

**HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK NI**

**6 – 12 December 2021**

**#StartTheConvo**

**EVENTS**



## **PLANNED ACTIVITY**

It is important that you make Homelessness Awareness Week NI your own but there will be some initiatives that we, as a sector, have planned during the week to help challenge homelessness stereotypes.



# APG on Homelessness Event at the Assembly



Date: Monday 6 December, 1pm to 2.00pm.

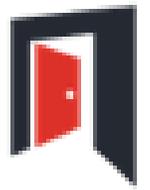
Location: Online

**Information:** On 6 December, the APG on Homelessness supported by Homeless Connect is holding an event to mark the start of Homelessness Awareness Week. An excellent group of speakers is planned, including local schoolchildren, the CEO of Homeless Connect, a representative of the Housing Executive and the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA.

**What we need from your organisation:** Invitations to members who are observers of the APG have been issued and we hope there will be a good turnout at the event. If you have social media, please do post about the event using the hashtag #starttheconvo.

For more information contact: Mark Baillie,  
[mark.baillie@homelessconnect.org](mailto:mark.baillie@homelessconnect.org).

# First Housing Aid & Support Services



**FIRST HOUSING**  
*Aid & Support Services*

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> November-12 December

**Location:** Across Fermanagh/ L'Derry

## Information:

First Housing Enniskillen are completing 7 weeks, 7 locations, 7 staff members across Fermanagh. These walks will allow the team to check if there are any signs of homelessness as they walk through whilst chatting to the local community to raise awareness.

Damien House met with members of Moneydig Community Network to raise awareness of the issues of homelessness. As a result, the group put together packs for people who find themselves in difficulty through facing homelessness.

**What we need from your organisation:**

If you see anyone from the team do stop to say hello.

**For more information contact:**

[mariathompson@first-housing.com](mailto:mariathompson@first-housing.com)

[eileenbest@first-housing.com](mailto:eileenbest@first-housing.com)

# People's Kitchen

Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm

Location: Cornmarket, Belfast

## Information:

The People's Kitchen are holding a 'Belfast Busk' to create awareness of homelessness and to raise funds so that they can provide warm meals.

A host of top local musicians will be performing, with a few surprise guests!

What we need from your organisation:

Come along to enjoy some festive tunes and old favourites.

For more information contact:

[mcnairney.damian@gmail.com](mailto:mcnairney.damian@gmail.com)



**THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN**  
BELFAST

# Homelessness Prevention Forum

Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm

Location: Online

## Information:

The Homelessness Prevention Forum are holding a webinar to discuss the current challenges being faced and how we can work together to prevent homelessness.

What we need from your organisation:

Register for the event by following this link:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preventing-homelessness-a-collaborative-approach-tickets-217054354417>

For more information contact:

[Declan.Morris@extern.org](mailto:Declan.Morris@extern.org)

[Paul.Fleming@niacro.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Fleming@niacro.co.uk)

# North West Methodist Mission

**Date:** Across the week

past residents.

**Location:** Clarendon Shelter

**Information:**

Clarendon Shelter are putting on a host of events to raise awareness during Homelessness Awareness Week.

Staff and residents have created a Tree of hope collage on wall which relates to Homelessness and mental health.

Staff and residents are doing a Come dine with me Conversation where staff will cook a meal from Fareshare products and eat with residents.

A coffee morning with current and

What we need from your organisation:

Raise awareness about the events.

For more information contact:

[ann.barr@clarendonshelter.co.uk](mailto:ann.barr@clarendonshelter.co.uk)

# East Belfast Mission/ Street Soccer NI



EAST BELFAST  
MISSION  
THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND



Date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30pm

Location: Ozone, Ormeau Park

## Information:

Street Soccer NI and East Belfast Mission are holding a five a side Homelessness Awareness Week football tournament.

All are welcome and lunch is provided.

What we need from your organisation:

Get in contact if you want to enter.

For more information contact:

[justin@streetsoccerni.org](mailto:justin@streetsoccerni.org)

# Ark Housing Association



Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December,  
10.30am

Location: Roseville House

## Information:

Ark Housing Association are holding a coffee morning at Roseville House from 10.30am-12.30pm.

What we need from your organisation:

Get in contact if you want to join in.

For more information contact:

[gail.mclaughlin@arkhousing.co.uk](mailto:gail.mclaughlin@arkhousing.co.uk)

# North Down & Ards Women's Aid

women's aid  
North Down & Ards

Date: November/ December

Location: Online

## Information:

From 25<sup>th</sup> November over 16 Days, the team will be highlighting the voices of women, their lived experiences of domestic abuse and statistics from the women, children & young people they support.

