

# Footprints Women's Centre AGM 2018

**“To enable women and children to  
grow and ensure their voices are  
heard and that they take their  
rightful place in a just and equal  
society”**

Ursula Carberry  
Chairperson

## **Chairperson**

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the newly elected Chairperson. The skills and experience gained as a Director on Footprints Board will I'm sure support me in the task of developing the organisations strategy for 2018/2023. I have worked on Footprints Board for over twenty years and look forward to working in partnership and in collaboration with other organisations in shaping the organisations future.

Organisational change, funding and political unpredictability presented the Directors with a very challenging and stressful year. The Board have played a critical role in providing organisational stability, strong leadership and organisational focus and are to be applauded for their hard work and support.

I also wish to pass on sincere appreciation to the previous Chairperson Mary McNeill, for her dedication to Footprints, her leadership and her friendship to the organisation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would also like to give a special mention to Gillian Gibson who left the organisation in November 2017, having provided leadership and commitment for nearly twenty five years. Gillian has led the organisation through success, change and crisis and the Board give commendation to her hard work, dedication to Footprints and wish her the very best for her future.

Isobel Loughran was recruited to the role of Director in November 2017. She brings strong leadership and in-depth knowledge of the organisation. I believe this will support Footprints in dealing with the process of change management and in optimising future adaptability.

I wish to thank all my colleagues on the Board of Directors for giving their time and professional advice and experience and all Footprints staff for their hard work throughout the year. This year we have also increased the number of members on our Board to better serve the women and families to which we provide services.

I would like to thank the staff for their forbearance and co-operation in supporting the sustainability of the organisation over this past year. We must also extend our thanks to all the many volunteers with Footprints, who provide over 2,500 hours of assistance on an annual basis.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank our funders and community partners for joining us on our journey. Without their generosity and support our work would not be possible.

**Ursula Carberry**  
**Chairperson**



## **Centre Director's Report**

This past year Footprints has seen some of the biggest changes in the Centre's history. The most prevalent of these was the departure of Gillian Gibson in November 2017 as she moved to a new career focus.

I have known and worked with Gillian for over 20 years and hold great admiration for her achievements, innovation and vision. She used these to great success in leading Footprints to be the professional and successful organisation it is today.

I hope my tribute to her will be maintaining and developing the work of this organisation which she knows I have a great devotion and passion. I wish her all the best for her future career and travels.

I hope my strengths and experience will lead Footprints through this critical management journey, moving into a new strand of Leadership to ensure the best possible services for women and families in Colin.

The work of the organisation is being carried out in very uncertain times, with no government/leadership to provide direction for essential delivery of services instead; we are seeing a slow decay across our public services and economy.

Colin has rising levels of domestic violence incidents and the introduction of universal credit is bringing increasing numbers of women and families in need of support and crisis intervention coming to our doors.

I am confident that a new, supportive, and sufficiently strong organisational culture will provide roots for innovative ways of operating through the new staff appointments. I would also like to thank the existing staff and volunteers for providing a constant and supporting the organisation through tumultuous times.

We will continue to provide a high level of professional and much needed service in the area because I believe that Footprints success is the women and families of Colin's success.

**Isobel Loughran**  
**Director**



## **Treasurer**

The finance team continue to enhance financial processes including a move to primary payment of suppliers by BACS, new management accounts reporting and continuing to ensure robust and accurate accounts held on sage.

Senior Management has ensured all financial needs of funders were met during the year and all financial returns were completed swiftly and accurately allowing for advance claims to be prepared in advance of the year end. As we head into 2018/19 we proceed to improve our cash flow and financial stability as advance claims are now completed 6 months in advance.

Given the economic environment in which we operate our financial position at the year-end has increased since the previous year. Footprints Women's Centre continue to stabilise its operations and despite funding reductions have managed to increase profits. We intend to build on this over the coming year by tight control of expenditure and increased occupancy and promotion of our day-care.

An analysis of Footprints Women's Centre over the last 5 years shows that while the expenditure profile remains consistent, with the largest percentage outlay being staff costs, we have increased our charitable activities undertaken. Given the uncertainty in funding over the last 2 years Footprints Women's Centre have placed emphasis on building our trading activities, to allow the Centre to be more self-sustaining in times of uncertainty.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors I would like to record our thanks to Brigid Burns our Finance Manager. Brigid came to the Centre in January 2018 to take up the vacant post of Finance/Admin Manager. Having worked in the Charity sector in both Management Accountant and Corporate Services positions, she brings with her experience with department funders and auditing of accounts. Her tireless work and attention to detail has been instrumental in progressing Footprints financial stability.

**Noreen Braniff**  
**Treasurer**



## Sustainable Living

Footprints Women's Centre has worked for many years to promote Sustainable Living and develop projects which address environmental issues and contribute to improving the future for the next generation.

In this past year we have seen our work on a solution to food poverty and the wastage of surplus food, come to fruition through Department of Communities funding of The FEED Project (Food, Education, Empowerment, Debt Support).

