



ADVANCED DIPLOMA in SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Participants

September 2018



Alberta Riley

Donegall Pass Community Forum Managing Director



The Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF) is currently engaged in exploring the possibilities of developing a Community Creative Arts Hub as a social enterprise project. As Managing Director, I have identified the need to develop the skills and knowledge to enable me to implement the business plans for a Creative Art Hub as part of a Social Economy Business. As an organisation, DPCF have a number of projects which focus on Training & Education, Health & Wellbeing, Women's social inclusion, Community Cohesion and Regeneration as part of the Urban Village initiative. The Donegall Pass area is well recognised for its social needs and these social projects including social business opportunities are absolutely essential to see regeneration in our area including employment in new tourism and cultural ventures.

Bronagh Flynn

Housing Rights Business

Partnership and Development Officer



My current work role is Business and Partnerships Development Officer for Housing Rights, a medium sized not for profit organisation. In this role I scope, review and evaluate existing business relationships while we go through a period of radical change to our portfolio. One of my key roles, in line with Housing Rights 5-year Strategic Plan is to consider the viability of Social Enterprise for Housing Rights and make recommendations to the Board. I would expect to benefit from the programme by being able to expand my knowledge on the Social Enterprise Sector and being able to explore new ideas for Social Business opportunities for Housing Rights. There is an urgent need to identify new markets for the organisation, while fostering and sustaining relationships across the public, private and voluntary sectors. I believe the TRANSFORM programme is exactly what I need to enhance the ability of the organisation to be more successful.

Caeris Armour

Local Economic Development Company (LEDCOM) Ltd.

Business & Enterprise Executive



I have been working as Business & Enterprise Executive within LEDCOM with the aim of develop our social enterprise development support services both within our own area and across Northern Ireland. The TRANSFORM programme is ideally placed to assist me and my organisation increase our effectiveness and range of services such as: Delivery of business start-up and support services such as mentoring, training and business planning for programmes such as Northern Ireland Business Start Up (NIBSUP) programme and Enterprise NI Loan Fund, Provision of professional business advice and information to clients interested in starting a business., Provision of professional advice and signposting to existing businesses. In addition I want to undertake the TRANSFORM programme to enhance my understanding of social enterprise so that I can practically apply this learning to both our own organisation and the social enterprises we develop and support.

Chara Clarke **GLOW** **Project Manager**



My role within Glow is Project Manager responsible for the operational activities of the organisation. Glow aims to promote personal development, positive mental health, and physical well being; to equip women and young girls to discover their identity and purpose in order to live happy and fulfilled lives. Our objective is to make a lasting difference within our community by providing life skills to women and young girls who face social, relational, and emotional difficulties. Glow operates specifically in North and West Belfast, these are two of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland (NI) high levels of crime, poverty, drugs & alcohol, unemployment, paramilitaries and sectarianism are common. Northern Ireland's troubled past has left a legacy of social deprivation and mental health issues. There are strong links between mental health issues and suicide in NI which we want to tackle and is the main thrust of our provision..

Clare McLaughlin **FLEX Language Services** **Manager**



I am currently employed in managing all of the bookings for our extensive range of services. My role is Bookings Manager in Northern Ireland's largest Interpreting and Translation Agency – operating as part of West Belfast Enterprise Board. We provide interpreting, translation and tuition solutions across Northern Ireland to departmental bodies and private companies and individuals. We currently hold all departmental contracts in Northern Ireland, providing interpreters and translators to several agencies, including the Department of Justice, NI Civil Service and the Education Authority. FLEX currently work alongside 500 self-employed interpreters and translators from various communities throughout Northern Ireland. Together the FLEX team and the interpreters provide support to the end service user, whose first language is not English. FLEX was acquired by leading social enterprise, The Ortus Group, in 2011 and seeks to build on early success.

Conor Stiobhard **Iontaobhas Bheann Mhadagáin** **Chairperson**



I am currently the Chairperson of Iontaobhas Bheann Mhadagáin (IBM). My main role is to lead and manage the daily activities of the organisation. I am involved in a significant level of advocacy as well as working with a wide range of community and statutory agencies to promote and secure the aims of the organisation in the short to medium term. Longer term we have a vision to develop a more sustainable organisation and create a Family Centre that provides support services based around a social enterprise model. As a Community Development worker, my role is to develop programmes to meet needs of the local community and for ensure these projects are successful. Fundraising is another aspect of my role to secure much needed capital, core salary, programme and running costs, a number of smaller grants and to lobby for better community facilities/ resources and investment for the area. IBM's objectives are to establish a

cultural hub & family centre that provides support services to meet the needs of the Irish language community.

