

Northern Ireland Hospice

In 2016, NI Hospice opened its new £13 million facility at Somerton House in North Belfast. In addition to providing high quality palliative care for patients with a wide range of life-limiting and terminal illnesses, this new dementia friendly facility also acts as a general HUB for Hospice Community Nursing Services across Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The new site also features a dedicated Palliative Education and Research Centre which will reach out internationally to train healthcare professionals in a range of specialist palliative care models. NBEI investment has so far helped to develop a new on site coffee shop called the Old School House Cafe. In addition to providing a much needed service to visiting relatives, any profits generated from the cafe will be reinvested directly back into the Hospice to help ensure long term financial sustainability.



All profits from The Old School House Cafe will go directly to Hospice, helping to provide care for babies, children and adults with life limiting and terminal conditions.

Each year, Hospice provides specialist palliative care to over 3,500 people across Northern Ireland and relies heavily on voluntary donations and fundraising to generate over 70% of the £12 million annual running costs.

The Old School House cafe, is the latest addition to Northern Ireland Hospice trading initiatives, joining an already established network of 28 charity shops based throughout Northern Ireland.

Like and Share on Facebook, Retweet on Twitter and of course call in and have a guilt free treat!

Charity Number: NC102337



Opening Times:
Mon to Fri 8.30am-8pm
Sat to Sun 9am-5pm

The Old School House Cafe
74 Somerton Road,
Belfast, BT15 3LH

TEL: 028 9078 1836

Find us on  
@theoshcafe

#coffeetocare
#guiltfreetreat #theosh

What support has NBEI provided?

Representatives from NI Hospice approached NBEI with the aim of exploring how they could create and operate new social enterprises inside its new Somerton House facility. It was hoped such enterprises would create additional revenue streams and make the new asset financially more sustainable in the long term

After discussing the viability of a range of different social enterprise concepts with NBEI, NI Hospice decided to move forward with an on site coffee shop venture. NBEI provided the Hospice with further investment to complete a detailed **business plan** for the new social enterprise project to help it move forward

Since funding the business plan, NBEI also provided the Hospice additional investment to procure **13 days of business mentoring**. This provided the cafe project with support during the start up phase as well as advised the Hospice on the viability of other social enterprise ideas which could generate additional income

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

NBEI investment helped to ensure that the Old School House Cafe was able to open on schedule in November 2016. To date the cafe has created **3 new jobs** (1 full time and 2 part time employees) and is also staffed by over **20 volunteers**. In its first month of trading (December 2016) the cafe sold over **4,300** items and recorded sales in excess of **£10,000**. The Cafe is also providing a range of in house **training opportunities** and **28** members of staff and volunteers have benefited from **Barista training** as well as obtaining a **Level 1 in Basic Food Hygiene**. Delivered free by external partners and in the context of Northern Ireland's growing hospitality sector these new skills are highly transferable and could be used by volunteers to secure future or alternative employment elsewhere;

"NBEI's business support, factual awareness, research knowledge and experience of start-up ventures, has helped to inject the commercial confidence to drive this exciting new project forward".

Neil Fowler Northern Ireland Hospice Retail Manager