This funding enabled Footprints Women's Centre to launch the first Social Supermarket in Northern Ireland in January 2018. One of five organisations piloting this alternative to food banks, Footprints Social Supermarket operates a membership scheme and provides access to deeply discounted food to people living in or on the cusp of food poverty. Members also have access to money management and life skills programmes, debt and benefit advice, support to reduce fuel bills, cooking on a budget programmes and one to one employment advice and mentoring.



The Social Supermarket is stocked with fresh fruit and vegetables from Footprints Food Garden and a wide variety of everyday food items from our food partners, Fareshare and Lidi. Through redistributing surplus food stock into the Social Supermarket we are continuing to reducing landfill and achieve a positive environmental impact.

With seventy five members registered in the first few months we are already receiving positive feedback on the difference this project is making to the lives of families in the Colin Neighbourhood.

"Very affordable and I can make extra savings each week. Very happy about this as it goes towards other necessities like clothes and shoes. Takes the pressure off the family with household bills".





"Learning to budget my money helped to take away the stress of everyday living"

"I am now debt free. I am now making from scratch and preparing meals".

Footprints Deli continues to offer breakfast and snacks alongside the Social Supermarket and in January 2018 we welcomed Elaine Keenan in her new post as FEED Project Worker.

We would like to extend our good wishes to Lisa Rogan who moved on from her post as Catering Worker in the last year, and express our appreciation to Kate Garland who stepped in to support the catering service and start-up of the Social Supermarket. Thank you also to Marianne Daly who worked so hard to assist with the opening of the Social Supermarket alongside her role of providing Day-Care children with nutritious, hot meals each day.



With support from Workwest's Go Social Programme we are currently working on a business plan to consolidate Food Services at Footprints Women's Centre and look forward to the future proving a service for greater numbers of families in the Colin Neighbourhood.





## Childcare

Footprints Day-Care has gone from strength to strength over the last year and we have continued to secure our presence as a high quality Early Years Provider as well as providing employment opportunities for Early Years Professionals.

I commenced in the post of Childcare Manager in February 2018, business and marketing has remained a key focus with a more targeted approach to increase our customer base of working parents. This has proved positive albeit challenging in the current economic climate.



We again secured our Service Level Agreement with The South Eastern Trust. Thirty eight sessions are provided per week for children who require a high level of intervention through the Gateway and Family Intervention Teams. Services were also purchased on a monthly basis for children through the Family Support Hub. The results of the placements were manifold with developmental outcomes, respite for mum and also through holistic family work a reduction or removal of child protection categories. The service had led to the Children Services team having an expert skill set in child protection and a knowledge base that provides a confidence to both local families and social services that children will be safe, respected and supported in all they do.

We continue to foster strong relations with community, voluntary and statutory agencies, working closely with Colin Early Intervention Community facilitating the delivery of 'Strengthening Families' and 'Incredible Years' programmes.

We work to an integrated, holistic and responsive approach which develops children's physical health, emotional wellbeing, creative and critical thinking skills. This is done through sensitive interaction, an enabling environment and parent partnership so all children reach





their full potential to achieve outcomes. Every day the children inspire us to match their efforts, resiliency and determination to develop new skills and strengths.

Finally I would like to thank Siobhan Gibson for all her hard work and dedication who moved on to pastures new in January 2018.



A

Our methods of quality assurance include inspections and feedback from Social Services to ensure standards are highly maintained. Inspectors from the South Eastern Trust, who made no recommendations following our 2018 inspection, commented: 'Warm and welcoming staff in a child centred environment'.



B

Day-care Services support working parents, respite care and to facilitate training and further education opportunities. Offering high quality, accessible full day care services and sessional care



C

Our parents say:

'My children run into Footprints every day. I can't believe how well they have settled'

'All the staff are lovely, they made us feel so welcome'



D

Day care Services are registered to cater for 53 children daily. Offering 106 sessions per week. From April 2017 to April 2018 Day care Services facilitated over 10,000 hours of childcare.



## Good Relations

All of the work undertaken within Footprints Women's Centre and in partnership projects is underpinned by a strong equal opportunities policy that promotes and embraces diversity, mutual understanding, respecting differences, good relations and equality for all.

Footprints continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with Ballybeen and Windsor Women's Centre. These relationships form part of our core work, providing opportunities to discuss issues of sameness and difference through visits, activities, workshops and celebrations of cultural and political issues.

We also welcome to the centre a growing diversity of women, with a special mention to Nemat who has been instrumental to the emergence of Footprints Syrian Women's Group. Nemat has shared Syrian culture through her cooking and discussions, highlighting the needs of local Syrian women and families and acting as mentor and translator to new members of the support group.

Good Relations work is key to community empowerment and development and Footprints will continue to work to promote equality and good relations in supporting the improvement and quality of life for women and families in the Colin area.





## Support Services

Women's Support Services continue to be a core area of work within the Centre, offering the only 'open door' crisis intervention service in the Colin Community for women. Operating a 'safe place' environment where all women are welcomed in a non-judgemental environment, the daily demand for this service demonstrates the overwhelming need that exists within Colin.

