

Greenway Women's Group

Annual Report

2019/2020



**Greenway
Women's Group
Annual Report
April 2019**

-

March 2020

**Greenway Women's Group
Greenway Women's Centre
19 Greenway, Belfast BT6 0DT**

Greenway Women's Group is a Company Limited by
Guarantee No. NI381399 Inland Revenue Charity No.
XR34419 Northern Ireland Charity No. NIC100610



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Introduction

Greenway Women's Group has been providing services to women and their families within Cregagh and the wider community since 1985.

Greenway Women's Group exists to provide women and their families with positive opportunities for development by breaking down barriers which prevent women's full participation in society.

Greenway Women's Group provides a wide range of educational and support services to local marginalised women, many of whom are lone parents often neglected by traditional educational and other statutory provision.

Greenway Women's Centre operates in Cregagh Estate in East Belfast. The area is ranked 241 of 890 (27%) on the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NINIS, 2019) Whilst this does not fall within the top 25% as in previous years we are not restricted by postcode and offer our services to anyone who wishes to access, the area in itself is surrounded by pockets of deprivation.

(NINIS, 2019)

The Centre is located at 19-21 Greenway, just off the Cregagh Road, Belfast BT6 0DT

Greenway Women's Group Company Limited by Guarantee No. NI381399

Northern Ireland Registered Charity No. NI C100610

Inland Revenue Charity No. XR34419

Telephone Number: 028 9079 9912

Website: www.greenwaywomenscentre.org



Greenway Women's Centre

Cregagh Estate - Belfast



Introduction

Within an area of major social and economic deprivation, the needs of the local community include provisions for education, training, childcare, advice, developing confidence and addressing issues of health and the environment.

Many local women are lone parents who are unable to afford childcare costs whilst training or developing their skills and so remain in the benefit trap. The Targeting Social Need anti-poverty strategy recognises that the bottom 30% of income distribution is over represented by high risk vulnerable groups, one of which is lone parents, 92% of which are women. The most recent TSN also highlights the connection between inequalities associated with gender and child poverty, as 95% of parents in receipt of key benefits are women.

Greenway Women's Centre's services include:

- Childcare (Sessional Childcare for children aged between 0-4 years)
- Essential Skills Support (Numeracy, IT & Literacy via BMC classes)
- Good Relations Project (East meets West) in partnership with Falls Women's Centre
- Health and Well Being Courses and Information Days
- Family Support Services (funded via Belfast Health & Social Care Trust)
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Drop-In Café
- Older Women's Group (Recycled Teenagers)
- Women's Empowerment Project – (Awards for All)

Our Mission Statement

Greenway Women's Group exists to provide positive opportunities for women to achieve their potential, through recognising and respecting them as individuals. We achieve this by breaking down barriers which prevent women's full participation in society; specifically targeting social need within Cregagh and surrounding areas.



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Greenway Women's Group

Greenway Women's Group are the Board of Directors of Greenway Women's Centre.

Greenway Women's Group was formed in 1985 and the Group formed a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable status in 2000 (Registered Charity Number: XR34419). We were also successful in securing Charity status in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Charity No. NIC100610). The Board of Directors of Greenway Women's Group are all women from the local community and surrounding areas who volunteer their time, energy and commitment to providing vital services.

Not only do they provide support for volunteers and staff members, they represent the group on various committees and external boards.

External Board Representation includes:

EBCDA (East Belfast Community Development Agency)

NI Housing Executive

WINI (Women's Information Northern Ireland)

WSN (Women's Support Network)

WRC (Women's Regional Consortium)

Chairperson's Statement

Liz Oslon – Chairperson

This year when the women's group would've been celebrating their 35th Anniversary we continued into funding uncertainty, general difficulties and this year a global pandemic which hampered our progress. In times of difficulty women have a tendency to do what they always do – try to make do.

