

Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Global Pandemic – Local Response



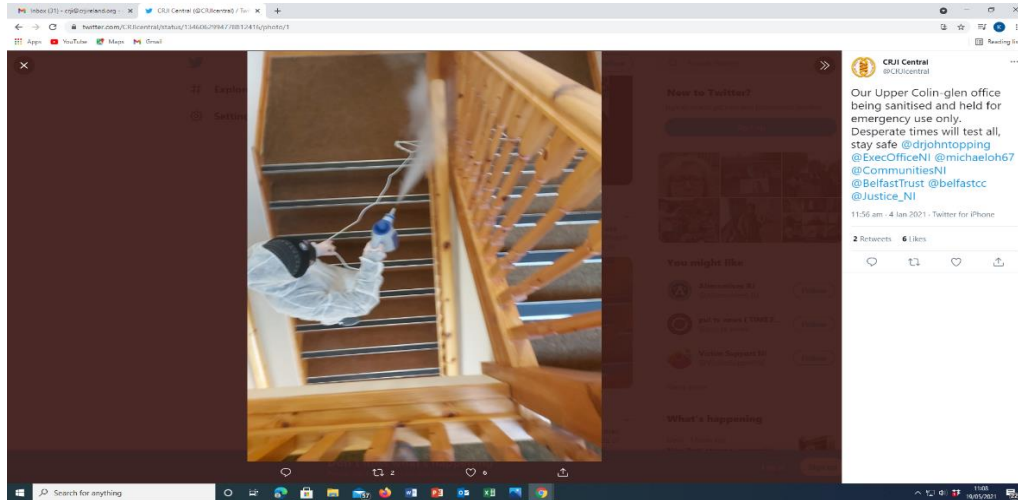
A Report into CRJI's Organizational Activities

Supporting Communities

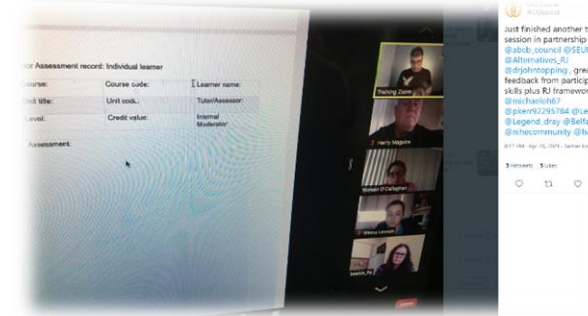
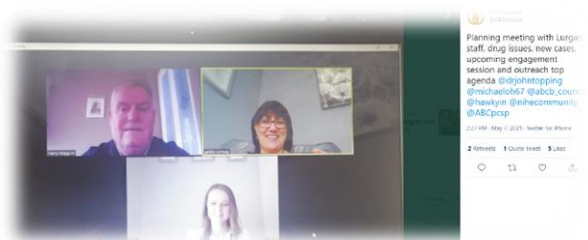
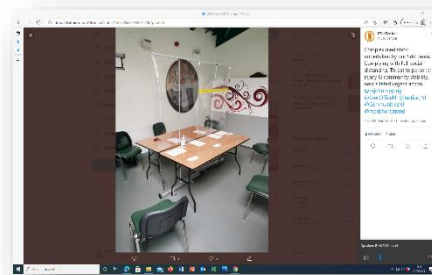
During COVID 19

2020 was a tough year for us all, and those of us who work in Community Development. Covid 19 took its toll on all areas of our work. It was with great determination, selflessness, prioritizing tasks and pulling together that got us through this horrendous time. Our thoughts are with all of those who lost loved ones and the all the frontline workers who worked tirelessly and with great passion to keep on top of this pandemic. We all have a personal responsibility to adhere to PHA guidelines to decrease the spread of Covid 19 and to get back to some normality.

Here at CRJI we acted quickly to ensure all our staff were safe, to put in place policies and procedures that allowed us to continue our work and support those most vulnerable in our communities.



Throughout the Covid Period CRJI continued Internal Meetings, Management Meetings, External Meetings, Training, Meetings with Clients Via Zoom and other social media platforms. This allowed us to carry our responsibilities to our funders, clients and to work with new partners.



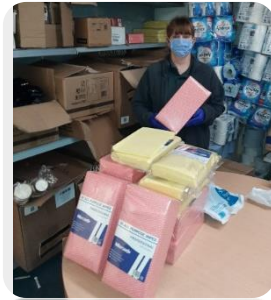
CRJI timetabled a skeleton staff in all our offices, supplied all offices with masks, visors, hand sanitizer, deep cleansed offices and installed partitions to create safe spaces. We ensured all staff working from home were equipped and resourced to do so (available Covid funding supported this), and rented extra office space to adhere to the '2 meter' rule. Covid testing and inhouse policies were/are continually updated and adhered to in line with PHA Updates.



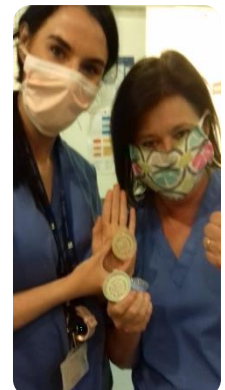
At the beginning of the Pandemic, there was uncertainty surrounding Covid 19 and the impact it would have. This uncertainty led to a shortage of PPE not only for front line workers but for all within our communities. CRJI organized sewing groups throughout our communities and groups to make Hand Sanitiser. Packs were made up and delivered to different areas of Belfast where teams were organized to handle the distribution of items.



Volunteers worked tirelessly to meet the demand of much needed masks and sanitiser. They spent hours on sewing machines, collecting and delivering donations of materials to those making masks and sanitiser. Staff sourced donations for making PPE, available funding, donations from local businesses and delivery of PPE to frontline workers and the most vulnerable in our communities.



Materials for these were donated by Solo Garage, Moneen Garage, Coke Cola donated the bottles for Hand Sanitiser and some Poleglass Residents made a financial donation towards materials for making PPE, we also had a resident from Bangor drive to Belfast to donate elastic. Hand Sanitiser and Soaps were made by staff and volunteers. All were given PPE and PPE was donated for their employees.



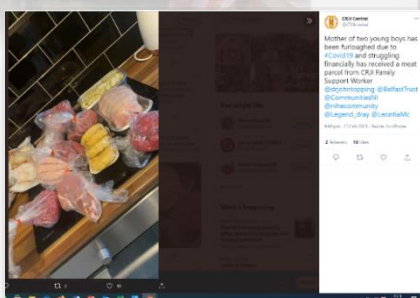
PPE was also delivered to local businesses, hospitals, care homes etc and chemists, who also helped with distributing masks and sanitiser to vulnerable members of the community.



The Royal Victoria Hospital, Meadowlands at Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, Doherty's Chemist, Ardmonagh Family Cr, Abbeyfield, Aishling Centre Crumlin, Welcome Centre, Care Homes, Community Centre's were some of those organisations who benefitted from CRJIs Response to Covid 19.

CRJI worked throughout the pandemic in partnership with Doherty's Chemist who added our PPE to their customer deliveries.

