2019 Annual Report

Celebrating 15 Years

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105005
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Bridie Heaney, Pat McCullagh, Margaret Morgan, Hugh Roomey, Patricia McCullagh and SPACE CEO, Jacinta Linden, celebrating the EU Peace IV funded project “Social Soup” at Stormont in March 2019.
**Introduction**

Welcome to SPACE. We are a not-for-profit association that have been delivering support services to parents, children and older people across the Newry and Mourne regions for fifteen years. Founded in 2004 and originally known as South Down Family Health Initiative we rebranded in 2014 and moved to Newry where we now have two offices. Our services are guided by a core set of values that describe how we work with all our stakeholders. Our values are at the heart of all that we do.

In the summary of a study carried out in 2019 to measure the impact of SPACE it was noted that: “One of the many strengths of SPACE is that they are person centric – they consider the entire person and ensure the support they are providing is the best option. The family are consulted when creating a programme and/or determining the appropriate services. They do not determine the programme in isolation. The family are heavily involved and this ensures they are bought in and supports making real change. SPACE focus on the wider family not only the children. Oftentimes this will lead to long-term changes versus short term. They are changing the environment and dynamic within these families for the better. SPACE staff are to be commended as they go above and beyond” – this feedback came from parents, young people and agencies.
Looking Back  
Jacinta Linden CEO

Whilst the landscape of NI has changed for the good over the last 15 years, many people are still unclear about what the work of a modern charity involves and indeed what the third sector does. Going forward it will become increasingly important to establish a clear understanding of what the third sector is - who we are and what we do. The third sector is made up of such a diverse range of organisations, ranging from small one or two person-operated local groups to large multinational charities that it can often be challenging to establish exactly what the third sector is and does.

The Third sector is an exemplar, “It is a major employer; a leader in terms of flexible working practices, talent, research and innovation; and provides, and often replaces, services which the private sector refuses to or are incapable of providing, and those which the public sector can no longer effectively provide due to budget cuts and resource constraints” (https://scvo.org.uk/post/2019/04/02/towards-2021-the-future-of-scotlands-third-sector).

Third sector organisations do not operate in a vacuum; we work in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and partners. Over the last 15 years we have come to realise many partnerships develop in a linear fashion, however it is the partner’s ability to minimise gaps and maximise opportunity that contributes most to effectiveness and sustainability.

We have been blessed to build collaborative partnerships with statutory, private and community sector organisations. We have worked together to harness resources, skills and deliverables whilst meeting competing and contrasting goals. It is the power of collaboration and transparency to focus on better outcomes for our children, older people and those most in need that has helped Space to provide the best outcome for all concerned.

There are unique challenges to running a charity; we have a diverse workforce of paid staff and volunteers, some of whom have highly personal motivations for engaging with our work. Alongside our volunteers and workforce, we must continuously strive for business improvement and innovation as there is no guarantee of income or finding success in building a sustainable business. Looking back over 15 years, I’m humbled by all of the people who have joined us on our journey; some for a reason, some for a season and others for life.

Each day I open the door to work I’m reminded of just how much need there is, I love the smile of satisfaction from our candle makers, I love the joy when we get an order for a candle club and I love hearing how our staff and volunteers are impacting on those most at risk within our community. I’m committed to Space being around for as long as needed to keep on advocating and agitating (sometimes) for change! We need to do all we can to ensure our communities develop resilience, overcome adversity and reach for the stars. Here’s to Space being part of that journey over the next 15 years.

Looking forward 2020 and beyond  
Eamonn Connolly Chairperson

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Meet the Board

Eamonn Connolly  
Martina Flynn  
Julie White  
Paul Farquhar  
Paul Slevin  
Judith McConville  
Gerry Flynn  
Connor Sweeney  

The Space board is representative of the community we support. Our board has evolved with the organisation with some members having been beneficiaries of our services. Others joined the board after a public recruitment appeal for professional support skills including accountancy, law, finance and human resources.

Meet the Teams

Support Team  
Kate  
Noreen  
Gemma  
Cailin  
Jena

Programmes/Training and Admin Team  
Joanne  
Tracy  
Aine  
Kathy

Management Team  
Pauline  
Jacinta  
Allison

Kilkeel Surestart Team  
Rita  
Pauline  
Annamarie  
Kerri
Our Wonderful Volunteers

Like most charities, Space would not be able to deliver the vital services we do without volunteers. We have a fabulous team who range in age from 15-70 and do everything from selling candles, upcycling furniture, offering practical support to families in their own homes, driving people to hospital, supporting staff at events and summer schemes and just being there when we need them. Some of our volunteers have been with us since we first began and others come for short periods of time but we value them all and consider them all to be part of the SPACE family.

In 2019 volunteers provided 4000 hours of support! Equating to a financial contribution of £60,000.

“Anne McArdle
- Volunteer Driver on Home2Hospital Project”
What Changed

At SPACE we measure the impact of our work with children and families using Outcome Star. The Outcome Star is a family of evidence-based tools that measure and support change when working with people. It is a unique and innovative way for frontline services to demonstrate their impact whilst influencing and improving keywork. We use Family Star Plus for working with families and My Star when working directly with children.

The My Star report shows us the progress that families made in the following areas while supported by SPACE staff.