Our determination to continue has not weakened in the face of continued demand for our services. While we continue to look at more innovative approaches, unfortunately as it has been over the last few years, this year more than any before does not bode well. Despite more varied usage of both our training rooms and our IT suite changes forecast via our main funders and the anticipation of further cuts leave us with an uncertain future.

This year big changes took place for the organisation with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive completely revamping the entire building to ensure fire and health & safety regulations are compliant. This was a huge amount of work in which most of the burden fell onto the staff members. I would like to personally thank those staff members who supported the Centre to ensure that services were not disrupted while the building work took place. Whilst we know that the next few months will be extremely challenging for staff and volunteers I have no doubt that everyone will continue to support each other and ensure that no break in service will occur for service users and parents.



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This year has also been extremely challenging in terms of the Covid 19 pandemic which hit in early 2020. The board and staff had to scramble to ensure not only the safety and well being of the women, children, volunteers and

staff members but we also had to come up with innovative ways to ensure that our essential services continued. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the childcare and family support teams who even in these uncertain times continued to work to ensure that the most vulnerable of our women were being cared for. The childcare department operated and will continue to operate for the foreseeable future to ensure childcare is provided for those children of key workers and those children who are most at risk and who are vulnerable. The family support team have also worked tirelessly to ensure that all our women who are accessing essential services are being cared for and that their needs are met, both in terms of physical and mental health and also in terms of poverty and austerity.

The volunteers continue to support us regardless. This year we have seen an increased number of volunteers enrolling in 2019 which has been wonderful to see. Many have been accessing the Centre for years and want to give back. Their support and contribution is priceless and they play a crucial role in our survival. Over the years they continue to be more involved in the development of the Centre by way of various focus groups. In light of the Covid 19 pandemic I would like to recognise and give my personal thanks to our media support volunteer who manages our Facebook, Newsletter and Website. I am aware of the pressure we have placed on her and that more and more of her own time is being consumed by volunteering and supporting Greenway. Her efforts have been amazing and we have relied very heavily on her during the pandemic to ensure that our presence and information has been freely available online for all our families and women who access our services. Once again thank you for your fantastic efforts, it is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the Board I would like to take this opportunity to thank those funders who have had the insight to support the work we do despite an uncertain future and continued funding cuts. In particular those funders who in the Covid 19 crisis have recognised the impact the Women's Centre has on the local community. They have adapted and supported us to ensure that we continue to deliver essential services to support and develop our local community.

Our staff team who despite ongoing uncertainty about their future have continued providing the high standards we have come to expect and who have went above and beyond their remit to ensure that Greenway is successful and thriving. I personally thank you for going above and beyond in these difficult circumstances that the Covid 19 pandemic has presented. The commitment and drive of our staff team is what keeps us going on a daily basis and in this time of uncertainty and crisis they have demonstrated an amazing and resilient attitude to the development and continuation of the Women's Centre ethos and services.

My fellow directors who devote as much time as they can to this organisation and face every difficulty. To those board members who continue to give up their free time and are committed to the success of the Centre even in light of the Covid 19 pandemic. We are united in our determination to continue the work and ethos of Greenway Women's Group, my personal thanks.

Liz Oslon

Chairperson



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Centre Manager Statement

Lindsay Cooper- Centre Manager

This report encapsulates the work that the organisation has carried out for the years 2019/2020. Our primary objective this year as it has been every year is to focus on sustaining the high levels of service delivery and ensure that all contracted outcomes continued to be met and we feel that the staff & board members have rallied in partnership with the volunteers to ensure that the quality service is of an equally high level as was the case in previous years. I became Centre Manager in October 2014 having previously worked for the organisation for 14 years as the Childcare Manager. Since October 14 I have made it a priority to ensure that the organisation is represented on various committees and forums within the community. We successfully secured core membership on the East Belfast Family Support Hub and South East Family Support Hub. We are represented on East Belfast Sure Start Management Committee and regularly attend the Locality Planning Group, Cregagh Interagency Partnership and are represented on the Women's Regional Consortium and Women's Support Network. All these memberships are crucial in the positioning of the Women's Group for networking, partnership building and strategic planning. At this stage we are uncertain of the continued funding of the WCCF (Women's Centre Childcare Fund) and the CIF (Community Investment Fund). These are the two core pieces of funding that we could not simply survive without. The low staff turnover and continued support of our Board of Directors, funders, members and volunteers has supported us through this time of uncertainty. In addition the Pathway Fund has been essential to our delivery at full capacity of our childcare service. Without the Pathway Fund this year we may have not been in a position to run the childcare department at its full capacity. This is important as our waiting lists for childcare have been more than 50 for the last number of years.