CRJI also distributed Food Parcels, Deliveries of Bread, Home Cleaning Packs, Toiletry Packs, Foil Blankets, Foot Protection, J Cloths, Toys, Indoor Family Activity Packs, Chocolate, Gloves and Period Poverty Packs.





HUB & Family Support – CRJI is the Outer West Belfast Family Support Hub Lead Body. The Hub has been at the forefront in helping families get the support they need during this very difficult time - the Hub remained operational throughout.

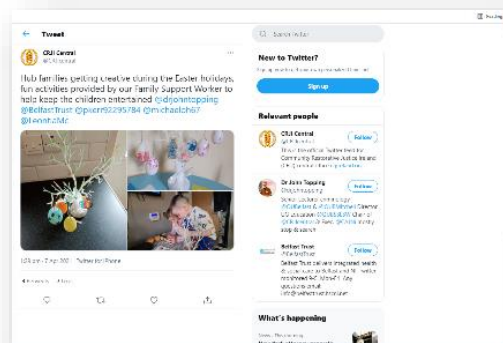
Referrals for families requiring financial support has been at an all-time high. Fortunately, with the partnership network the Hub has maintained over the years and additional funding been made available from the Belfast Trust were able to meet this demand. 97 Vouchers were made available for:



1. Food Supports – e.g. vouchers to families referred through the Family Support Hub Network
2. Practical help with immediate bills – e.g. electricity or gas vouchers, broadband to families referred through the Family Support Hub Network
3. Transport costs – e.g. taxi/ bus bill to connect an identified Hub service provider to families referred through the Family Support Hub Network
4. Assist in the provision of Child centred activities to families referred through the Family Support Hub Network
5. Any other relevant expenditure to families referred through the Family Support Hub Network



Our Family Support workers also supported families with activity packs, family cooking packs. Wellbeing of clients was also supported through online and telephone contact.



Shortly after the pandemic started CRJI/OWBFSH received a number of digital devices, Belfast City Council and the Belfast Harbour Initiative, BYTES Project supplied these to be distributed to families for home schooling support. A total of 190 devices from the BYTES Project and 90 from the Belfast Harbour Initiative. These were distributed on a priority basis, referrals from local Schools and community organisations who were aware of family circumstance and need. The Hub also received funding from Radius Housing for a Summer Nutrition programme that supplied families with ingredients and recipes during the lockdown period.

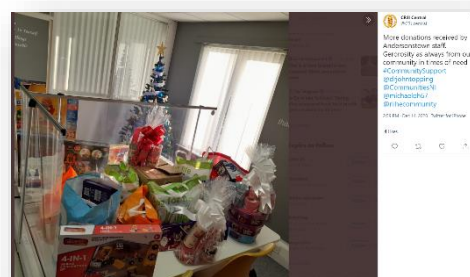
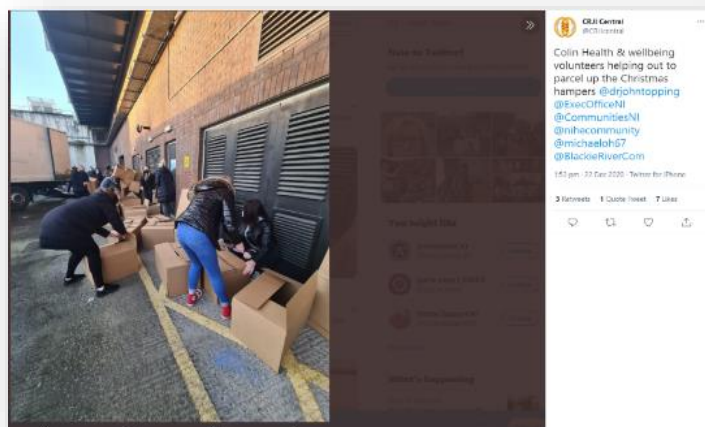
The Belfast Trust provided the Hub with much needed additional Covid related funding, this was of great benefit to the many families struggling through the pandemic for various reasons; loss of income, illness, bereavement, less support, home schooling to name a few. This funding has been used in a number of ways, helping families with practical support; household essentials, gas and electric.

Over the Christmas period the CRJI/OWBFSH continued to see referrals grow, during this time the Hub provided over 100 Christmas food and toy hampers to families. This was through a Christmas Appeal Initiative coordinated by the North Belfast Advice Partnership. The hampers were packed and distributed by the Family Support Hub and our member organisations at SSE Arena.

300 Turkey hampers were generously donated by Kevin McKay in the Benmore Group to the 4 West Belfast Family support Hubs; these were packed by the Hub co-ordinators, Hub Chairs and members of the Hubs at the Westwood Centre and distributed by the Hub and member organisations. Further support was provided at this time from the South West Belfast foodbank who supplied families with food hampers and gift vouchers, again these were distributed by the O WBFS Hub.

Unemployment due to Covid – there was an increase in families where one or both parents had been made unemployed due to Covid, there were also front-line single parent families who needed extra support. CRJI through funding from BHSCT and Barnardo's were able to administer/distribute Food Vouchers, Heat & Light Vouchers, White Goods Vouchers, Toiletry Vouchers to all those in need. 79 Vouchers from Barnoaros were distributed, 97 from BHSCT and 43 from Federation for Family Practices West Belfast Seed Funding.

Christmas Support - Christmas is a hard time of year for those in need. Again, through working in partnership with ASDA, Doherty's Chemist, The Gem, BHSCT, Food Banks, and local residents we were able to administer/distribute Turkeys, Ingredients for 3 Course Christmas Dinners, Food Hampers, Toy Hampers and Toiletry Hampers too over 500 homes.



The Department For Communities funds a percentage of Salaries and Running Costs for 5 of the CRJI Offices based in Belfast. This funding allowed CRJI to keep staff employed – none of CRJI staff were furloughed and continued to support those in need.

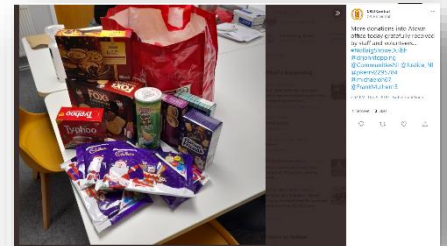
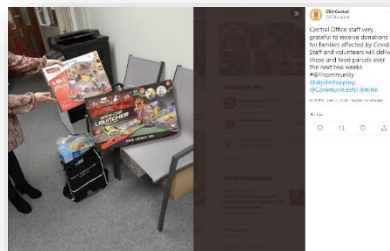
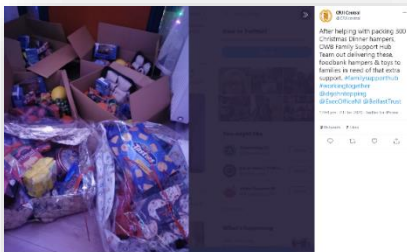
Additional funding was secured from the Department of Communities to assist staff working in offices and from home. This was for much needed IT Support and Equipment.

CRJIs area of need was for updates in IT Software, Computers, Laptops and IT Support.

