



# Homelessness Awareness Week Programme 2023

4th - 10th December 2023



#HAW23

#TurnTheTide

For more information visit  
[www.homelessconnect.org/](http://www.homelessconnect.org/)

[homelessness-awareness-week-2023](http://homelessness-awareness-week-2023)



## HC Homeless Connect

Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW) is a week of social, educational and awareness raising events which aims to raise awareness of the reality of homelessness in Northern Ireland.

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## 4th December

### All-Party Group on Homelessness

#### "Turning the Tide on Homelessness"

Venue: NI Assembly, Parliament Buildings Belfast (Invitation only)

Time: 2pm

Contact: [admin@homelessconnect.org](mailto:admin@homelessconnect.org)

### Ards & North Down Housing Executive & North Down Community Network

North Down Community Network Community Matters Podcast – Housing & Homelessness Edition

Podcast focusing on housing and homelessness and the local support available, with the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive, Grainia Long.

Contact: [Eileen.Thompson@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Eileen.Thompson@nihe.gov.uk)

### Exit- Expressive Arts in Transition

Ark and the Community Arts Partnership present a discussion on EXIT, Expressive Arts in Transition, a transformative program that combines stress management and creative therapy to empower families experiencing homelessness.

Venue: Roseville House, Belfast

Time: 3pm

Contact: [peter.fahy@arkhousing.co.uk](mailto:peter.fahy@arkhousing.co.uk)

### Homeless, not Helpless- NIYF Social Media Campaign

This awareness raising campaign will highlight the issues young people are facing, positive project work and uplifting stories from young people about their personal journeys. Though the tide is against them, NIYF seek to promote youth voice and celebrate young people's resilience in the face of adversity.

Visit: [www.niyf.org](http://www.niyf.org)

## 5th December

### South West Homelessness Local Area Group

Advice Clinic

Drop in clinic offering advice on housing, finance and benefits, including available information on local support services.

Venue: Omagh Library

Time: 10am – 3pm

Contact: [Helen.Hicks@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Hicks@nihe.gov.uk)

### South Area Homelessness Local Area Group

A Day in the Life of a Housing Advisor / Support Provider  
South Area Homelessness Local Area Group members are invited to attend an introduction and a Q&A session with Housing Advisors, Team Leaders and Area Management, followed by a screening of a video, 'Day in the Life of a Housing Advisor'.

Venue: Housing Executive Office, Portadown and Millennium Court, Portadown (Invitation only)

Time: 10am – 1pm

Contact: [Mark.Ingham@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Ingham@nihe.gov.uk)



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## Mid-Ulster Homelessness Local Area Group

DePaul's Castlehill homeless service open day  
DePaul staff will present information about the service and the wider organisation. A tour of the facility will be available on request.

Venue: DePaul's Castlehill Open-day -Dungannon (Invitation only)

Time: 10am – 12:30pm

Contact: [Sharon.Crooks@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Crooks@nihe.gov.uk)

[Catherine.McGarrell@depaulcharity.net](mailto:Catherine.McGarrell@depaulcharity.net)

## House to Home- Anchoring Tenancies

### Breakfast

Habitat for Humanity Ireland are holding a 'House to Home – Anchoring Tenancies' breakfast event where you will be able hear more about this programme and its direct impact on the day to day lives of individuals moving on from homelessness.

Venue: Habitat ReStore, Hillview Retail Park, Crumlin Road, Belfast, BT14 7DU

Time: 9:30am – 11:00am

Contact: [+44 2892 635 635](tel:+442892635635)

## 6th December

## Mid & East Antrim Homelessness Local Area

### Group - Mid & East Antrim Coffee Morning

Mid & East Antrim staff are hosting a coffee morning at each of the public counters in Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus local Housing Executive offices. Guests are encouraged on the day to bring non-perishable food item/s to donate to the local foodbanks.

Venue: Housing Executive Offices, Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus

Time: 10am – 12pm

Contact: [Roy.McClean@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Roy.McClean@nihe.gov.uk)

[Candace.Fention@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Candace.Fention@nihe.gov.uk)

## South Antrim Homelessness Local Area

### Group - Donations Drop Off

South Antrim staff are accepting non – perishable food donations for the local Foodbanks. Drop off points will be located in the public counters in the local Housing Executive offices in Antrim and Newtownabbey. All donations to be made by Wednesday 6th December 2023.

Venue: Housing Executive Offices, Antrim and Newtownabbey

Contact: [Breige.Mullaghan@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Breige.Mullaghan@nihe.gov.uk)

[Poppy.Buchanan2@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Poppy.Buchanan2@nihe.gov.uk)

## South West Homelessness Local Area Group

### Advice Clinic

Drop in clinic offering advice on housing, finance and benefits, including available information on local support services.

Venue: Enniskillen Library

Time: 10am – 2pm

Contact: [Helen.Hicks@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Hicks@nihe.gov.uk)



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### **South Down Homelessness Local Area Group**

Donations to Simon Community & Armagh Down Women's Aid – Newry and Downpatrick

The South Down Team are accepting non-perishable food items and toiletry donations from members of the public and local businesses. Donations will be made to Armagh Down Women's Aid and Simon Community. Drop off points will be located in the public counters in the Newry and Downpatrick Housing Executive offices. All donations to be made by Wednesday 6th December 2023.