This year we continued to progress towards securing funding from the Social Investment Fund in order to develop the derelict adjoining building. We received information in late 2017 that Belfast City Council as lead Partner is negotiating with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in terms of drawing up a 25 year lease for both 19 and 21 Greenway. We are hopeful that this new lease will satisfy The Northern Ireland executive and work can commence on the derelict at some point in 2020. This previous year big changes for the organisation took place with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive completely revamping the entire building to ensure fire and health & safety regulations are up to code. This work which took place at Easter 2019 and resulted in an eight week closure for our current building, however we had negotiated with other local community organisations so that we were able to use their premises whilst the work was carried out. It was our aim to keep services consistent and local to minimise the disruption to the work that we do. On behalf of the organisation I would like to thank Belfast City Council for allowing us to access Downshire Hall during this time. In addition I give my personal thanks to both Willowfield Church and Cregagh Community Centre for allowing us to access space within their facilities to allow us to continue with our services.

We intend to use the SIF funding to increase the childcare service. We envision that the extension to the service would mean we can effectively meet the unmet need of the local community. From September 2019 a total of 56 children were unsuccessful in securing a place within our childcare department therefore highlighting the demand and need for the childcare service for the under 4's. If we are successful in securing this funding we can deliver an additional 200 places per week on top of the current service delivery of 220 places per week.

The education and training department has continued to be in serious crisis this financial year. With the end of the successful 5yr project Live & Learn in 2014 and major cuts to community education across the sector we have struggled to secure any continuous funding for the department. This has meant major cuts to the service delivery for community and has put the Training Officer post at serious risk. At the end of this financial year however, we were fortunate enough to be awarded funding from the Halifax Foundation which now funds the Women's Empowerment Project salary this was in addition to Awards for all which concluded in February 2020. We also engaged with Falls



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Women's Centre in a Good Relations project titled 'East meets West'. This project was a really successful piece of work for both Centres and the feedback from the women has been very encouraging. This year we have continued on with the next tier of the funding which has enabled the women to enjoy day trips. We aim to continue to deliver good quality training and information workshops. We expect that the next few months will be challenging with the current funding climate but the board, staff and volunteers are committed to ensuring that the service delivery will continue to be of a high quality and met the needs by addressing the gaps in education and social disadvantage.

The Family Support service continued to grow in demand over this past year. The organisation noted the high number of referrals made to outside agencies via the Family Support Hubs particularly in the past year. This is due to the increasing number of complex issues that families are experiencing. The interventions that have taken place have included help & advice with benefits, employment issues, drug& alcohol issues, signposting, advocacy, maternal mental health issues and childcare support. The Family Support summer scheme that ran in August 2019 was extremely successful and very well attended. It provided excellent opportunities for families to participate in outings and activities as a unit, therefore strengthening the family bond and increasing support and resilience. Many family support issues have been dealt via the Centre Manager and Training Officer in the absence of sustainable funding to employ a Family Support Worker, including referrals which have been made to other women's Centres such as Falls Women's Centre in West Belfast.

All this work was but in serious jeopardy in March 2020 when the Covid 19 pandemic took hold. However I am pleased to say that the commitment and hard work of our Board, staff and volunteers has ensured that whilst we had to adapt, we continued on providing those essential services to the women and families who need it most.