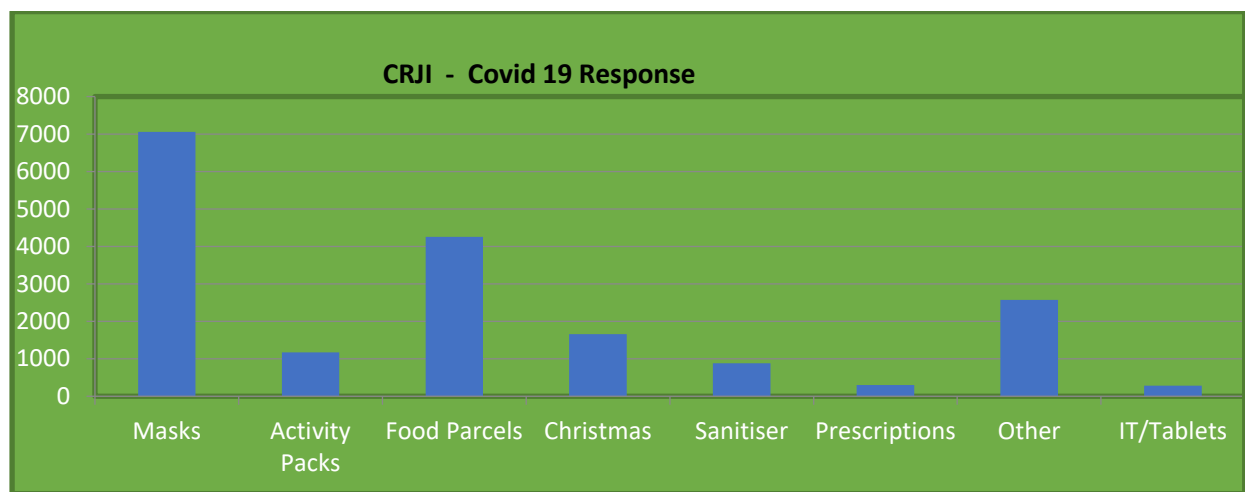
We secured funding through applications to the Department to update our IT. This enabled CRJI to provide laptops and computers to staff especially those working from home.

Training was provided for staff on how to use different platforms for online meetings, how to provide our training online. We also continued to support clients, one-to-one, providing workshops, online activity for adults, children and families.

Using this form of communication meant we could continue our work through lockdown. Mental Health issues soared during lockdown – being able to provide this support give people a release, hope, something to look forward to, family activities, fun and knowing that they were not alone. Thank You DFC.



Covid Response - At A Glance



CRJI completed 18'181 Covid Interventions. Below is a breakdown of the intervention and the total amount of support given. In completing this report, we are confident the number of interventions is greater than 18'181 – this is due to some reports not being submitted before this report was completed. Further on in the report we have evidenced our work through Photos & Twitter Posts.

Masks: 7060 Masks were made by CRJI Volunteers & Staff – these were then distributed to Hospitals, Care Homes, Local Community Groups (for distribution) and Doherty's Chemist who added Masks into local prescription deliveries.

Activity Packs: 1170 Activity Packs were distributed by CRJI Staff & Volunteers – Growers Packs, Family Cooking Packs, Activity Packs for Children – all ages and abilities were catered for.

Food Parcels: 4258 Food Parcels were distributed to families in Belfast, Derry, Lurgan and Newry.

Christmas Support: 1658 interventions were made over the Christmas Period, these included Turkeys, '3 Course Meals' ingredients for Starter, mains and Dessert, Toy Hampers, Teenager Hampers, Halal Food Parcels.

Sanitiser: 883 – Large and Pocket-sized Hand Sanitiser, Home Cleaning Kits, Personal Hygiene Kits, Period Poverty Kits were distributed by CRJI Staff & Volunteers.

Prescriptions: 300 – Over 300 Prescriptions were delivered by CRJI Staff & Volunteers. This was in response to the call buy the NHS. Staff applied and followed the screening procedures in order to qualify for this.

Other: 2572 Other interventions took place – this included erecting billboards to support the PHA message, Information Leaflets, Safe & Well Packs, Home Safety Packs, Disposable Gloves, Wipes etc.

IT/Tables: 280 CRJI distributed 280 Tablets to those families who needed support with home

A Big Thank You to all who donated, our partners and to those on the ground who were able to identify those most in need and bring support to their doorstep.

Blogs

In March 20 CRJI highlighted the issue of community members who have been placed under-threat of physical harm by anti-peace process armed groups. CRJI stated:

Statement From, Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Community Restorative Justice Ireland, like many community organisations, has been responding to the challenges presented by the current health crisis across our Island due to COVID-19.

As part of our work, on a daily basis we also meet with, and work for, community members who have been placed under-threat of physical harm by anti-peace process armed groups. It defies logic that threats, violence and intimidation are still happening in communities in 2020, never mind in the midst of the global pandemic.

Threats of any nature are wrong and should stop immediately. More so in the climate of the current health crisis. If ever there was a time for such groups to leave the stage, it is now. Our health service, even at such an early stage in the crisis, is feeling the strain – with frontline staff under an enormous pressure, which will only increase in the coming weeks and months.

There are plans being formulated to try and respond to what could be a substantial number of deaths because of the virus. These plans include all first responders across this Island. This public health crisis does not and will not recognise borders, religion or political allegiance. This virus will attack people and is a human problem, as well as being an all island problem.

It is inconceivable that in the midst of this crisis, PSNI / Gardaí, our health professionals across the island, and organisations such as CRJI, should have resources tied up in dealing with the activities of armed groups in our communities.

We would call on all armed groups to cease all activities and make a public statement to that effect.

Across our island, communities deserve better than to have much valued and needed resources wasted by those whose activities only work to the detriment of the health and well-being of our people.

At CRJI, we believe this is the right and only thing to do. We would ask in the strongest possible terms that communities get a positive response from any and all groups from whatever community. This is about people and communities. It is they who must be put first in the fight against this global crisis at a local level.
Ends

Harry Maguire

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27th/03/20

Have a Restorative Christmas

Most of us recognise and accept that Christmas will be different this year, whilst celebrating the festive season in a health pandemic seems contrary, it is equally important to take some much-needed time out to decompress, slow down, exercise self-care and spend time with our nearest and dearest.

There has been much talk about learning to live with Covid-19, with 2020 being the year of change and adapting... So, whether you will be spending time with family via zoom, doing socially distanced gift drops or wearing thermals in the garden, munching on turkey sandwiches and requesting mulled wine top ups as the perfect excuse to warm up, we hope you stay safe and look out for one and other.

Christmas can be a fun and joyful time; however, it can also be a challenging and stressful time. Kids sugared up on chocolate and sweets, increased government restrictions and more family time (which yes can be beautiful and magical) can also lead to blow ups over monopoly!

So here are a three restorative communication tips to help you survive the season:

1. Pause

Our frame of mind can determine what direction our interactions go, so before you even start communicating with someone, explore your internal lens and perspective. If you are in a negative or hostile state, reset your mind frame as it is unlikely you are going to effectively listen when you feel this way. Before you approach the situation, have some internal positive self-talk with yourself to create the desire that you want to not only listen to the other person but to understand or relate to them.

