

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises is a network of youth and community groups in the Ardoyne & Marrowbone areas of North Belfast.

The project was founded by local community activists in 1996 to increase communication between local and statutory youth providers, to develop youth resources and to ensure that local young people were getting the most effective access to resources and services as possible.

Today there are currently in excess of forty youth provider groups operating in this area of North Belfast. These providers range from youth clubs, sports clubs, schools and local residents groups.



What support has NBEI provided?

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises first engaged with NBEI via the North Belfast Social Enterprise Hub to develop a prime commercial site on the Crumlin Road. This acquisition will hopefully help to sustain the operations of the organisation in the long term and **reduce dependency on grant-aid**

NBEI provided combined funding for an **economic appraisal** and **architectural services** to expedite the acquisition process of the Crumlin Road site. NBEI also fast-tracked such funding prior to the acquisition due to the ongoing legal difficulties the group faced at the outset of the acquisition

Following the completion of the economic appraisal NBEI also funded a **planning application** for the asset and some further technical documents. This has work has since allowed AYE to progress to round 2 of the Urban Villages Capital Grants programme

How has NBEI support helped and who has benefited so far?

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises have found the support and advice from EDT North to be invaluable in furthering their plans to develop office and meeting space in the local community. They have also benefited from technical advice provided during the legal difficulties encountered by the group throughout the acquisition process

“The support staff and associates have always made themselves available to ensure problems were dealt with quickly and creatively, and through adopting a flexible approach to progressing solutions to our technical needs, we have found ourselves ahead of schedule in developing our plans. The EDT North offer is a timely and professional resource for groups like ours who may ordinarily have struggled to bring together the expertise to successfully develop an asset”.

Shane Whelehan Director Ardoyne Youth Enterprises