Darren Wallace Oakwood Centre Board Member



I have been involved as a board member for the past 5 years and my current role includes participation in the strategic development of the centre, designing and implementing a promotion and advertising strategy. Some of the specific tasks we undertake are - assisting with groups and individuals attending the centre (delivering media workshops and environmental projects), outreach work (schools and community organisations). The centre is currently undergoing a transformation and shift in focus due to the amount of Good Relations and Peacebuilding programmes being delivered by Councils, EU, central Government and funding organisations. We need to TRANSFORM our social business and we are looking to develop new projects which will support and engage people from disadvantaged communities who are facing a range of social and economic issues.

David Montgomery Goanserve Company Director



Goanserve started 16 years ago when, as a youth leader, I took a group of young people to Goa in India. Since that time, I have invested my own time and resources in taking many people to experience the value of serving others. I have developed a business model that seems to work am now at a stage where the whole enterprise needs proper structure and business acumen, so it can truly grow into a proper social impact company. Embarking into social enterprise is a new venture for me. I want to develop and transfer existing skills, knowledge and values to develop a social enterprise that, makes a genuine social impact. As part of the TRANSFORM programme I need to develop a strategic plan for growth that will harness the expertise, skills and knowledge required to help me grow Goanserve to meet social needs and create opportunities for personal and professional growth both locally and Internationally.

Deborah Cross Iona Enterprises Ltd Director



Iona Enterprises currently manages Iona Business Park with over 40 people employed on the site. As a Board Member I am involved in developing and supporting the creation of social economy /enterprise initiatives that support local social enterprise and entrepreneurship especially the Meenan Square area of Derry. There is a real need to regenerate the Meenan Square site in order to bring the site back into sustainable long-term use, addressing issues such as dereliction and anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. The redevelopment programme will maximise the benefits of the site to the local community in terms of provision of social housing and contribute towards addressing social housing need. In addition, there is a need to create community facilities to support the need to deliver a wide range of programmes and commercial/ social enterprise premises to support employment and community services in the area. All of which

underpins my need to gain additional social enterprise skills which I will gain from TRANSFORM.

Eileen Wilson

Footprints Women's Centre

Sustainable Living Manager



As the Sustainable Living Manager I am responsible for the development and implementation of a Sustainable Living Strategy within Footprints Women's Centre. The vision of Footprints Women's Centre is to be a hub for women and children in our community drawing local people to improve their lives through emotional, practical and educational support and to be able to support families in food poverty while creating a sustainable enterprise at the heart of the local community. This strategy will include the development and management of Footprints Community Food encompassing Footprints Deli and Catering Service, Social Supermarket, Food Garden and Healthy Living Programmes which is why I am seeking to enhance my social enterprise skills through the TRANSFORM programme. I have responsibility for initiating, developing and managing projects that support the Sustainable Living strategy, using a variety of methods to persuade and encourage shifts to greener and healthier living.

Gemma McCaughley

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

Volunteer Development worker



My current role is Volunteer Development worker and Capacity Building officer within Colin Neighbourhood Partnership which is the parent body for the regeneration of the Colin Glen area. Through our services and support provision we seek to address a range of social issues such as mental health, employment, family support and education and the environment. I support individuals and groups /organisations with advice, guidance and support in strategic development, management and sustainability. All of these services can be improved and become more sustainable which is my motivation for attending TRANSFORM at this stage. My role is to support volunteer led groups and organisations in Colin. I am also leading in a Colin Community Champions project which trains, supports and mentors Community Champions in the areas of early intervention. I seek to address a range of social issues such as mental health, employment, family support and education and the environment.

Grainne McGinley

Bogside & Brandywell Initiative

Development Worker



Over the past number of years the Bogside & Brandywell communities have sought to bring about social regeneration of these areas. Over this time all employees and volunteers of BBI have been involved in the overseeing and facilitation of a number of large scale community events across the area of the Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street area which are incorporated in to the Urban Village initiative. Alongside these events the BBI also run a social economy known as the Triax Social Economy Project Ltd which manages 38 allotments along with an upcycling project using pallets and the refurbishment of older furniture and hiring of a number of Community Marquees. The social economy route is a new avenue for the BBI I am honoured to be supported by my colleagues to participate on the TRNASFORM programme which is so

appropriate for us at this time as we seek to grow and become sustainable.