Sharon Gallagher commenced employment as Support Services Manager in November 2017. Glynis Brush, Women's Support Worker and Maeliosa Cahill, Family Empowerment Worker commenced employment in January 2018. The support team bring with them specialist skills and experience ensuring that services meet the diverse range of needs of the women and families in the area. Support is delivered through a person centred approach to ensure all needs of each woman are met.

In addition to an 'open door' service Support Services provide weekly drop in groups. The Senior Citizens lunch club, The 50+ Group, complementary therapies, childcare respite, 1:1 support service for women experiencing domestic violence, court support, advocacy, referrals to specialist agencies, stress management techniques and crisis intervention.

Footprints Support Services are delivered by a highly skilled team who work in partnership with key agencies including PSNI, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Sally Gardens, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, NIHE, Social Services, Colin Sure Start, Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid, Lenadoon Counselling, West South Belfast Food Bank, Inspire, Foodstore and Citizens Advice.

In March 2018 Footprints led the annual Circle of Hope event as part of the series of International Women's Day events in raising awareness of Domestic Violence. We continue to chair the Colin Domestic Violence Forum, working with community and elected representatives in ensuring women's safety is at the heart of Colin.



## Volunteers

Volunteers and their contribution to the daily life of Footprints Women's Centre is greatly valued and appreciated. Volunteers continue to give their time and skills during this year assisting staff to deliver key services for women and children in the Colin Neighbourhood.



From providing telephone cover to looking after The Food Garden, from fundraising to taking care of the Senior Citizen's Group, forty two volunteers brought their energy and commitment to every task and we thank them so much for their contribution during a year of change within the organisation.



The essential role of volunteers was supported during this year with funding from Belfast City Council's Community Development Grant. We were able to offer volunteer induction for new volunteers and Vulnerable Adult training for all volunteers. New opportunities for volunteering were also created within Children's Services and the Social Supermarket and everyone at the Centre welcomed the opportunity to try traditional Syrian food from volunteers within catering.

Congratulations to The Garden Group who won CNP's Small Volunteer Team of the year 2017 and were presented with a beautiful piece of crystal as a token of appreciation.





## Children In Need

Footprints secured funding through BBC Children In Need to provide to families, children and young people in the Colin area.

Co-Ordinated by the Family Empowerment Worker Maeliosa Cahill, the project began delivery in January 2017, setting up much needed specialist services supporting women and their families in building resilience in coping with the difficult issues affecting their lives.

Footprints provides a safe place for families and young girls to access programmes and activities that aims to improve personal development and empowerment in order to cope with the complex and overwhelming issues they face on a daily basis.



The Family Empowerment worker provides a constant point of contact for families engaged in the project and in creating empowerment opportunities through one to one work, activities, programmes and events.

The project operates an open door policy with referrals from Health visitors, G.P.s, schools, family support and social services. Families are also able to self-refer, ensuring effective take up for those families.

We would like to thank BBC Children In Need for the continued support, allowing us to build upon previous work carried out in developing innovative responses, based upon a self-help ethos to address identified need.



## Accounts

### FOOTPRINTS WOMENS CENTRE

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	10,275	72	10,347	16,157
Charitable activities	5	-	340,422	340,422	351,875
Other trading activities	7	301,214	-	301,214	305,235
Investments	8	245	-	245	249
<b>Total income</b>		<u>311,734</u>	<u>340,494</u>	<u>652,228</u>	<u>673,516</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	9	187,490	-	187,490	223,551
Charitable activities	10	38,404	381,188	419,592	450,758
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>225,894</u>	<u>381,188</u>	<u>607,082</u>	<u>674,309</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<u>85,840</u>	<u>(40,694)</u>	<u>45,146</u>	<u>(793)</u>
Gross transfers between funds	20	(7,867)	7,867	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<u>77,973</u>	<u>(32,827)</u>	<u>45,146</u>	<u>(793)</u>
<b>Fund balances at 1 April 2017</b>		<u>114,816</u>	<u>662,686</u>	<u>777,502</u>	<u>778,295</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2018</b>		<u>192,789</u>	<u>629,859</u>	<u>822,648</u>	<u>777,502</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.



## Acknowledgements

Footprints Women's Centre would like to acknowledge the Board of Directors, the staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment over the last year.

## Board of Directors

Ursula Carberry (Chairperson)

Mary McNeill (Vice Chairperson)

Noreen Braniff (Treasurer)

Joy Poots

Margaret Boyle

Bernadette Donaghy

Sinead Glymond

Bernadette Devlin

Alana Fisher

Isobel Loughran (*resigned 11/10/17*)

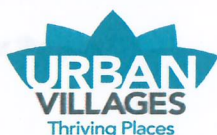
Elizabeth McShane (*resigned 25/02/18*)



# Thank You

**In addition we would like to acknowledge the following funders for their invaluable support:**

- BBC Children In Need
- Belfast City Council
- BRO Neighbourhood Renewal
- Department for Communities
- Public Health Agency
- Urban Villages
- Belfast Strategic Partnership
- Blackburn Trust
- PCSP
- SEHSCT
- Comic Relief Local Communities



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for Northern Ireland



Making life better,  
together  
Belfast Strategic Partnership



Belfast  
City Council