Contact: [Niall.Fitzpatrick@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Niall.Fitzpatrick@nihe.gov.uk)

[Paddy.RooneyWhite@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Paddy.RooneyWhite@nihe.gov.uk)

### **Homelessness Awareness Week Drop-in**

Triangle Housing Association's Floating Support Team is holding a drop-in session

The drop in is completely free and they are not seeking donations. They simply want to make people more aware of the growing difficulties a lot of people are facing as we head towards the Christmas period. And they also promise a cup of tea or coffee and a quick bite.

Venue: Boardroom at City East, 68 – 72 Newtownards Rd BT4 1GW

Time: 9am-1pm

Contact: [suzanne.kelly@trianglehousing.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.kelly@trianglehousing.org.uk)

### **Homeless, not Voiceless**

Amidst the challenges of homelessness, the transformative power of words has emerged at Ark Housing Association's Roseville House. Guided by poet Nandi Jola, residents have found solace and expression through prose and poetry, weaving their experiences into poignant verses.

Venue: Roseville House, Belfast

Time: 11am

Contact: [peter.fahy@arkhousing.co.uk](mailto:peter.fahy@arkhousing.co.uk)

## **7th December**

### **Westcourt Centre and St Mary's Social Justice and Advocacy Group**

#### **Panel discussion**

The discussion will focus upon the scale of the current homelessness situation and how young people can use their voice to try to make a difference.

Venue: St Mary's Grammar School

Time: 11:30am

Contact: [westcourtcentre@gmail.com](mailto:westcourtcentre@gmail.com)

### **Homelessness Prevention Forum marks 10 years**

The Homelessness Prevention Forum will mark its tenth anniversary with an event at Ark Housing. Supported by a memorandum of understanding, the forum has worked tirelessly to ensure a collaborative approach to homelessness prevention is at the core of housing support related services. This event will look back at what the forum has done in the past as well as looking to the future.

Venue: Ark Housing (Invitation only)

Time: 12pm

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





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## Homelessness Awareness Week 2023:

### Culture Lunch

Come along to the Culture Lunch being held by East Belfast Mission's Hosford Health and Wellbeing Hub for Homelessness Awareness Week 2023. Homemade soup, sandwiches and sweet treats prepared by the Mission's Refugee Women's Group will be served.

Venue: Health and Wellbeing Hub in the Skainos complex on the Newtownards Road in East Belfast

Time: 12:30pm-2:30pm

Contact: [mary.campbell@ebm.org.uk](mailto:mary.campbell@ebm.org.uk)

### Homeless Connect: 40th Anniversary

The event will look to celebrate the incredible work of the homelessness sector in supporting so many people experiencing homelessness over the last forty years and look ahead to how we can take the journey to ending homelessness here.

Venue: The Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast (Invitation only)

Time: 2pm

Contact: [admin@homelessconnect.org](mailto:admin@homelessconnect.org).

### Depaul's Service of Life Event

Depaul are hosting their Annual Service of Life during Homelessness Awareness Week. The service is a celebration of life and Depaul's work in the homelessness sector. Tea and Coffee will be served afterwards.

Venue: St Paul & St Barnabas Church, 210 York St, Belfast BT15 1WZ

Time: 4pm

Contact: [anna.hollis@depaulcharity.net](mailto:anna.hollis@depaulcharity.net)

## 8th December

### Turning the Tide- Sharing Conversations

Harmoni are holding an interactive panel discussion with key stakeholders and those with lived experience of homelessness hosted by Gerry Skelton MBE. Together participants will try find common ground on how to 'turn the tide'.

Venue: Belfast (Invitation only)

Contact: [edmund.mccullough@harmoni.org.uk](mailto:edmund.mccullough@harmoni.org.uk)

### Street Soccer NI and EBM Homelessness Awareness Week Cup 2023

Come along to the annual 6-a-side Homelessness Awareness Week Cup hosted by East Belfast Mission and Street Soccer NI. It is free to enter and water and lunch will be provided to those who come along.

Venue: The Ozone in Ormeau Park

Time: 12:30pm

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

### First Housing, Ramona House, Omagh do sleep out

Staff and residents at First Housing's Ramona House in Omagh will be taking part in a sleepout. The purpose of the sleepout is to raise awareness of the reality that for many people living here it can only be a few short steps from having a home to becoming homeless.

Venue: Ramona House, Omagh

Time: Friday 8th December in to Saturday 9th December between 8pm and 8am

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



### **Causeway Homelessness Local Area Group**

Stories by the Stones Video - Online launch of 'Stories by the Stones' through all Housing Executive social media platforms.

Short film featuring local individuals talking about their own personal experiences of homelessness with local providers discussing the support, which is available in the Causeway area.

Contact: [Mark.Alexander@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Alexander@nihe.gov.uk)

[Sally.Kelly@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Kelly@nihe.gov.uk)

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