

## Childcare For All Campaign Launched



Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May saw the launch of the Childcare For All campaign at Stormont sponsored by Clare Bailey MLA. WRDA Women's Sector Lobbyist Kellie Turtle has worked hard in collaboration with a number of like-minded organisations to develop this campaign and the Childcare Charter – a shared vision for universal childcare in Northern Ireland. There has been very little progress made on access to affordable childcare in Northern

Ireland despite a commitment in the programme for government for 2011-15. We are now the only part of the UK with no statutory duty to address childcare provision and are falling further behind because of this. The Childcare For All campaign brings together a range of groups representing diverse interests all asking for the same thing; high-quality childcare that is affordable and accessible to all parents, within a system that values the work of childcare providers and enables them to do this work sustainably.



The Childcare Charter has been developed by 14 organisations including many from the women's sector such as Women's Support Network, the Women's Forum, Reclaim the Agenda, Women's Tec and the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network. Employers for Childcare and a number of trade unions are also on board, highlighting the wider economic benefits of better childcare provision, as well as in ensuring good pay and working conditions for childcare workers. Children's charities Barnardo's NI, Early Years and Save the Children make up the remainder of the group and they are

focused on reducing child poverty and the educational achievement gap. The current situation around childcare in NI has a wide-ranging negative impact that affects the interests of all these organisations and has encouraged them to come together to combat this and to develop a vision for the future of childcare in NI.

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### Contact Details:

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 @WRDA\_team  
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## Breast, Cervical and Bowel screening awareness course for WRDA members

Do you know how to properly check your breasts and what to look for?

Ever wondered what happens at a cervical smear test and what the results mean?

Want to find out about the quick and easy test kit for bowel cancer?

You will learn all this and much more at our breast, cervical and bowel screening awareness course. The course consists of 3 sessions of between 1-2 hours each and will be delivered by one of WRDA's qualified Community Facilitators.

### Where?



WRDA Office  
6 Mount Charles  
Belfast  
BT7 1NZ



We're a five minute walk from Botanic Train station and a 15 minute walk from Europa Buscentre



### When?

**Wednesday 17th May 7pm: Breast awareness**

**Wednesday 24th May 7pm: Cervical awareness**

**Wednesday 31st May 7pm: Bowel awareness**

The course is totally free but places are limited to 20. To book your place email Megan via [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)

### Good Luck Liz!



We would like to take this opportunity to wish Liz Curran all the best for the future. Liz Curran who worked for the past 24 years with WRDA has left in April. Over the course of her time with WRDA Liz developed the innovative Community Facilitator's Programme which is still going today and took it from strength to strength. Liz trained and changed the lives of hundreds of women through the

Community Facilitator's Programme. She was committed to empowering women to take charge of their lives through positive perspective and meaningful change. She was a founder member of Community Direct, WRDA's social economy project and helped develop it into a successful project.



### Good Relations Needs You!

Contemporary good relations work is in a state of flux, due to broader politics, locally, nationally and globally that is seeing an increase in intolerance and othering. Northern Ireland's funding and community development environment is changing rapidly when it comes to peace building and good relations education work. WRDA has a long history of working in the field of good relations and has been involved in many leading initiatives over the years. We have launched a survey to try and gather as broad a picture of women's views about peace, division, violence, gender and equality as possible. We want this survey to circulated widely as the results will be used to shape the future of good relations work and initiatives for WRDA.

To complete the survey, please follow this link!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S6L8PBG>

## Childcare For All Campaign Launched (Cont.)

The campaign launch was well attended and provided a very productive opportunity to put the issue on the political agenda. All of the MLAs who spoke at the event were united in their support for the campaign and its aims. There was even a suggestion from Chris Lyttle of the Alliance Party to set up an All Party Group on childcare and early years with a view to possibly drafting a childcare bill. All of the MLAs agreed to get on board with this. To have this concrete outcome from the very first day of the campaign was very exciting and gives an excellent basis to build on. Some audience members, such as Peter McCartney from Playboard, pointed out the frustration with the fact that there is no way of releasing the finances necessary to fulfil this vision of universal childcare while Stormont remains in limbo. While this was acknowledged by the panel it was clear that there are opportunities to put current resources to better use and the campaign organisers will work at 'all levels of government' including Westminster to get past the current stalemate.

Anne McVicker, director of WRDA, gave the closing address and outlined the ways that everyone can get involved in making this campaign a success. As the first ever large scale public campaign on childcare there will be lots of effort to raise public awareness through the media and through lobbying local councils. Parents are also being invited to make their own childcare video diaries for social media so that families can tell their story of how childcare, or lack of it, affects their lives.