2. Focus on the good

Look for the positives first i.e., the qualities, traits, and characteristics that we love and appreciate about that person. Sometimes we forget and become so caught up in the mess they have left in the living room or how they haven't bothered to do the dishes, we can easily become caught in a downward spiral. When we actively search for the positives of that individual, it can help put the negatives into perspective and help us to collaboratively problem solve with them. Separating the person from the act.

3. Listen to hear and not to respond

We are all guilty of formulating a response in our own head before someone has even finished talking, we are already thinking up our own retort. Truly effective listening could change your communication and help resolve conflict, when you are talking with the individual, shush! Quiet your own mind, listen to what they are saying, and this allows you to hear and see things from their perspective, walk in their shoes. This can help us become more open-minded and steer us away from a locked-in perspective in "being right or wrong".

Through the STARS project, CRJI are offering restorative family's workshops in the New Year, these cover a range of topics including:

- Restorative thinking
- Creating and building positive relationships
- Preventing and managing conflict
- Reducing stress
- Communication

If you are interested in finding out more please contact the STARS coordinator, Andrea McLoughlin for upcoming Restorative Family Workshops and Restorative Parenting Training, you can do so via email at amcl@crjireland.org

Andrea McLoughlin

amcl@crjireland.org

Dec 19, 2020

Derry Region

2020 was a strange and a particularly challenging year for everyone. Our staff faced the challenges of COVID-19 and as an office we had to adapt massively and make many positive changes to ensure that we could carry out our work no matter what the circumstances.

During 2020 we had to adapt the way we delivered our service. We did this by using zoom, wearing PPE equipment, social distancing and installing protective screens and sanitizing stations in our office to allow some face-to-face work to continue.

Martin Connolly (CRJ) and members of Ballyarnett Community Support project.



Martin Connolly (CRJ) and members of Ballyarnett COVID-19 Community Support team presenting St Brigid's College with laptops for home schooling.



Outer North Co-Ordinator was vital to the COVID-19 response in the Outer North Area, whilst still engaging in mediation and continuing his day-to-day work. He and members of Ballyarnett Community Support project (which was set up to tackle anti-community activities, provide support to families and young people), have worked and still are working alongside their community in the Outer North area, helping in any way that they can with the COVID-19 pandemic. The photos show the team presenting St Brigid's College with laptops for home schooling, these laptops helped students who otherwise may not have had access to a laptop to engage in home schooling.

CRJ's Outer West Co-Ordinator took on the role of COVID-19 Community Response working with Co-Ordinator's in Foyle side Area and local councilors. He was involved in many covid response initiatives.

The Meals on Wheels initiative was coordinated by our Outer West office, in partnership with Ballymagroarty and Hazelbank Community Partnership. Local Chef Simon Tracey prepared and cooked 40 meals per day over the first 3 months of lockdown. The team raised the funds for this service via a Go Fund me page on social media. Meals were delivered by volunteers 7 days a week to vulnerable residents who had been advised to shield by their GP.



Due to a lot of our work moving online the Derry team were also able to work more closely with our colleagues from the Belfast and Lurgan offices which they enjoyed very much.



Sean Collins (CRJ) speaking on social media and thanking volunteers for all their help in relation to food parcels.



Sean Collins (CRJ) and The Triax Team preparing and delivering food packages.

Triax office stepped up by going above and beyond job roles in the food parcel delivery. The team sourced prepared and packed the food parcels and they, then, delivered the parcels to the vulnerable people. Many volunteers to engage with the delivery of the food parcels.



CRJ Staff, along with Volunteers and Committee members engaging in a Training/Planning day at Redcastle Hotel September 2020.

CRJ Derry held a planning day where we talked about topics such as new and creative ways to deliver new initiatives. We also spoke about topics such as volunteers and the need to increase our volunteer numbers. A big topic on the agenda was COVID-19 and we spoke about how we could return to work safely and that we need to carry out a risk assessment on how to deliver mediations and other work under the COVID-19 Guidelines.

CRJI Traveller's Project response to Covid 19



CRJI Traveller's Project has put in place several interventions to meet the needs of our clients in response to Covid 19. In particular, vulnerable adults, elderly people, disabled people, ethnic minority groups, drug users etc. CRJI has worked closely with several community organisations and statutory agencies to meet needs. Food parcels and financial assistance was given to our client's that have lost their jobs or were isolating in the community. As well as sourcing resources, – fresh food was donated for 30 vulnerable adults and food parcels delivered to the community in the Lenadoon Area. CRJI have also been working closely with West Belfast food bank by giving additional hours to sourcing donations of food and carrying out home deliveries to families.

CRJI Traveller's Project and the Maureen Sheehan Centre distributed door to door leaflets while engaging with the Traveller Community, highlighting the importance of filling in the Censuses form which can also promote their self-identity.

Whilst working under COVID 19 restrictions has been challenging, it has been a busy year and the CRJI Traveller Project is going from strength to strength, with more families and agencies reaching out to the project.



CRJI Greater Falls Covid 19 Response

Like much of the world, the Falls Office was heavily impacted by COVID-19 this past year. The pandemic required our practitioners to adapt and figure out new ways to deliver services to our community members. The circumstances led to an increase in cases this year, as there was greater need within the community. The Falls Office handled 162 new cases, and successfully resolved 142 cases, involving 738 people. We also saw a shift in the types of cases coming to our office, with a large increase in advice and support cases (48 cases). We also saw a rise in under threat cases (21 cases). The Falls Office therefore modified the ways in which it delivered services in addition to the content of its services.

The partnership approach was especially important in 2020 in order for us to holistically address clients' issues. CRJI Falls Office partnered more closely with the West Belfast Food Bank this year, assisting 12 separate families with food parcels in the month of December alone. We also strengthened ties with the Family Support

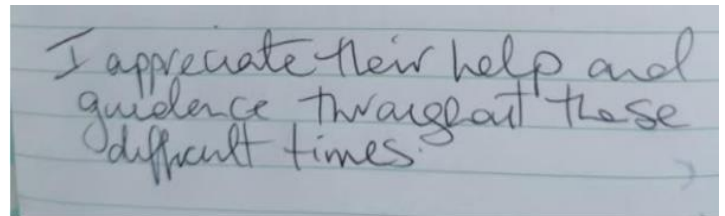
Hub, Lenadoon Counselling, the Traveller's Project, and the Migrant Centre NI. By linking clients to these available resources, we were able to fully support our local community members.



We also received funding from the NIHE to conduct a COVID-19 Response Project, in which we delivered 'Protection Packs' to 40 different families all over our area, assisting 103 individuals. Packs included items such as disinfectants, soap, sponges, household cleaning supplies, and kitchen roll. We also received new business cards and pamphlets, which we distributed along with our packs.

Coordinator Tommy Farrell puts some of the packs together.