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Disability

• Young people with learning disabilities received 17,250 hours of skills training through our social enterprise
• 12 teenagers with additional needs enjoyed 288 hours of support in our Connections programme
• 42 families with a child with additional needs received 1176 hours of home-based practical support

Poverty

• Social Enterprise opportunities for young adults with disabilities

Parenting

• 608 families benefited from 21,380 hours of home-based support
• In 2019 Space was deemed the appropriate support for 57% of families referred into the Newry and Mourne Family Support Hub
• 579 group activity sessions were enjoyed by children
• 142 children enjoyed 4 weeks of summer scheme

Health Inequalities

• 1800 volunteer hours providing 370 trips to hospital for older people
• 200 people participated in Joining the Dots Networking Events
• 185 older people enjoyed over 4000 hours of social activities
• 8 community groups received 50 hours of mentoring through Elevate Project
Measuring Our Social Value

In 2019 SPACE commissioned independent company, JARNA Consultancy, to carry out a Social Return on Investment (SROI) study on the work we delivered through the National Lottery funded SPACE 1 Family Support project.

What is SROI?
SROI tells the story of how organisations create change by measuring social, environmental and economic outcomes and uses monetary values to represent them.

Why do we need SROI?
• Measure and understand the social value we created.
• Confirm that we are delivering change.
• Putting social impact into the language of ‘return on investment’.
• To measure value for money.
• To ensure that we are using our resources to best effect.

How does it work?
The social value of transformation is quantified by:
• Identifying the main stakeholders that experience the most significant changes as a result of our work.
• Asking stakeholders about the changes.
• Establishing evidence of the changes, by establishing evidence of change and applying financial proxies to the changes a monetary value is calculated. For every £1 that the National Lottery Community Fund invested in SPACE we generated £16.40 in social impact.

Our Financials

Our income is a cocktail of grants, contracts, social enterprise and fundraising activities.

Where Our Money Comes From

- Grant Funding
- Generated Income - Contracts / Social Enterprise
- Generated Income - Fundraising / Donations

How We Spend Our Money

- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Supporting Parents and Children
- Supporting Young People with Disability

For every £1.00 invested, £16.40 is generated in Social Value.

"Before SPACE came into our lives I would have been standing in the kitchen at night preparing dinner and all I could hear was them fighting, screaming and crying at each other. Now when I make the dinner I can hear laughter and giggles and I can't explain how good a feeling that is."
A social enterprise is a company that’s core mission is to benefit and improve society. However, unlike a charity it is still a business that runs and grows independently to make profit, doing good business whilst doing good.

Our social enterprise, The Good Space, supports young people with intellectual, emotional and learning difficulties in a creative and safe work environment to produce a range of high-quality hand poured Soy wax candles and bespoke upcycled hand painted furniture. Each candle contains a unique code which when input to our website will tell you all about the person who made your candle and anyone calling into our Monaghan Street premises will meet our fabulous team of upcyclers and candle-makers. In November 2019 right in the heat of the Brexit discussions, we were delighted to welcome the Right Honorable Julian Smith MP as Secretary of State to Northern Ireland to a round table discussion on the impact of Brexit on our community. We found the SoS for NI to be a willing listener and a keen advocate for community. We were delighted with the time and attention afforded to our volunteers during his visit.

We were genuinely sorry to hear of his departure from the post in 2020. Good luck Julian, we wish you every success in 2020 and beyond.

2019 saw Acorn Candle sales flourish and for the first-time customers were able to buy our candles from a well-known pharmacy chain. Our candle-makers had to learn about bar-coding and packing for commercial sales and it was a very proud day for them when the first pallet of candles left for distribution across Northern Ireland. November saw the introduction of the Acorn Candle Clubs. Samples were left in staff canteens and receptions of several local businesses and staff were able to pick and choose their favourites and have them delivered directly to their workplace. These proved very popular in December when our candle-makers poured, packaged and delivered over two thousand candles.
As a not for profit community-based organisation, we rely on the support of funders, volunteers, advocates, support organisations and donors to support us in our work. We are very grateful to the general public and local businesses whose continued goodwill and support enabled us to continue helping local families through tough times over the past 15 years. Thank you.

Volunteers

Tim, Timmy, Gary and Gary, Hugh, Glen, Martin, Lisa, Donna, Gemma, Oliver, Stephen, Clare, Gabriella, Phyllis, Clara, Jennifer, Maria, Anne, Denise, Mervyn, Peter, Trevor, Bob, Monica, Annie, Patricia, Tia, Michelle, Amy and Amy, Megan, Rebekah, Louise, Joanne, Sara and Hannah.

Other Supporters

David Meade, Newry BID, Kerri Morrow NM&DDC, Darren Curtis and Valerie Maxwell CYPS, Ailbhe Hickey & Loma Wilson NIHE, Ingrid Perry, Brian Quinn, Bank of Ireland Newry, Newry City Runners, Newry Credit Union, Sainsbury’s Newry, Intertrade Ireland.

Annie McCrory, enjoying the Christmas Show at the end of Friends for Life Programme.
In 2019 our services were funded by:

- BIG LOTTERY FUND
- NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED
- Combhalte Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust
- Safefood
- HSC Public Health Agency
- Southern Childcare Partnership
- Housing Executive
- Peace

Sainsbury's

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