Helen Crickard Forward South Partnership Vice- Chair



I am currently vice-chair of Forward South Partnership, formerly the South Belfast Partnership Board and as such I am involved in representing FSP at many levels to ensure the voice of South Belfast is heard. The advancement community development is a key focus for us by providing strategic and practical support to community and voluntary organisations to increase their efficiency and effectiveness with specific aims to encourage such organisations to co-operate to achieve their aims. I work with several groups, women and intercultural projects who are marginalised in our community. Along with my co-workers I am deeply committed to South Belfast and value the role that Forward South has in connecting our community and ensuring we have communication and unity in our area. Forward South currently manage several health projects and manages a range of services throughout South Belfast, supporting several organisations and is a central focal point for sharing best practices and identifying gaps in provision.

Katherine Finnegan-Agnew An Tobar CIC CEO



An Tobar CIC was formed by my sisters and I with many years of experience in the horticulture industry, having been involved in the family Nursery & Garden Centre since 1988. Our farm has been in our family for more than 300 years. It is from a well on the farm that An Tobar CIC takes its name, as it simply means 'The Well' or 'Well-spring'. Our aim is for An Tobar to become a community hub for the benefit of everyone in our rural community. My current role as CEO of An Tobar CIC is to develop the social enterprise and manage the complete transition from private business to community interest company. As with most small businesses my work involves a combination of many roles. I have been responsible for sales, customer service, marketing, accounts, payroll and general admin. I have accumulated a lot of experience in the private business sector as well as gaining an extensive knowledge of horticulture and recognise my need of the

professional skills delivered by the TRANSFORM course.

Kieran Brady Ionad na Faiseoige (Scoil na Faiseoige) Irish Language Development Officer



My current work role is to encourage the community to develop various useful skills through education, the arts and recreational programmes as part of our area regeneration initiative. I'm part of the senior management team in the Colin area tasked to develop and sustain a new £2.5 million community centre. We are developing a social economy Day Care and are planning to develop a social economy café, all running within the Centre. We strive to provide opportunities for growth and development across all ages of the Colin Community and in doing so we try to involve the community in deciding what events, classes and workshops they would like to run throughout the year. We have identified four key social issues - Unemployment – Poverty – Isolation – Educational attainment. I hope to strengthen my strategic knowledge and skills associated from participating on the TRANSFORM programme to help take the organisation forward.

Kirsty King **Shared Threads** **Project Manager**



Shared Threads is a fledgling organisation with a strong desire to become a sustainable business in order to achieve our objectives. As the initial worker and founder the underpinning aim is to deliver social progress through simple accessible skills that enables many women to contribute locally to a global initiative. Primarily this will be achieved through developing a local community network that makes (basic knitting) and provides sustainable, environmentally friendly menstrual hygiene packs to girls in the developing world who otherwise have no provision thus freeing them from one of the constraints to opportunities they face. The social aim is: To enable girls and women to access more opportunities by offering them a sustainable, environmentally friendly menstrual hygiene solution. The Environmental aim is: To create eco – friendly cloth sanitary pads whilst addressing the issue of cotton waste in NI by using recycled cotton. The Community Aim is: To gather women together from different communities and generations with the common purpose of helping other women create social change,

Laura McCourt **Local Economic Development Company (LEDCOM) Ltd.** **Information and Engagement Officer**



My current work role includes programme management and delivery of business and community development programmes such as the Exploring Enterprise Programme (a pre start enterprise programme offering training and development to potential entrepreneurs), Fresh Frontiers (Peace IV) Programme and other economic development projects. As such the TRANSFORM initiative is well suited to enhance my knowledge, skills and understanding of the whole social business environment. In particular we are seeking to enhance our services in the following areas 1. Business and community mentoring and 2. Community development and capacity building consultancy for social enterprises and community organisations. I am also involved in the development of Heritage Experience Limited, one of LEDCOM's subsidiary social enterprises.