We are now entering into another year of uncertainty for 2020/2021. The organisation is committed to ensuring that the most deprived families in our community have access to the wide range of support and services we can provide.

Lindsay Cooper
Centre Manager



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Greenway Women's Group Board of Directors

Liz Oslon	<i>Chairperson (Volunteer Support)</i>
Julieanne Thompson	<i>Treasurer (Volunteer Coordinator)</i>
Mae McQuillan MBE	<i>Secretary (Finance & Personnel)</i>
Yvonne Summerville	<i>Director (Volunteer Representative)</i>
Helen Harris	<i>Director (Older Women's Group Representative)</i>

The Board of Directors work in partnership with many other women's groups and organisations throughout Northern Ireland in the community, voluntary, statutory, public and private sectors to develop services for local women in the areas of childcare, health, employment, housing and finance.

The work of Greenway Women's Group is based upon the principles of Community Development and Active Participation, as well as Community and Individual Capacity Building, involving local women in identifying and responding to local needs in an active and responsible manner within the limits of available funding.

Greenway Women's Centre offers a wide range of educational and support services to local marginalised women, many of whom are lone parents, often neglected by traditional educational provision. Cregagh falls within the top 10% of the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland in the Education, Skills and Training Domain.

Through its education and training programmes, Greenway Women's Centre provides opportunities for women to gain vital skills and qualifications, thereby increasing the prospects available to them for meaningful employment and breaking down barriers which prevent their full participation in society

Greenway Women's Centre Staff Team

Lindsay Cooper	Centre Manager
Rebecca Simpson	Finance/Admin Officer
Helen Smyth	Training & Education Officer
Joanne Leetch	Childcare Manager
Suzanne Watson	Childcare Assistant
Karen Downey	Childcare Assistant
Lynsey Stewart	Childcare Practice Leader
Jodie Wilson	Childcare Assistant
Amie Kane	Childcare Practice Leader
Shannon Flynn	Childcare Assistant
Natalie Horricks	Childcare Assistant

Greenway Childcare Services

Greenway values the developmental potential of all children, regardless of their background or abilities. We provide high quality, affordable childcare services, including intervention by way of respite care and parent/carer support sessions.

Greenway's childcare services have been successfully supporting children and their parents/carers for over thirty five years and during this time we have watched hundreds of children grow and develop. Currently, we provide Sessional Day Care for pre-school children, from birth up until their fourth birthday.

We endeavour to work in partnership with parents to provide care and education that unites us in giving children the best possible start in life.

Our aim is to cover the six areas of learning with each child who attends, while encouraging parents to do what they can at home to further enhance, promote and develop these areas.

- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Physical Development
- Creative Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Reasoning, Problem Solving and Numeracy
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

At Greenway Women's Centre we promote inclusion for all and work with a range of agencies to integrate children with additional needs.

The Greenway Childcare staff members are highly qualified and understand how important it is for parents/ carers of young children not to miss out on any part of their child's development. The Childcare staff members provide each child aged from one up until their fourth birthday with their own individual art folder, including photos through which parents/carers can see the development of their child from month to month. For babies under a year old a photo album is collated throughout the year. We are extremely fortunate to have equipment and software which allows parents to log in at home and view a detailed profile of observations of their child using the Tapestry software. The software allows us to engage more effectively with parents and gives them a platform for feedback and general comments. This software has been essential during the Covid 19 pandemic as it gives us an excellent route in which to communicate with the parents, in a safe and secure manner.

Every year in June we hold our annual Celebration Day, when all parents, carers, grannies, granddads, aunties, uncles, friends and family are invited to see their child receive their folder, certificate and a gift followed by a buffet lunch and entertainment especially for the children and their families. In December we also run a "Santa's Grotto" which is very well attended and is a magical day for the children to enjoy. We were very fortunate this year as partners of In Kind Direct as we were chosen by Disney Magic to receive 48 Christmas themed Olaf plush toys. Santa was able to hand these out as an additional gift at our Santa Grotto event in December 2019.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child - we believe that the village should also celebrate the child's achievements, and share in play and social interaction with the children. This year we were delighted to see so many parents and grandparents, with over 70 family members attending the children's celebration.

