

### 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).

## WRDA Out and About



Paula had a lovely time at Ardmeen Green in Downpatrick where she delivered the Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness Programme in February.

### Welcome Back Emma

We are excited to welcome back our colleague Emma Ward from maternity leave. Emma and Paula will job share the role of Training and Development Outreach Worker.



Emma demonstrating self examination as part of a breast screening awareness delivery.

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

- ⇒ Sure Start South Belfast Windsor Women's Centre
- ⇒ Hope Nursery
- ⇒ Cathedral Nursery
- ⇒ Atlas Women's Centre
- ⇒ Women's Aid Ballymena
- ⇒ Cancer Lifeline Belfast
- ⇒ Ballymena Creative Crafters
- ⇒ Magherafelt Women's Group
- ⇒ Greenway Women's Group
- ⇒ East Belfast Community Development Agency
- ⇒ Enniskillen Christian Fellowship Church
- ⇒ Ballynafeigh and Orangefield Mens Shed
- ⇒ Glenclare Friendship Group
- ⇒ Ardmeen Green Group Downpatrick

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



## Grow Lead Change Course Delivered for Belfast City Council



In March WRDA delivered a four week training course on behalf of Belfast City Council's Women's Steering Group. This group of Councillors and senior officials working in Belfast City Council have a commitment to promoting women's leadership in the wider community so we were delighted to be involved in this exciting project.

We recruited 20 women from across the city to participate in a short course that explored a mixture of personal development, leadership and community campaigning skills. Those who attended were all keen to gain tools that would help them take a step forward, in their work lives, personal lives or in creating positive change within their community. The classes took place at Girdwood Hub and we were particularly pleased to be able to provide a crèche on site by working with Wee Chicks mobile crèche service. This enabled a number of women to participate who would not have had access to any support with childcare. We also spent an afternoon with a panel of local role models, women who have prominent roles in politics, public life, business, community leadership, trade union leadership, and campaigning. The personal stories they shared of overcoming barriers and also becoming part of the movement to remove barriers for others, made this session the highlight of the programme.

We were also pleased that around half of the group were from the Sudanese community. Working with an excellent translator, Elham Mustafa, we were able to create bilingual content for all of the classes and everyone gained a really deep and interesting insight into each other's cultures through brilliant discussions. We've been following up the training with 1-1 mentoring sessions and we're looking forward to having a celebration event hosted by the Lord Mayor in early May.



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WomensResource andDevelopment Agency

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## Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Update Event

WRDA were invited by the PHA to attend the Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Update Event that took place in Riddle Hall, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The aim of the event was to support GP practices to review their practices systems and engagement methods to reduce barriers that may prevent women from participating in the cervical screening programme.

In Northern Ireland the number of women attending for cervical screening has been falling. In 2017-2018 there were a total of 56,588 women in Northern Ireland who were invited to participate but never attended. Lowest attendance is in the 25-29 age group (*NI Cervical Cytology Toolkit* source: KC53 Part A2 & A3).



“Each year around 88 women in Northern Ireland are diagnosed with cervical cancer. Each year around 22 women in Northern Ireland die from cervical cancer. Early detection and treatment can prevent 7 out of 10 cases of this cancer” (*cancerscreening.hscni.net*).

The aim of the Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme is to prevent cervical cancer from developing. However, there are many reasons why women do not attend for cervical screening. Some of these include, disability, embarrassment, fear the test will hurt, previous negative/painful experience, history of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual abuse, and/or lack of knowledge of why the test is important (*NI Cervical Cytology Toolkit*).

Both Emma and Paula found attending the event to be very informative and beneficial for their role (Training and Development Outreach Work for groups with additional support needs). It was very clear that everyone there from the main speakers, the Primary Care Workers, GPs and the GP practices staff are committed to making every woman's cervical screening journey, from start to finish, a more positive, person centred experience. As Emma and Paula both acknowledge, for many women the positive, person centred, cervical screening journey started when they attended WRDA's Cervical Screening Awareness training.

**For more information or to book a training session please call 028 9023 0212**

**Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness Programme**

**My breasts**

Mes seins  
Moje piersi  
Naasahayga

Moje prsa  
Meus seios  
Mis pechos

Tailored for groups with additional needs:

- Physical Disability
- Learning Disability
- Sensory Disability
- Hidden Disability
- Addiction
- LGBT Community
- Non-readers
- Travelling Community
- Ethnic Minority (BME)
- Homeless
- Mental Ill Health

For more information or to book a training session please call 028 9023 0212

## Congratulations Community Facilitators Class of 2019!



On 6<sup>th</sup> March WRDA celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of Community Facilitators. Twenty-four women from the Newry and Derry~Londonderry areas graduated from the programme which had been redeveloped for the 2018-19 year and is now accredited by OCNNI. WRDA would like to wish the new Community Facilitators all the very best for the future.

**Congratulations Derry~Londonderry Group! ->**



**<- Congratulations Newry Group!**