In addition to this type of response work, we also continued to provide residents with conflict resolution services. The lockdowns seemed to provoke an increased number of disputes between neighbours, ranging from noise complaints to hate crimes to physical altercations. Certain cases necessitated work with the PSNI, and the Falls Office referred 25 cases out to the PSNI over the course of the year, while the PSNI referred 5 cases to CRJI. The Falls Office ultimately handled 74 cases which included PSNI involvement. Although COVID-19 made such work more complicated, our practitioners were still able to oversee 15 direct and indirect mediations.



28/10/20

Since working with CRJ just before COVID began, I contacted the Falls staff office to get help with bullying of my youngest son.

Tommy called me back to discuss a lot that was happening. He listened to me during an emotional call and I felt listened to by him and Annmarie.

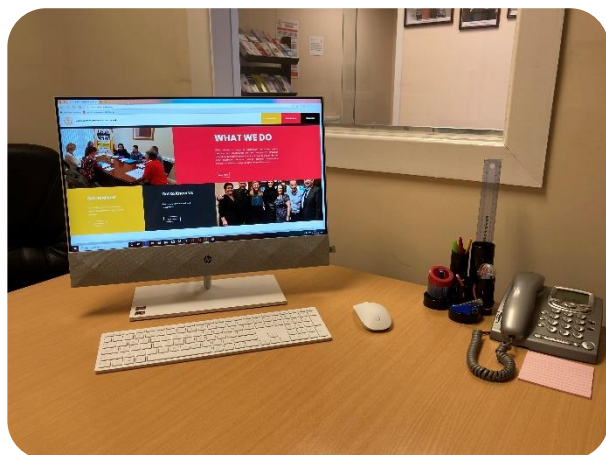
A mediation was put in place with all the relevant families, but unfortunately could not take place due to COVID.

They then put a support package in place with Jackie at the Family Support Hub, liaised by Annmarie, who has helped me with the issues at school, youth mentoring and general support such as food parcels and electricity and a laptop to help children access school work.

I appreciate their help and guidance throughout these difficult times.

Testimonial from a client

We had to modify the ways in which we were able to deliver services to ensure the safety of both our practitioners and clients. We moved primarily to remote working, receiving separate funding from the Clothworkers' Foundation and the NIHE to purchase new computers and laptops so that staff could work effectively from home. Funding also covered updated signage and a popup banner. The Falls Office would like to profusely thank both organisations for their support— we are very grateful to be able to continue serving our community safely!



A new computer and popup banner

LINCS Covid 19 Response

LINCS Project, a Belfast City wide project which CRJI deliver in West Belfast in partnership with Northern Ireland Alternatives, who deliver in North South and East Belfast. LINCS is a grassroots project delivering meaningful and purposeful intercultural and good relations engagement, the project aims to foster inclusion between Catholic, Protestant, Ethnic Minorities and Newcomer communities. 2020 was year 2 and we continued to promote the project in West Belfast using positive partnerships and relationships that we worked hard to establish in year 1. Those relationships were fundamental in delivering the project in 2020 once Covid-19 was declared a pandemic and we went into numerous lockdowns. Our participants went from face to face weekly engagement to nothing and so we had to think creatively about how we kept this project delivering to the participants. We moved to online engagement via zoom that was successful as well as supporting our participants on an individual basis with issues arising from covid-19 including food parcels, onward referrals for support and halal food support for our EM participants. We focused on creating a work plan for each area North, South East and West Belfast and looked at events we could collaborate on bringing our groups together for sessions either face to face when restrictions were eased or via zoom. Whilst delivering to our groups we have had to ensure all targets for the project were being met and this was important given the difficulties in keeping engagement sessions focused.



LINCS project will always aim to meet the needs of participants on an individual level but also as a group, we continued to focus and embed key things into delivery including confidence building, good neighbor, prejudice and discrimination, diversity and tolerance, cross community and cross cultural, raising awareness and knowledge for our participants and at times being led by them around what was going on specific to their own area especially around welcoming new Ethnic Minority Neighbours and opening lines of communication for them.

As we moved in and out of lockdowns we also managed to facilitate some face to face engagement sessions and completed workshops such as 'For Our Freedom & Yours' the story of the polish airmen, Holocaust memorial and awareness, Pearls of wisdom, Stories of our past, BME language and discriminatory behaviour, exploring intercultural celebrations and Christmas around the world how other cultures celebrate. We managed to complete 43 workshops during 2020 this is a success for the project given the difficulties of covid.

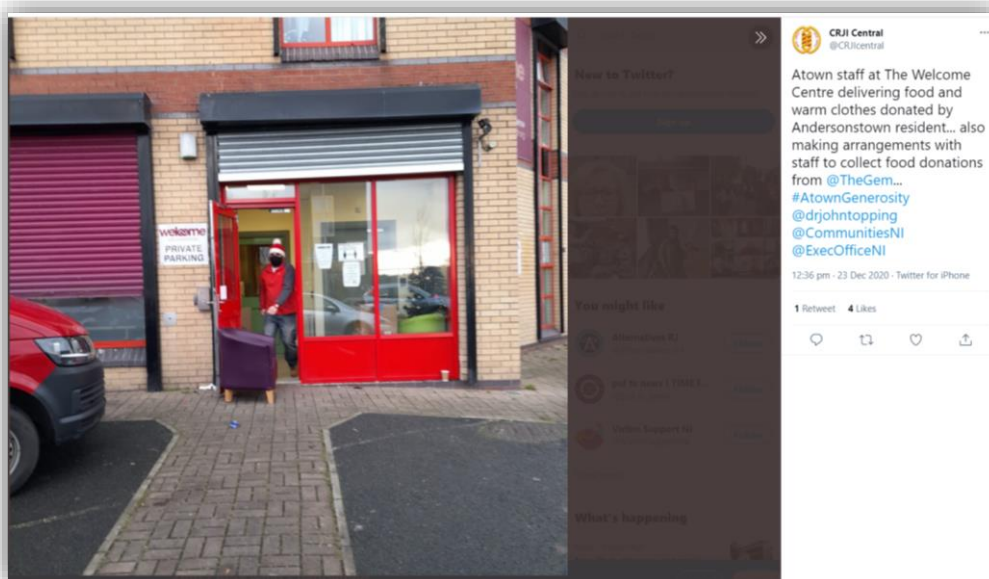
MACS/SHARP Housing Providers Covid 19 Response

It was necessary to make changes to continue to offer high standards of professional support to MACS/SHARP clients. Referrals from clients, communities and statutory agencies continued to come in via emails, telephone and the CRJI website. Telephone discussions and Zoom conversations replaced face to face meetings to communicate safely with our partnerships with outside agencies over this period.

During 2020 our cases continued to rise, as we noticed the lockdown contributed to an increase of people dealing with mental health and severe anxiety in addition to the primary issues that had been reported. Those clients who engaged with CRJI benefited greatly through the MACS/SHARP projects as some of our community members and neighbours were experiencing difficulties dealing with high levels of anxieties, mental health and self-isolation.

Lockdown impacted on many within our communities as alcohol and drug misuse became a growing problem, which in turn led to a rise in family domestic issues and disputes for some of our clients. It was clear that this contributed to breakdowns of relationships within the family units and wider community.