For further information see – Childcare Report 2019-2020 – copy available on request or visit our Web site www.greenwaywomenscentre.org

Treasurer's Statement

This has indeed been a difficult year and we prepare ourselves for more difficulties ahead. Despite this we remain determined to ensure that our services continue. Copies of our annual financial statement and accounts are available on the Charity Commission website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our current funders as follows:



Community Investment Fund & Women Centre's Childcare Fund



Belfast City Council



Sponsored Day Care & Family Support



**Falls Women's Centre via OFMDFM – East
Meets West Project**



Awards for All – Training Officer Salary Women's Empowerment Project (Feb 19-

Feb 20)



Funds childcare staff and supports children with additional needs



Funds Women's Empowerment salary (March 2020)



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Greenway Women's Centre Family Support Services

Greenway believes in a holistic approach to everything that they provide by way of services and Family Support is no different. Our aim is to support those in need and provide pathways in order to integrate them to all of the Centre's activities and provide an opportunity to move on with their lives. Family Support is funded via WSN through the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

Greenway Family Support Services are available on a daily basis and include information and support regarding parenting issues, respite care, listening ear and referral to specialist support, eg Complementary/ Alternative Therapist, counselling and Advice and Advocacy.

Family Support activities include:

- One to One advice
- Advocacy
- Sign Posting
- Outreach Support
- Personal Development
- Mentoring
- Counselling
- Family Support Summer Scheme

Family Support events, courses and activities are regularly highlighted on the Greenway Women's Centre Website.

Individuals are encouraged to integrate with all Greenway activities and particularly our main training programme.

Education and Training at Greenway

Greenway Women's Centre is a first step back into education and training for many women and the Centre has a successful record in delivering training and education programmes.

Greenway provides an integrated range of support services to participants on self-development programmes and certificated training on health, education, volunteering and employment, as well as one-to-one study support and on-site childcare services.

Greenway Women's Centre offers:

- an informal and supportive learning environment for women
- flexible education and training courses that take account of women's domestic, family and work responsibilities
- on-site Sessional Day Care provision
- accessible, affordable, high quality education and training services
- volunteering and work placement opportunities
- space, support for external groups



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Greenway is an outreach Centre for Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) and has built partnerships with local training providers, including BMC, DEL, Bryson Future Skills, East Belfast Mission and Peoples First, as well as local business and enterprise agencies.

Classes offered at Greenway Women's Centre from April 2019 to March 2020 included:

- **Women's Empowerment Project**
- **Knitting Class**
- **Creative Writers**
- **Recycled Teenagers**
- **Pain Management**
- **Numeracy**
- **Literacy**
- **Gardening Club**
- **Book Club**
- **Good Relations Project**
- **Hospitality**
- **Basic ICT**
- **Autism Awareness session**
- **Befriending via LIFE HOUSE charity**
- **Wellbeing focus group**
- **Food Safety Awareness**
- **Managing Money Focus Group**
- **Sexual Violence awareness**
- **CV Development training**
- **Self Confidence**
- **Breast Awareness**
- **Dementia Awareness**
- **Solihull Training**
- **Domestic Violence Awareness training**
- **Facilitator's course**
- **History Project**
- **Universal Credit focus group**

Essential Skills Programme

Essential Skills qualifications are for anyone over the age of 16 in Northern Ireland who wants to improve their literacy, numeracy or ICT skills to help get a job or get on in life. An Essential Skills qualification can help improve reading, writing, maths or computer proficiency to promote employability across a whole range of different jobs.

Greenway Women's Centre offers OCR Basic Skills Awards in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT at Basic, Level 1 and Level 2 and offers progression routes to the participants within the Centre and with other learning providers.



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Greenway's Essential Skills operate on two levels; group sessions, where participants complete the OCR qualification, and one-to-one sessions for individuals who require additional support.

