents from the local area recently completed a number of courses such as Digital Photography and an Open College Network Level 1 in Community Development. Which looked at ways of identifying issues in their area and effective ways of addressing them. There will be a meeting on the 14th December at 7.30pm in the REACT office to discuss how the EAST Armagh Forum should be developed and look at issues it will address. The meeting is open to everyone in the area; if you wish to attend please contact Anne at REACT at anne@reactni.org or 37526869.

FUNDING

Consultation on the Social Investment Fund launched

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) will allocate £80 million over a four year period. The aim of the Fund is to encourage communities, statutory agencies, businesses and departments to work together in a co-ordinated way, reducing duplication, sharing best practice and enhancing existing provision for the benefits of those communities most in need.

The SIF will support communities to build pathways to employment, tackle systemic issues linked to deprivation, increase community services and address dereliction promote investment.

OFMDFM will hold consultation events in several locations and will welcome participation in these events.

The documents can be viewed and downloaded from the OFMDFM website at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk and responses must be received no later than 23 December 2011.

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust Woodward Charitable Trust

The Woodward Charitable Trust favours small-scale, locally based initiatives and primarily one-off projects. They focus on arts, education, environment, disability and health, community and social welfare.

Deadline: 30 November 2011

T: 020 7410 0330

E: contact@woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

W: www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

REACT members can avail of Grant Tracker to search for other available grants - just contact the office to make an appointment!

SUBWAY HRUK Healthy Heart Grants

The SUBWAY/Heart Research UK Healthy Heart Grant of up to £10,000 is available for new, original and innovative projects that actively promote Heart Health and help to prevent, or reduce, the risk of heart disease in specific groups or communities.

Community groups can now apply to Heart Research UK for new SUBWAY/HRUK Healthy Heart Grants. The Grants are as a result of the partnership between the two organisations and in store regional fundraising by SUBWAY stores.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to groups in Northern Ireland for projects that promote and encourage healthy heart lifestyles within the community.

The SUBWAY/Heart Research UK Healthy Heart grant is for heart health projects only, and not for general healthy lifestyle projects. Projects must focus on and actively promote heart health for the duration of the project. Projects that are not specifically for heart health will not be considered.

The closing date for completed applications is Tuesday 20 December 2011.

Full details of how to apply, and application materials, can be downloaded from their website www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/subwayhhg

What's been happening...

ARMAGH BANDS FORUM

The Armagh Bands Forum which has a membership of twenty eight local marching bands and is supported through our Community Relations Programme was established in 2006. They have a Committee of twelve members elected each year at the annual general meeting, the most recent of which was held on 27th October 2011. Through funding from the Armagh Community Safety Partnership and the Community Relations Council they have provided an extensive training programme for band members including child protection, marshalling skills, first aid, negotiation skills, presentation skills, and conflict management and good relations. They support member bands to develop policies and procedures and work with them on issues relating to the organisation of parades.

A good working relationship has been developed with the PSNI, Armagh City and District Council and the Armagh Community Safety Partnership in relation to the organising of parades.

The Armagh Bands Forum is recognised as a model of good practice and has been replicated in other areas of Northern Ireland and the Border Counties in the Republic of Ireland. REACT is currently providing advice, support and facilitation to bands in a number of areas in relation to their forum development.

It's A Knockout!



REACT in conjunction with the Armagh Cultural and Historical Association and PSNI Armagh Neighbourhood Policing Team held a very successful Its A Knockout Community Challenge at the Mill Field on the 11th July. Teams from throughout the community including the Neighbourhood Policing Team participated in an afternoon of fun activity which took place in glorious sunshine (one of the few sunny days we had this summer). Our thanks go to all those who participated, volunteered on the day or helped organise the event in any way. We must also thank the Community Relations Council for their financial assistance and Armagh City and District Council who provided the use of the venue free of charge.

Bounce Training

The aim of BOUNCE is to support Teachers, Youth & Community and Health & Social Services workers to become better informed about approaches to developing protective factors and positive health outcomes for young people. The manual focus on issues of relationships, sexual health, drugs & alcohol, decision making and informed choices for Young People. RESILIENCE is as the capacity to face, overcome and be strengthened by adversities in life, the capacity to prevent, minimise or overcome the negative effects of adversity, the ability to bounce back and the ability to cope with life's adversities. REACT recently delivered the training in partnership with Maureen McSorley from the SHSCT to 20 eager youth and community workers and volunteers in Armagh Fire Station. To find out about upcoming Bounce Training please contact Maureen McSorley on maureen.mcsorley@southerntrust.hscni.net or 028 3752 0555.

UP COMING EVENTS

react
reconciliation, education and community training

You are cordially invited to our

Annual General Meeting

To be held on: Wednesday 30th November 2011

At: 7.30pm

In: The REACT Offices, 2 Mallview Terrace, Armagh

Supper will be served

Community Relations Council



RSVP: 2 Mallview Terrace, Armagh
Telephone: 02837326869
Email: Barbara_react@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Crafts Morning



Wednesday 7

December 2011

10.30 - 12.30

Come along and enjoy a fun session making Christmas decorations.

Places limited—contact Anne or Gillian to book your place!

With mince pies and tea/coffee to finish off!

POSITIVE THINKING CLASSES

*De-stress and relaxation techniques with
Jacky Ingram*

Beginning on Wednesday 18 January every
Wednesday until 8 February from 7.30 until
9pm.

Call Anne for more information.

Bus Trip to Belfast for Victims/Survivors Group Saturday 10 December



Respite excursion to Belfast
Christmas Markets, a day of
shopping and a Christmas dinner
- all for £6 per head.

*Limit of 2 places per registered

victim

For further information on this, please
contact Gillian on 028 37526869

Cooking classes

(for registered victims only)

Starting in December for 4 weeks, for
more information contact Gillian...



REACT Youth Development Worker – Full Time Salary - £24,830 per annum

This post will be based in Armagh and applicants will be either: a qualified youth worker (Diploma or above in Youth Work) in accordance with current JNC regulations with a minimum of three years experience in a variety of youth work settings or have a Diploma or above in a related Discipline (Community Development, Community Relations or Social Work) with a minimum of four years experience in a variety of youth work settings. Applicants should also have experience of detached youth work with marginalised young people.

This is a fixed termed post supported by BBC Children In Need until November 2012.

Further information, job description and application form are available from:

REACT

2 Mallview Terrace

Armagh

BT61 9AN

Tel: 02837526869 or Email: info@reactni.org

Closing date for receipt of applications is: **Thursday 15th December 2011 @ 12 noon**

Interviews will take place week commencing 9th January 2012

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REACT

2 Mallview Terrace, Armagh, BT61 9AN

Tel: 028 37526869