



Engage
With **Age**

a Community Development Partnership
working with older people

Gazing at the 4 walls

voices of older people
experiencing social isolation in Belfast



Conference and Research launch

9.30 – 12.30 24th February 2010
Ulster Museum, Stranmillis Road
Belfast BT9 5AB

'Giving a voice, providing a choice'



 HSC Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

 HSC Public Health Agency

The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies


Wellnet
Investing for Health in the Eastern Area

Engage With Age - a model of good practice in community development

Engage With Age began as a pilot project in Castlereagh in response to the growing social issues among older people of poor physical and mental health, social isolation, low levels of community participation, fear of crime, low take up of local services and poverty. The organisation was formed in November 2000 as a community development partnership between the key statutory and voluntary organisations in East and South Belfast and Castlereagh providing services to older people. Today Engage With Age is a vibrant community based organisation which facilitates the involvement of older people in community life, by improving health and well being, physical activity, lifelong learning, lobbying and advocacy skills, and tackling the increasing issue of social isolation.

Gazing at the 4 walls - voices of older people experiencing social isolation in Belfast

The research report being launched is the culmination of a mapping exercise to measure the experience of older people's isolation, the causes and effects, and the barriers to inclusion in their communities. The research was supported and funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, as a recognition of the increasing numbers of older people living longer in their own homes, who have varying degrees of support from statutory, community and voluntary services, family and friends. The report aims to give older people a voice in identifying how these issues can be tackled. The research was undertaken by Fiona Boyle with the support and involvement of EWA staff and members of the older people's forums in South, East Belfast and Castlereagh.

9.30	Registration, Tea and Coffee – Belfast Room foyer
10.00	Chair’s Welcome – Linda Armitage, Chair EWA
10.10	Background and development of the EWA model – Anne O’Reilly, CEO Age NI
10.30	EWA working locally: Panel of Older People’s Forum members – chaired by Margy Washbrook, Manager of EWA
10.50	Development of the Age Sector in Belfast a HASP perspective – Elma Greer – Healthy Ageing Co- ordinator, Belfast Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership
11.00 – 11.30	Distribution of report Tea/Coffee scones and savouries – Museum cafe
11.30	Presentation of research findings – Fiona Boyle, Research Author, followed by Q&A’s chaired by Una Lynch, QUB and Changing Ageing Partnership
12.20	Older People as citizens – Dame Joan Harbison, Older Person’s Advocate
12.30	finish

To register contact EWA office on **028 90 649 649**
or email Carol.Simpson@engagewithage.org.uk
by Friday 29th January

Fiona Boyle,
Author of *Gazing at the 4 Walls*



Fiona Boyle has undertaken a number of studies in the field of housing for older people. These have included several projects for the NI Housing Executive.

Fiona has 20 years experience of research, evaluation, lobbying and policy development in the statutory and voluntary sector. Her employment history has covered a broad range of social issues including housing and homelessness, legal studies, social security, poverty and social exclusion.

Fiona Boyle Associates specialises in social research and evaluations, development of policy issues and lobbying government at local and national level. Clients have included the NI Housing Executive, the Simon Community Northern Ireland, the NI Assembly (Research & Library Services) and Extern NI.

Fiona is also an Assessor for BBC Children in Need and the Big Deal, and is on the regional committee for Consumer Focus Post (NI). In her spare time she enjoys family life with two active children!

“Engage with Age works to improve the quality of life, health & wellbeing of older people in South & East Belfast and Castlereagh”

We are a partnership of older people’s organisations, statutory and voluntary organisations working together.

The Engage with Age team comprises, a Manager, an Administrator and a Development Officer for each of the three areas we work in – East Belfast, South Belfast & Castlereagh.



The team can be contacted at:

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