Anyone who wants to keep up to date with the campaign or get involved can email [childcareforallni@gmail.com](mailto:childcareforallni@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook and Twitter @childcare4allni

## Ahoy Rathlin: WRDA Pushes the Boat Out



Dates were set for Wednesdays during January and February; and dates were cancelled due to our wild, windy winter. I rang Rathlin Ferry Company many mornings to find that the boat wasn't sailing that day. So it was with much relief and relish that I made the 5.30pm ferry on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, having been assured that the boat would make the return journey next morning.

Unfortunately the light was poor, almost dark, so on that first trip I didn't get to see much. However, I was warmly welcomed and looked after by Margaret, the owner of Coolnagrock B & B, where I stayed

that first night and had my breakfast next morning looking out on two sea views, one on each side of the building. The ideal way to start any day!

I delivered the Breast and Cervical sessions to Rathlin Development Community Association in the Richard Branson Centre between 7pm and 10pm and although I was tired I felt it very worthwhile as I really enjoyed this Rathlin group. I found them very informed on health matters and they seem to accept responsibility for their own health which may be because of the isolation of island life but I wish more people would.

During the cervical session a young women explained the trouble she had getting to have a smear test when she was called. She initially makes a GP appointment, which is usually three weeks ahead and her ability to attend this depends on circumstances such as availability of child care, her children being well and finally the weather conditions being suitable for the boat journeys. She had been trying to get a smear for about a year. We all agreed that a simple solution would be to for the island nurse to be trained in cervical screening so let's hope this happens.

The Bowel session was delivered on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and the boat journey was a pleasure. The sun was shining brightly and the sea more calm, so I got some reasonable photos to share with you all. I stayed in the Manor House which has been upgraded and is now run by the National Trust; and to my surprise the manager was a school friend I hadn't seen for thirty years so we had a great catch up chat.

I'm determined to return for another visit this year and would recommend the tranquillity and beauty of the island as real relaxation for anyone.





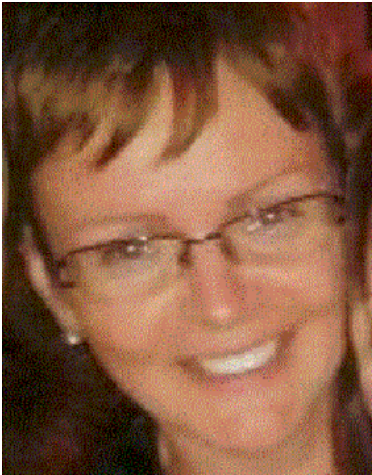
## Membership

We offer membership to both individuals and groups that are interested in fostering stronger links with us and the wider women's sector. Becoming a member of the WRDA is easy and more importantly free to join. We continually strive to work towards women's equality and to keep our members up to date and although membership is free, we do accept donations to continue the work we are involved in. To donate visit our Localgiving page on

[www.localgiving.org/charity/WRDA](http://www.localgiving.org/charity/WRDA).

If you are interested in becoming a member of WRDA please contact the Communications and Membership Worker, Megan McClure Botha via [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net).

## Welcome Deirdre!



WRDA welcomes Deirdre Quinn, our new Training and Development Coordinator. Deirdre started with WRDA this month and brings a wealth of experience to the role. With an academic background in Psychology and Human Resource Management, to complement over 20 years as a trainer in economic development and within the community sector, she has successfully used these skills to develop programmes and courses to encourage personal growth and build confidence. Deirdre will be a great addition to talented and passionate team at WRDA!

## We're Hiring!

WRDA is currently recruiting maternity cover for two posts.

### Good Relations Worker

35 hours per week

£25,951 per annum

### Training and Development Outreach Worker

35 hours per week

£25,951 per annum

Closing date for receipt of applications for both posts is no later than **1.00pm, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**.

Interviews are likely to be held week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

To apply for either post please visit <https://wrda.net/jobs/> and download the relevant pack.

Good luck!

## WRDA Out and About

Reach Out! A selection of where we have been promoting and delivering the BCB programme in March and April.

- ⇒ Firinne Enniskillen
- ⇒ Footprints Women's Centre
- ⇒ Saintfield Choice Housing Group
- ⇒ Magherafelt Women's group
- ⇒ Springvale Learning Belfast
- ⇒ Clanmil Housing
- ⇒ Women of Mourne An Riucht GAA
- ⇒ Belvior Women's Group
- ⇒ Irish Institute of Leadership Pomeroy
- ⇒ Inspire Armagh
- ⇒ Neurodiversity UK Comber
- ⇒ Inspire Dungannon
- ⇒ STEP Dungannon
- ⇒ Millview Resource Centre Bessbrook
- ⇒ Soroptimist Group Downpatrick
- ⇒ Jolly Mixtures Group @ Ballysally Community Centre Coleraine

If you are interested in the Breast, Cervical and Bowel screening awareness programme please contact our office on **028 9023 0212**.