Greenway's objectives are to target adult learners who have Essential Skills needs and to provide training that will enhance personal development as well as career and educational progression.

With major cuts to community based education which have taken place over the last three years, Greenway Women's Group has sought to host essential skills based training as well as other accredited training via external organisations such as East Belfast Mission and Belfast Metropolitan College.

The Greenway Volunteer Programme

The contribution of volunteers has been invaluable to Greenway Women's Centre since its conception in 1985 and without it we would not be able to exist. The organisation was originally formed by volunteers and is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors. Over the years volunteers have continued to play an integral role in the delivery and development of Greenway's services.

Although in the past we have been able to access bursary monies for volunteers who wished to access training, the volunteer programme at Greenway is currently without funding, however we are still able to offer some benefits to our volunteers.

- Free role-based training is available to enable volunteers to learn the skills necessary for their chose role
- Role-based references are provided for all volunteers following the completion of a 4-week probationary period
- Volunteers with children under the age of four have access to free childcare (subject to availability), enabling them to participate in their chosen role
- Free tea/coffee is provided to volunteers during breaks from their role, courtesy of the Drop-In Cafe
- Quarterly brunch meetings are held at Greenway, which provide an opportunity for the volunteers to get together as a group in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to catch up, discuss their roles and decide training or events they would like to take part in, circumstances permitting
- Opportunities to engage in focus groups and external visits is offered to volunteers whenever possible

The dedication and generosity of volunteers is an inspiration. The Board of Directors at Greenway fully appreciate the vital work that volunteers carry out within the Centre and, in light of this, a Celebration Day is held in June each year in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the Centre.



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Volunteering Opportunities at Greenway Women's Centre

Volunteers play a pivotal role in Greenway Women's Centre's ability to provide its services to women and their families in the local community.

Drop-In Cafe

The Drop-In Cafe is Greenway's main volunteer project, managed and operated entirely by volunteers. The Drop-In provides tea, coffee and scones for Centre users, staff and visitors, all at very low cost. Drop-In volunteers also prepare and serve food at all social events which take place within Greenway Women's Centre, including the annual Celebration Day and Christmas Lunch.

Childcare

Greenway Women's Centre operates a Sessional Day Care facility for children under the age of four. Volunteers working within the Childcare Department assist staff in delivering play and child development activities, preparing snacks, supervising break and lunch times and tidying up at the end of each session. All those volunteering in the Childcare Department are fully vetted through Access NI and Health & Social Services before commencing their role.

Reception

Reception is the first point of contact for all those entering Greenway Women's Centre. Those volunteering at reception greet visitors entering the building and answer incoming telephone calls, taking messages if required. Full training on operating the telephone system is provided prior to commencing this role.

Monthly Newsletter, Website & Facebook

Greenway Women's Centre publishes a monthly newsletter, which is contributed to by Board members, staff, volunteers and other Centre users. The Newsletter is written and produced by our volunteer editor. The newsletter contains up to date information on classes and events being held in the Centre, as well as regular features, including a puzzle section and recipe of the month. Along with printed copies which are available within the Centre, the newsletter is now available to download from the Greenway Women's Centre website.

The Greenway Website

www.greenwaywomenscentre.org

The Greenway Women's Centre website was officially launched in October 2011. This is proving to be an excellent way to highlight the services on offer within the Centre, from Childcare and Education to Volunteering and Events. As well as providing details of Greenway services, the Greenway website also includes links to other women's organisations and funding bodies. The website is maintained and regularly updated by a Greenway volunteer magazine editor.

Other volunteering opportunities:

- Cleaner
- Kitchen Help
- Maintenance/DIY
- Classroom Assistance

The Volunteer Programme at Greenway is an excellent way for women to meet new people, build confidence and self-esteem and develop new skills. In return for their time and commitment, volunteers receive support, encouragement, free role-based training and, where applicable, a work-based reference.