The MACS/SHARP project saw a rise in cases referred in from NPT (neighborhood police teams) responding to callouts to families or individuals in our communities. In these cases, mediations and community support had been agreed as a way forward to engage in a restorative approach when offered to those clients; the outcomes had proven a success for those involved.



Homeless clients were supported and helped deal with the effects of Covid. Supporting the most vulnerable was particularly challenging and getting those priority families and individuals emergency accommodation or re-housed was difficult. Emergency accommodation offers were also an issue for some clients due to the lack of properties or hostel vacancies. Unfortunately for some, waiting on hostel accommodations was the only option.

CRJI North Belfast Covid Support

2020 brought with it challenges that required our office to adapt and stretch as never before to meet the needs of a community stricken by pandemic.



While the city locked down and many organisations were forced to withdraw services from the community; our team stepped up. Indeed, over the course of 2020 the North Belfast Office opened 161 new cases involving several hundred local people - a significant increase on previous years. Our office was open throughout the pandemic as we worked to support our long-term vulnerable clients who we check in with every day. Referrals were made and accepted online and we may have been forced to limited our direct face-to-face client interaction; but we maintained our service and ensured those who requested our assistance got it.

As fear pervaded the community and a sense of hopelessness spread, we were out delivering hundreds of our 'Home Safety Packs' to the doors of those most frightened. We were able to offer individual households and whole apartment blocks additional security measures and crime prevention advice at a time when it was needed most by residents. When the numbers requesting these got too big we created and deployed our fantastic Street Reps to handle local distribution and identify the most vulnerable residents in need of our help.

To counter the loneliness and isolation experienced by some our clients who were forced to shield we started delivering books from our library to those eager for something to keep them occupied indoors. When our vulnerable families were required to home school their children we stepped in with additional educational resources and materials to ensure the children were not disadvantaged.



Book Deliveries ready to go from our Library



Preparing Home-Schooling Resources

The lockdown confined many of us to our homes and streets for months and in an areas of high population density such as North Belfast an increase in community tensions was inevitable. Nevertheless, when conflicts did emerge between locked-down residents we provided our mediation services to resolve issues and de-escalate disputes. Over the last year we conducted mediations at the request of housing providers, police, residents and the Stormont Assembly. These mediations were between neighbours, between victims of crime and police and between former colleagues from the same organisation.



Two of the local elected representatives helping us help the community



North Belfast Coordinator chairing the Inter-Agency Meetings

In 2020 when we had residents and elected representatives who helped CRJI deliver our Home Safety packs to the most vulnerable. There was an identified need for Home safety packs across the interface we delivered boxes of them for our PUL neighbours.

Delivering Alarm packs across the interface



Gallery



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Apr 22

...

Ciaran Ferguson Greater Shantallow Area Partnership Martin Connolly **CRJI Ballyarnett** Community Support Team Chair and Sean Mc Monagle
[@drjohntopping](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@Justice_NI](#)
[@dcsdcouncil](#) [@SeanMcMonagle1](#) [@kieranmcevoy2](#) [@cooperationirl](#)
[@nihecommunity](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 11



The Aspire Project is accepting new referrals for any young men aged 16-30 who may need additional support during the Covid-19 pandemic. Struggling with mental health? Feeling anxious? Can't access benefits? contact Caoimhe McKenna at cmck@crjireland.org or 07842493937



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 5

Delivering food basics in Andersonstown as part of wider community & activist response to the Covid -19 crisis [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@Justice_NI](#) [@belfastcc](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@BelfastTrust](#) [@PBNINews](#) [@pkerr92295784](#) [@LeontiaMc](#) [@PaulMaskeyMP](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 6

Mayor of Derry and Strabane Michala Boyle visiting the Foyleside Community Response Team y/day morning as they prepared delivery of Department For Community food parcels. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 13

CRJI/ Polish Family Community sign launch in support of [#NHS](#) Workers addressed by [@MickeyBradySF](#) Mickey paid tribute to Newry PFC activists incl CRJI practitioners working in the frontline against [#Covid19](#)
[@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@MeabhMorgan](#)



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11



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 5

Lurgan staff out this morning with NLCA delivering food supplies supplied by [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@healthdpt](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#)
[@DeirdreHargey](#) [@hawkyin](#) [@abcb_council](#)





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 6

CRJ practitioners finalising roll-out of food parcels, via grant aid awarded by @CFNIreland Coronavirus Comm Fund, for distribution throughout South Armagh area @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI @MeabhMorgan @cooperationirl



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16



20



CRJI Central Retweeted



Marrowbone Community Hub @HubMarrowbone · May 7

Just a snapshot of the activity so far this week 🙌🙌 @ourladysgirlsp @UrbanVillagesNI @CFNIreland @nihecommunity @CaralNiChuilin @Crum_ArdoynenRP @ayebelfast @ardoynegac @NBAPAdvice @DeirdreHargey @BakerShauneen @CRJlcentral @Alternatives_RJ @tascitnb 🙌🙌



Marrowbone Community Hub and Volunteer Project Teach Eilis

Posted by Breandán Ó Cláirigh
Just now · 🌐

Big thanks to everyone supporting Teach Eilis and the COVID19 Response 🙌 A huge thank you to our volunteers from MCA and our youth club. More provisions left to our friends at the Community Food bank and more hot meals donated from Teach Eilis. Over 50 hot meals delivered on Tuesday in Marrowbone as well and residents supported with food parcels and assistance with heat and electricity



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 11

Local MP [@MickeyBradySF](#) on hand assisting CRJI Newry/Armagh with supplying vulnerable & isolated communities throughout South Armagh with basic essentials [@drjohntopping](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@MeabhMorgan](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 11

First lift of 120 parcels delivered to Mullaghbawn this morning for distribution throughout South Armagh, community effort [@drjohntopping](#) [@MeabhMorgan](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@MickeyBradySF](#) [@Justice_NI](#)





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 21

CRJI S&E delighted to help @Short_Strand Community Covid 19 initiative, distributing essential food parcels all around the district. Amazing community spirit @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI @cooperationirl @Justice_NI @DeirdreHargey @michaeloh67 @AnPhoblachtAbu



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15



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 22

Gabby from CRJI Lurgan working in the community delivering food basics to those most vulnerable @drjohntopping @abcb_council @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @Justice_NI @JohnODowdSF @hawkyin @nihecommunity @michaeloh67 @nihecommunity



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 27

Lurgan staff out delivering food basics this morning, will be in Drumbeg pm, all hands to the wheel @drjohntopping @abcb_council @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @hawkyin @nihecommunity



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CRJI Central

8,470 Tweets

Follow

@MeabhMorgan @megan_fearon @CommunitiesNI @CFNIreland
@ExecOfficeNI @healthdpt

WhatsApp 18:50
facebook.com



Casey's EUROSPAR Crossmaglen

Yesterday at 15:28 · 🌐

😊 We were delighted to be asked by the Community Restorative Justice Ireland Newry/Armagh to help get 120 food parcels ready for them for delivery on Monday 😊

It's excellent to know that organisations around the country are working tirelessly to make sure that all the



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 3

Positive meeting with Travellers Healthy Lives Task Group ,future planning around Travellers and emerging issues around covid 19 today by video link PHA and other Traveller support groups around the country.