Martin Connolly **Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens** **Director**

PCA @ Sally Gardens is a community based organisation located in the Colin area and delivers front line services. PCA @ Sally Gardens delivers a range of inclusive community-based services to all groups/individuals. Issues targeted include economic development, the environment, community development, youth work, providing community facilities, facilitating disability inclusion, campaigning and much more. Our mission is to provide quality services which help improve quality of life of people in the Poleglass area. As Director I am responsible for the ongoing strategic development of this and other potential social enterprises through the utilisation of PCA@ Sally Gardens facilities and resources as a means of building Community Infrastructure and a broad Social Environment. To achieve this we have a stated objective to 'Develop, Promote and Implement an inclusive programme of Arts, Sports, Local Leadership and Education' to meet the needs of our community and young people in particular.

Matthew McKinley **Colin Neighbourhood Partnership** **Commercial Manager**



My current work role consists of managing and delivering programs for partnership organisations including the Public Health Agency, The Education Authority and Urban Villages to meet four stated needs. These needs are defined as Community Renewal, Economic Renewal, Social renewal and Physical Renewal. The programs I am involved in are designed to teach participants the importance of following a healthier diet and making permanent changes over a long period of time which can have a positive impact on their future wellbeing. In this role I am tasked with business development and business improvement through delivering commercially viable programs & workshops on behalf of organisations who are willing / able to pay. As a consequence these courses have to generate ongoing revenue for sustainable business performance and deliver long term social impact -all part of the rationale for attending TRANSFORM

Megan Douglas **Proud** **Director (Founder)**



I started a social enterprise in February 2016 with the aim of create employment experiences for young adults facing barriers to gaining employment. Since then I have progressed my initial ideas to establish a fledgling community interest company. Although my trading product is very basic at this stage -making and selling ice cream – I am greatly affirmed with the progress so far. Proud operates mainly through pop up catering units, celebratory events (e.g. fairs, weddings and family gatherings) and regional markets selling ice cream. We work in collaboration with local charities who offer employability training, we offer innovation workshops for local young adults and we are currently creating our own gelato by employing young adults to design and create this for us. The TRANSFORM programme is a tremendous opportunity for me as the founder and director. Along with product development marketing and business development

Michele **Bryans** **EastSide Partnership** **Connswater Community Greenway Trust Manager**



I have been the Manager of the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) at EastSide Partnership since 2017. The CCG created a 9km linear park along the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces. The CCG has created vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation, community events and activities. The project is improving the quality of life for the people of east Belfast. This includes the 40,000 residents, students attending the 23 schools and colleges, visitors and tourists and those who chose to work and invest in east Belfast. This role includes; the coordination of the CCG Trust and overall strategic direction of the project, to design and deliver an annual animation programme, agree developmental capital works programme with key stakeholders. All of which is to help regenerate and link the communities to generate new business or social enterprises opportunities creating sustainable economic benefit and social wellbeing. The content of TRANSFORM is exactly what I need to help contribute to future expansion.

Robin Stewart

Reach UK

Conflict transformation Coordinator



As part of the overall vision for Reach UK my role is to help identify and deliver opportunities to develop the community in which I operate and to develop interactions with other communities bringing about a reduction in conflict leading to greater community relations. In doing so we recognise the need for job creation associated with increased economic activity and enterprise. It is recognised that getting people in to business and in to work is a major contributor to community wellbeing. Our plans are to establish social enterprises that will inspire others to do likewise in order to deliver our aim - to deliver the hopes of our community, to help to understand their history and culture, to educate the young and the elderly, to help our people move on to a peaceful and brighter future for all the people of N.Ireland, to work with others with confidence of our future. As a community activist I recognise the need to gain additional

knowledge and skills and why the TRANSFORM programme is just right for me and my organisation right now.

Terry Conlon

5TH Element NI

Director



Through 5 TH ElementNI, I Teach workshops, create projects, am the volunteer director and the community outreach director. I do the day to day running of the origination which involves manging volunteers, delivering events and projects, teaching workshops, networking and doing the community outreach within the Belfast area. We are a Hip Hop Charity that's uses the art forms of Breakdance, rapping, emceeing, and graffiti art, beat boxing and knowledge of all the elements in the Hip Hop culture. Empowering mostly youth through the Hip Hop Culture giving them a way to express themselves enabling them to choose healthily choices and to tackle the mental health issues that they face within their families and communities. The elements we teach are community awareness/ social justice/ intellectual philological awareness/ self-identity and self-expression. In addition, I have other skills which are transferable as I work in a

substance misuse centre and supported living for young people. For all of the above reasons I see the TRANSFORM course as an essential contribution to the development of this organisation with the potential it has for reaching the marginalised and creating employment.