Benefits of Volunteering

- *Taking on a challenge*
Getting involved in something new can be a real challenge. Volunteering can help women achieve personal goals, develop new skills and practice their talents. Sometimes a volunteer experience can lead women to something they never even thought about or help them to discover a hobby or interest they were unaware of.
- *Being part of the community*
Volunteering can help build stronger communities and improve services and resources in the local area.
- *Meeting new people*
Getting involved as a volunteer provides women with the opportunity to meet lots of different kinds of people and make new friends.
- *Gaining a sense of wellbeing*
Research demonstrates that volunteering can lead to better health (Health Benefits of Volunteering; A review of recent research, Washington DC 2007).
- *Increasing Personal Development*
When thinking about career development, getting a job or returning to work, the experience gained as a volunteer can be very valuable.
- *Having fun*
Volunteering is an excellent leisure activity. Most volunteers get great enjoyment from what they do - that's why they keep on doing it. Finding new interests and hobbies can be fun, relaxing and energising.

Volunteering is a two-way process; volunteers will have their own personal motivations and reasons for getting involved and as a good volunteer organisation, Greenway asks volunteers about those motivations and endeavours to meet their needs as well as the needs of the organisation.

Quotes from Greenway Volunteers:

“I enjoy volunteering as it gets me out of the house” (Volunteer Drop In)

“I enjoy volunteering as I get to meet new people” (Reception Volunteer)

“Volunteering has really helped with my mental health and I find it really fulfilling” (Volunteer Reception/Drop In)

“The benefits outweigh the challenges” (Greenway Volunteer)



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External & Self Help Groups at Greenway

Greenway provides space, room hire and facilities for a number of groups which meet at the Centre on a regular basis, including:

- Older Women's Group 50+ – Recycled Teenagers
- Under 50's Women's Group – Wonder Women
- Write Here Write Now (Concluded Summer 2019)
- Pain Management - EBCDA
- East Belfast Community Health Champions (WIND)
- Stepping Stones – LEMUS Project

Shared Space at Greenway Women's Centre

While the primary function of Greenway Women's Group is to break down the barriers which prevent the full participation of women in today's society for whatever reason, particularly targeting those who are socially isolated, another of our functions is to encourage the development of and whenever possible provide space for, a wide range of supportive groups and organisations.

Over the years Greenway Women's Group has built up strong working relationship with many such groups and organisations.

Greenway Older Women's Group – Recycled Teenagers

Greenway Older Women's Group or 'Recycled Teenagers' is a group established in 2015, which accesses space twice per week within the Centre.

These examples demonstrate how groups and organisations with differing ideologies can work together to sustain a shared space in order to provide support and guidance to those in need through mutual respect and cooperation.

Due to the nature of our work – all external groups are vetted and must carry their own insurance.



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Greenway works in partnership/in association with the following organisations:

- Age N.I.
 - Barnardo's
 - Belfast Metropolitan College
 - Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
 - Belfast City Council
 - Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre
 - Castlereagh Fellowship Church (Left December 2018)
 - Cregagh Community Association
 - South/East & Inner East Belfast Family Support Hubs
 - Early Years the Organisation for Young Children
 - East Belfast Mission (EBM)
 - East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
 - Department for Employment & Learning (DEL)
 - East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA)
 - East Belfast Sure Start
 - Employers for Childcare
 - Life Project (Supporting young mothers)
 - Live Active Northern Ireland Programme
 - Inspire
 - Northern Ireland Housing Association
 - NICVA (Northern Ireland Community/Voluntary Association)
 - People's First
 - Volunteer Now
 - Women's Support Network (WSN)
 - Women's Information Northern Ireland (WINI)
 - Women's Regional Development Agency (WRDA)
 - Women's Regional Partnership for Women in Disadvantaged & Rural Areas (Women's Support Network, Women's Regional Development Agency, Women's Tech, Training Women's Network, Foyle Information Network, Women's Centre Derry, Northern Ireland Women's Rural Network)
 - Women's Aid
- ...and many more.