@drjohntopping @belfastcc @BelfastTrust



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Sep 29

CRJI Traveller project currently addressing issues with ongoing issues. Community groups @nihecommunity & @belfastcc , key to resolution while supporting each other to resolve these issues . @drjohntopping @BelfastTrust @CommunitiesNI @michaeloh67



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 1

Social distance meeting @PSNIABC focused on Community Safety Forum, relationships & delivery. Future meetings planned @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @Justice_NI @hawkyin @michaeloh67 @nihecommunity @abcb_council @PBNINews



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 3

#STARSRP big welcome to @cooperationirl at social distance site meeting in our Colin Glen office. Progress to date discussed and the the evidence of it shown @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI @nihecommunity @PBNINews



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 7

Great space



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 7

Our first Socially Distancing Shared space Growing workshop. Great to have our Chair @drjohntopping & Harry our CeX up to participate. Many thanks to @UrbanVillagesNI for their support @ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI @CNPartnership @michaeloh67



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 21

Completed meeting (social distanced) with the STARS project coordinator, lead & a few mentors to look at further work in each of the areas [#STARSRP](#) [#restorativeworks](#) @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @drjohntopping @CommunitiesNI





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Aug 5

Lurgan CIT meeting regarding evaluation of our community safety project, socially distanced of course @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @abcb_council



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Sep 29

Deputy Director with Time out assessment centre delivering RJ training while maintaining Covid 19 guidelines. Safety is paramount. @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI @nihecommunity @michaeloh67 @pkerr92295784





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 6

Hub Covid Support Meeting at Andersonstown Branch @drjohntopping
@ExecOfficeNI @BelfastTrust @michaeloh67



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 27

A big thank you to the NIHE for funding three new laptops for the Falls Office so practitioners are able to continue work from home! We are grateful for our statutory partners! @nihecommunity @drjohntopping
@ExecOfficeNI @CommunitiesNI





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 11

Atown Coordinator in Unwanted Bonfire Zoom meeting, well attended good communication b/ween community, voluntary, political,statutory partners
[@nihecommunity](#) [@USDT2](#) [@WoodlandTrust](#) [@falls_council](#) [@belfastcc](#)
[@Justice_NI](#) [@CNPartnership](#) [@PSNIBelfastW](#) [@NIFRSOFFICIAL](#)
[@Y_J_Agency](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 28

Full Agenda at Our South & East Belfast meeting with PSNI & [@belfastcc](#)
Community Safety. Unwanted Bonfire, recent ASB issues & addressing Belfast
addiction support all addressed. Good progress all round. [@drjohntopping](#)
[@PSNIBelfastE](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@modshortstrand](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 30

CRJ Colin chairing the Colin Community Safety Group. Very productive
meeting with Community and Statutory Agencies working in partnership to
tackle issues of bonfires and ASB. Social distancing a priority.
[@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@CNPartnership](#)





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Aug 21

Planning meeting with Key Lurgan staff, launch of Community Safety Engagement Forum and site visit top agenda with a keen eye on Covid-19 restrictions @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @PSNIABC @ABCpcsp @nihecommunity



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 7

CRJI practitioner helping support a family who's loved one has passed through the illness Covid-19 across the water. Advice and support on bringing him home. @drjohntopping @CommunitiesNI @Justice_NI @pkerr92295784 @ExecOfficeNI



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 11

Crowdfunding to help raise funds for food parcels and energy card top-ups in the Upper Springfield area. on JustGiving @drjohntopping @LeontiaMc @pkerr92295784 @michaeloh67 @yeronlyman @JimD_67



Donate to help raise funds for food parcels and ener...
We're raising money to help raise funds for food parcels and energy card top-ups in the Upper ...
justgiving.com



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 15

2/2. at their front doors to ensure we will provide whatever services we can to help them through these difficult times @BelfastTrust @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 15

1/2. 2 hub families receiving support of emergency food parcels delivered to their homes during this time of crisis by our family support worker in west Belfast. Social distancing guidelines followed as we engaged at @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @BelfastTrust



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 15

Just had a North Belfast client off the phone. She's delighted after @HubMarrowbone called with food parcel & much more for her & her daughter. Fantastic work! The Hub is invaluable to the Bone community. @belfastcc @drjohntopping @CommunitiesNI @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 17

CRJI LINC'S project delivering items across belfast to BME families in need @Alternatives_RJ @belfastcc @SEUPB @drjohntopping @Justice_NI @CommunitiesNI @ExecOfficeNI @BelfastTrust



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 19

Just finished delivering food basics to elderly and vulnerable community members, people struggling through , the isolation is difficult for them @drjohntopping @Justice_NI @CommunitiesNI @belfastcc @BelfastTrust @michaeloh67 @mickgeo3



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 2

Just finished delivery of basic food stuffs in Andersonstown, people genuinely thankful for the effort that's being made @CommunitiesNI @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @drjohntopping great to our BOD member involved @michaeloh67 @PaulMaskeyMP @Justice_NI @naomi_long



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 19

Relaxation Packs supplied to Hub Families for weekend to help relieve stress-anxiety during these difficult times. We have also provided some art therapy books, colouring materials to help families with stress relief @drjohntopping @BelfastTrust





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Sep 25

Referral into the OWB Family Support Hub from a family struggling after job loss due to Covid. Referred to CRJI Family Support who helped the family with much needed practical support during these difficult times.

[@drjohntopping](#) [@LinseyFarrell](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 10

Falls Office staff are preparing COVID-19 emergency packs for community members through funding from the NIHE. Packs contain cleaning items and disinfectants. Thank you [@nihecommunity](#) [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#)



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We have been securing donations from the larger super markets for materials to make face masks/hand sanitizer our staff are making masks at home and we have organized people from local sewing groups to make masks - we are sourcing the materials & have received donations for materials and elastic, we are delivering these to those making masks - then collecting the masks and distributing these to front line staff, care homes, assisted living centres etc.



Family Meal Blog

Create a Nutritional Meal for the Family..... Weekend Challenge!!!

What an exciting weekend challenge for Hub Families, to create a cooked meal with ingredients for under a fiver with the incentive to win a Stay at Home Pamper Package!!!!

Ingredients included:

- Fusilli Pasta
- Jar of tomatoes
- block of cheese
- 2 carrots
- 2 onions
- mushrooms
- with a little bit of teamwork thrown in

This challenge is to encourage the need for family time, teamwork and nutrition. This exercise will bring the family together in an enjoyable way and will assist in repairing family relationships, respect for each other, how to work together as a family unit and as an individual, within the family unit.

The incentive is to help the family learn communication skills, understanding individual importance within a family unit and practical skills. Under the pretext of cooking, planning family meals, following a recipe, using kitchen utensils, mixing various ingredients and using a hob, oven or microwave brings the family together to work together, not only improving harmony within the family but teaching those involved valuable life skills. Supervision is key due to the number of hazards within the kitchen but take a 'hands off' approach where possible and use guidance to allow for the growth of learning, confidence and pride.