Hear her Voice Project - Sharing the voices of survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. The women would have experienced homelessness before moving into their refuge.

What we need from your organisation:

Show your support by sharing their posts on Facebook.

For more information contact:

[info@ndawomensaid.org](mailto:info@ndawomensaid.org)

# Westcourt Centre

**Date:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Location:** Online/ City Hall

**Information:**

Schools from England, Republic of Ireland and local schools will be gathering for a panel discussion and exhibition on homelessness in City Hall and APG event.

**What we need from your organisation:**

Show your support by sharing their posts on Facebook.

**For more information contact:**

[westcourtcentre@btconnect.com](mailto:westcourtcentre@btconnect.com)

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> December

**Location:** Online

**Information:**

Across the week, Extern will engage the media and social media to create awareness around Homelessness Awareness week, showcase case studies of their work and highlighting achievements using statistics.

Activities include a co-oped article from the CEO to one of the main newspapers and a piece on one of their homelessness social workers.

**What we need from your organisation:**

Show your support by sharing their posts on Facebook.

**For more information contact:**

[Matthew.McCreary@extern.org](mailto:Matthew.McCreary@extern.org)

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December

**Location:** Online

**Information:**

**Hostels are not homes: A Conversation for Simon Community Staff- 8<sup>th</sup> December**

For some people their time with Simon Community has been significant and may have been long term, in an environment that has felt safe, warm and supportive. As a charity, Simon Community strive to ensure the accommodation provided is of a good and welcoming standard. Does this mean a hostel has become a home? What is a hostel? What does a hostel stay mean?

This Homelessness Awareness Week, Simon Community will #StartTheConvo over a lunch time conversation with staff to explore the theme of 'Hostels are not Homes.'

**Mental Health & Homelessness: A Simon Community & Depaul Focus Group- 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Committed to understanding the mental health needs of people experiencing homelessness and ensuring that lived experience is central to understanding and delivery of services, staff from Simon Community NI and Depaul will host a cross agency conversation to provide further insight as part of a client survey project that is currently taking place across both organisations.

This is an invited focus group discussion between Simon Community NI and Depaul staff to explore mental health needs of people experiencing homelessness. Whilst this is a conversation starter, Simon Community are committed to extending the conversation across the wider homelessness sector in the coming months.

**What we need from your organisation:**

Show your support by sharing their posts on social media.

**For more information contact:**

[CiaranCorr@simoncommunity.org](mailto:CiaranCorr@simoncommunity.org)

# Welcome Organisation

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December

**Location:** Various

## **Information:**

Home sleepout throughout the week to raise funds and raise awareness. Welcome are encouraging people across Northern Ireland to give up their bed for one night to sleep out at home and raise money to help people affected by homelessness.

You can sleep out somewhere safe outside - or even on your sofa or on the floor.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December local singer/songwriter Brendan Quinn is launching his new single.

The song is about homelessness and proceeds from the single will go to Welcome.

On 9<sup>th</sup> December, the Drop-in Centre is holding a Christmas art class for service users.

Social media updates on Welcome's services will take place during the week.

## **What we need from your organisation:**

Register to join in the sleep out and share our social media posts.

## **For more information contact:**

[Kieran@homelessbelfast.org](mailto:Kieran@homelessbelfast.org)

<https://www.homelessbelfast.org/events/home-sleepout>

# Belfast Central Mission



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December

**Location:** Belfast/ Online

## **Information:**

A variety of activities are taking place during the week.

Thomas St supported housing are providing an internal meals on wheels with service users and staff making food for HSOP/HSYP projects.

Virtual information day hosted by Tafelta & HSYP Magherafelt re Rent Deposit Scheme with Trust partners

Riverside are hosting a brunch for partners from Trust and HSE.

Grampian are hosting a brunch to help #starttheconvo

Grampian & Tafelta joint Cook-a-thon – an internal meals on wheels with service users and staff making food for HSOP/HSYP projects.

## **What we need from your organisation:**

Show your support by sharing their posts on social media.

**For more information contact:**

[cpollock@belfastcentralmission.org](mailto:cpollock@belfastcentralmission.org)



[www.homelessconnect.org](http://www.homelessconnect.org)

Homeless Connect is the working name of Council for the Homeless (NI), registered charity in Northern Ireland (charity number 103325).

Our new brand reflects how we are on a journey together with our members and statutory partners to end homelessness.

Our logo is used to symbolise connections between members, partners, service users and the wider community.

A vibrant set of colours have been chosen to reflect new ways of working and fresh thinking.

Imagery is positive and shows people working together.