Having recently assumed the role of Programme Director for Urban Villages I’m really looking forward to working closely with local communities to deliver the Urban Villages initiative.

The Urban Villages Initiative brings an innovative and collaborative approach to improve good relations and develop thriving places in areas which have long suffered economic and social challenges. Extensive engagement has taken place across all of the Urban Village areas with local residents, community organisations and other stakeholders, which has informed the development of Strategic Frameworks for each area.

The Frameworks were launched by TEO Ministers at events in September. The events were a great success and highlighted how the Strategic Frameworks will transform the Urban Villages into areas that are thriving and where potential and ambition are nurtured and given the opportunity to grow.

The Framework for South Belfast can be viewed using the following link, you may recognise some faces in here!


The Urban Villages team look forward to continuing to work with you, and the other Urban Village areas, in the delivery of this exciting programme!

Linsey Farrell
Director of Urban Villages, Racial Equality & Interface Issues.
WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?

**Improve the physical environment**
OUTCOMES:
- Shared space is accessible to all
- Residents are proud of their neighbourhood
- Increased use of shops, services and amenities
- Increased business activity

**Foster positive community identities**
OUTCOMES:
- Improved relationships between and within communities
- Cultural diversity is celebrated
- A community where places and spaces are safe for all
- Increased sense of community belonging

**Build community capacity**
OUTCOMES:
- Increased use of shared spaces and services
- Greater voice and influence
- Confident and enterprising community

URBAN VILLAGES TEAM
CONTACT IN SOUTH BELFAST:
emma.donnelly@urbanvillagesni.org
GEEK WEEK

As part of BSCR’s Digital Skills Strategy, they have held a number of events during the summer and at Halloween to create an awareness of the many types of Digital Creative Activities that young people can get involved in. The sessions received funding by the N. I. Executive under Urban Villages and delivered by NERVE Centre Belfast. They included, Coding, App Design, Animation, iPad filming and Virtual Reality. To see footage of some of the workshops please visit the YouTube channel & Facebook page both called BSCR Sandy Row.

Keep an eye on BSCR’s social media pages for news of upcoming events. You can also register your interest by emailing nikki@bscr.co.uk and ask to be put on their mailing list for future events.

DIGITAL SOUTH

On 21st March 2017 South Belfast Partnership Board’s Digital South will host its 4th Annual Digital Youth Event aimed at Year 10 – 12 pupils, giving them access to leading digital and technology firms to showcase career options and latest technologies.

URBAN BABIES

Mums and ‘mums to be’ from the Sandy Row and Market areas of South Belfast have been availing of the perinatal programmes delivered by South Belfast Sure Start through the Urban Villages funding. The Aqua Natal swim to pregnant women within Sandy Row was delivered by Ruth Houston from SBSS gained very positive feedback from all who attended; mums who attended this also availed of the ante natal evenings delivered by a midwife. In the Market area mums with young babies availed of the Baby Massage and Parent - Baby Swim delivered by Ann Donnelly through the Urban Villages funding. The interest in these programmes was so great it inspired our baby morning now running from our Stewart Street premises in the Market every Thursday morning. We would like to give a big thank you to the Market parents for helping design the direction of our services; your input is always appreciated!
DONEGALL PASS, MARKETS AND SANDY ROW CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Donegall Pass Christmas celebrations which were supported by funding from Urban Villages started with the ‘Switch On’ of our Christmas lights and the arrival of Santa on Friday 25th November and lots of hot chocolate and shortbread. Our winter wonderland was held on Thursday 8th December in the community garden, with Christmas craft workshops (holly wreath and lantern making), we had Santa’s grotto, Kidzfarm and ‘Golly’ the fire juggler. We also had a winter bbq, homemade broth and ‘Clives’ famous biscuits made with some ingredients from the garden, both events were well attended and saw 120+ at each event. The Senior’s Christmas dinner was held in Donegall Pass Community Centre with 96 seniors from Donegall Pass, Market, Sandy Row, Lower Ormeau, Ballynafeigh, Taughmonagh and Olympia who all enjoyed a great night of food and entertainment.
SMALL WORLDS

A Small Worlds Event was held on 12th October at Donegall Pass Community Centre coordinated by South Belfast Alternatives. There were 9 participants, ladies from the area and 4 table hosts who have moved to NI from other parts of the world, all of whom are members of Belfast Friendship Club. www.belfastfriendshipclub.org. All the hosts had been victims of Hate Crime in NI. As participants sat with them the hosts spoke about their experiences and the impact this had on them. One participant said it was really good to be reminded that there is always a person behind any crime. Others commented "so powerful- can't believe what people go through in Belfast" - "very informative and powerful session".

South Belfast Roundtable can deliver a limited number of these events for any age group within the South Belfast Urban Village area. They can also focus on refugees and asylum seekers sharing what it is like to have to flee, or people simply sharing about their home country and their experience of moving to and living in NI. Please contact stephanie.mitchell@sbrtr.org.uk

SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER & CHILDREN'S CRAFT ACTIVITY

Seniors' Christmas dinner and Children's Craft Activities in the Markets on 14th December.

URBAN VILLAGES YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Urban Villages funded a community relations programme between St. Malachys Youth Centre in the Market area and Charter Youth Club in Sandy Row. The young people aged between 12-16 came together to look at the issues that affected them. They began by looking at the positives and negatives in each community; here they identified and realised that all the communities has the same issues and needs emerging. They highlighted the risks involved in their communities for young people which in some way affected their health and wellbeing. They prioritised these and participated in sessions to raise awareness around positive relationships, arranged fights, alcohol, acceptance and understanding of others; including those not originally from their communities. The young people learnt about their own language and how this may be offensive to others. They became more self-aware as they corrected themselves when they said something inappropriate and apologised. The programme concluded with a residential to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle. From this the group wish to continue their contact as they built relationship and made new friends.