Cooking can be a pleasure for children of all ages. Start them young and with any luck they'll develop a lifelong love of the kitchen as well as skills they can use throughout adulthood.

Setting and sitting around the table will encourage them to cherish the ritual of family meals and allow children to open up and enjoy quality time together.





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 10

CRJI Falls office just received 2 tablets from Greater falls Family Support Hub for our client to help with home schooling during difficult times.

@drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @BelfastTrust @CommunitiesNI



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 10

North Belfast Coordinator putting together a Numeracy pack to support home-learning in a local family we provide long-term support to.

@drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @yeronlyman @michaeloh67 @CommunitiesNI



Support for School children



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 25
[#BallyarnetCommunityResponseTeam](#)

Martin Connolly (CRJ)
Cathal McCauley (Shantallow Residents) and
Tommy McCallion (On Streets)
Pictured with Karen Mullan MLA and Paul Cassidy UofU presenting Laptops
to Gerry McMonagle of St Brigid's College. [@drjohntopping](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 27

Chair of the Outer West Belfast Family Support Hub linking in with
BHSCT/EIST, BCC re obtaining/delivering technology for families during this
current lockdown period. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@BelfastTrust](#)
[@cooperationirl](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@USDT2](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · May 28

2 families provided with an Amazon Fire Tablet donated and delivered to
their homes by the Outer West Belfast Family Support Hub. Funded by the
Belfast Harbour Board [@drjohntopping](#) [@BelfastTrust](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) school
work and connectedness resolved





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 9

Thanks to Greater Falls FSH & Business's in the community for donating safety packs for children +young people returning to school.

@drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI
@Justice_NI @nihecommunity



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Aug 5

Lurgan CIT meeting regarding evaluation of our community safety project, socially distanced of course @drjohntopping @ExecOfficeNI @cooperationirl @CommunitiesNI @abcb_council





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Sep 2



Falls practitioners out late yesterday evening delivering food and COVID-19 cleaning packages to local residents. Several referrals made to the Family Support Hub this morning. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@PaulMaskeyMP](#) [@michaeloh67](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Sep 29



Deputy Director with Time out assessment centre delivering RJ training while maintaining Covid 19 guidelines. Safety is paramount. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@michaeloh67](#) [@pkerr92295784](#)





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 12

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MACS working on Colin cases involving housing and community support all agencies contacted work continues [#supporting](#) those most vulnerable during this pandemic is crucial. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#)



CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 14

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CRJI meeting with local businessman Larry from The Gem to set up a voucher scheme for COVID19 support for families in need [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@belfastcc](#) [@BelfastTrust](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@michaeloh67](#)





CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 21

...

Our South & East team, out with our Partners [@Short_Strand](#) delivering Safe & we'll packs to over 700 homes in the area. Stay safe, Stay well.

[@drjohntopping](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@Justice_NI](#)
[@nihecommunity](#) [@belfastcc](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Oct 12

Great BOD meeting, covered working conditions through Covid-19 and project outputs. Fantastic spread of work @drjohntopping @CommunitiesNI @Justice_NI @nihecommunity @PBNINews @michaeloh67 @Legend_dray @pkerr92295784



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 1

Busy day for MACS worker following up on some new cases into CRJI offices work ongoing also closing off on cases where support had been given to those clients during the last few weeks. @drjohntopping @nihecommunity @CommunitiesNI @Justice_NI @michaeloh67



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 1

External evaluator held interview over phone with MACS worker member of the NPF (neighbourhood participatory forum) re CRJI LINC project has delivered & benefited the Black Minority Ethnic families & individuals in communities before & during the COVID 19 response.



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jul 2

Very busy week in Colin CRJ dealing with many issues- neighbourhood disputes, threats and ASB. Half way through the year and 220 cases already, amazing work is being carried out in the office despite the current Covid-19 crisis. [@drjohntopping](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@Justice_NI](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 1

Good Strategic Cohesion Forum meeting this morning with a huge focus on responding to health crisis both now & in the future. Covid at the heart of spin off issues [@drjohntopping](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@Justice_NI](#) [@belfastcc](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@Alternatives_RJ](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 11

CRJI rising to Covid-19 challenges. Online mediation ongoing today in North Belfast. Coordinator & parties engaging electronically to resolve final outstanding issues. [@drjohntopping](#) [@ExecOfficeNI](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@cooperationirl](#) [@Justice_NI](#) [@nihecommunity](#) [@michaeloh67](#)



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CRJI Central @CRJlcentral · Jun 22

[#colinglen](#) staff held an online meeting to discuss return to work plans, and feedback progress on their projects. [@drjohntopping](#) [@kieranmcevoy2](#) [@CommunitiesNI](#) [@Justice_NI](#)



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CRJ Newry / Armagh

The core work of the main office (early intervention mediation etc,) continued throughout the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Our offices saw an increase, in casework referrals, which we continued to carry out as normal to the standard expected of our DOJ accreditation. This work is carried out in accordance with public health guidelines and maintains for us our standing within the communities of Newry, South Armagh and parts of South Down / Louth.

Educational Support During Covid-19

CRJ Newry / Armagh were awarded funding from Awards for All to purchase iPads to support school children in rural communities across South Armagh



Policing Within The Community Meetings (PWTC)

SSC Facilitated and chaired the Policing Within the Community Meetings (PWTC), these did take a break during 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, the project was able to quickly adapt to arranging meetings via Zoom. This aspect of CRJ Newry Armagh' community safety and early intervention work has evolved into our central engagement with citizens of Newry across all levels.

2020 was a difficult year for us all the Covid-19 pandemic took its toll on all aspects of our work in the community. Through the dedication of our staff and volunteers we were able to come together locally in our own communities to provide support and help whilst maintaining contact we adhered to the public health guidelines at all times, Part of our outreach across Newry and South Armagh included food parcels, community signs supporting and thanking our NHS.





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The Digging Deeper project has

‘Digging Deeper’ organise

Thank You



All of the above is testament to those in our community who needed to help – to those who made masks, made sanitiser, donated food, toys and helped distribute all these resources we applaud you. Compassion, empathy, the need to take part was a strong indication why people pulled together in this time of need to help others.

Of course, CRJI would not have been able to provide/administer/distribute Covid Support without Funding and Donations from the Department For Communities, TEO, ASDA, Doherty's Chemist, The Gem, Barnardo's, BHSCT, Food Banks, NIHE and local residents etc. Funding from DOJ, DFC, BHSCT, TEO, NIACRO, NIHE, BCC, PSNI, PBNI, DFC which kept all our staff in work during this period. This enabled us to work in partnership to support all those in need due to Covid 19.

A Special thanks goes to all those who volunteered, not only for CRJI, those all over Belfast who responded to the call for help. Giving their time, working all hours, putting others before themselves. In a time where we were all susceptible to Covid – it's a noble step to put yourself on the front line to help others.

Kate Pickering
Admin/Finance/SMT