



Orchardville

# Annual Impact Report 2020-2021

A society where  
**equal opportunities**  
are enjoyed by all.

## Empowerment

we have the skills and attitude  
to make change happen

## Quality

we're always learning, improving  
and striving for excellence

## User

at the heart of everything we do, we always  
put service users/participants first

## Integrity

we always do what's right  
even when it's difficult

## Passion

we truly believe in what we do,  
and it shows in our results

# Welcome

from Chair & Chief Executive

We are pleased to present our Annual Impact Report providing an overview of the impact that Orchardville has had in 2020/2021.

It has been a challenging year as we continued to manage the impact/effect of a global pandemic on our participants, staff, volunteers and social enterprises. We are indebted to our Board of Directors for their continued guidance through these challenges and to our staff for their innovation, creativity and commitment in supporting participants, particularly during

lockdowns and restrictions, and to our participants for their resilience and positivity which has been an inspiration to us all.

Despite the challenges, we were determined during 20/21 to develop our strategy and set out our ambitious objectives to support the delivery of our vision and mission for the next 3 years.



Chair



Chief Executive



**A society where equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.**



**Supporting people with learning disability or autism to live, learn and work.**

# Employability

## project Ignite2

Project Ignite is a **supported employment** and training programme that provided personal, social and employability skills to participants with a learning disability or autistic spectrum condition.

- ✓ **Accredited training**
- ✓ **Work experience opportunities**
- ✓ **Development of employability and soft skills**



### Supported Employment Solutions (SES) **Workable NI**

Orchardville is one of 7 disability organisations who together form SES, a consortium providing a range of long term support to help people with disabilities, who have a lot of barriers and employment, to find and keep work.



**43**  
Participants

During 2020/21 we supported **43 people through Workable NI** tailoring support to participants and employers to meet their specific needs.



**230**  
Participants

Positively engaged with Project Ignite across Belfast, South eastern and Western Health & Social Care Trust areas.



**84%**  
Participants

84% of participants engaged in work experience placements.



**16**  
Participants

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, 16 participants secured paid jobs **with 84% retaining employment** for 6 months and beyond



**135**  
Employers

Positive engagement with **135 employers**.



**104**  
Participants

Participants gained 104 accredited qualifications and 252 non **accredited qualifications**.

Positive inspection by **Education & Training Inspectorate** rating

- ✓ Quality of provision - **OUTSTANDING**
- ✓ Outcome for learners - **VERY GOOD**
- ✓ Leadership & management - **VERY GOOD**

# Community Inclusion & Progression Services

 **62,991**  
Hours

 **19,206**  
Attendances

 **318**  
Participants

Community Inclusion projects provide a range of services and support to people with learning disability or autism in a number of locations including Belfast, North Down and Lisburn.

The projects encouraged the development of new skills, friendships and independence leading to progression towards employment goals. The pandemic had a significant impact on how we delivered services across the programme in all areas, moving to online platforms such as Zoom and Teams.

During the two periods of lockdown a virtual timetable was offered with participants having access to two or three sessions each day, offering a range of activities such as quizzes, cookery, fitness, mindfulness sessions and a regular online Friday disco from OutRanked. Staff also continued to deliver training including online safety and money management. External facilitators added further variety and included Ulster Wildlife Trust, Leonard Cheshire, Libraires NI, as well as volunteers from PwC.

## Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Projects TAP2 & Engage

These projects provided day opportunities to adults with learning disability living within the Belfast Trust area. A varied face to face and online programme was offered throughout the year focusing on independence, staying safe and reducing social isolation during the lockdown periods.

TAP2 supported young people aged 19 – 30 who had left education and who benefitted from developing their independence and life skills more fully before progressing to FE or employment.

Project Engage offered an extensive programme focusing on group based activities, ICT skills, enterprise initiatives as well as offering individual work placements, mainly in the voluntary sector.

Industrial Solutions was unable to reopen at Coca-Cola due to Covid restrictions. An alternative day opportunity programme was designed offering placements in a new Social Enterprise initiative, namely Orchardville Cleans. Workshops teaching participants how to build outdoor furniture and planters were initiated.

 **30,271**  
Hours

 **10,072**  
Attendances

 **139**  
Participants



South Eastern Health  
& Social Care Trust

## Next Steps

The Next Steps project provided day opportunities to adults who live in the North Down and Lisburn areas of the SEHSCT.

Participants attended throughout the week and took part in a range of activities which included working with local partners in the community.

## Men's Shed

The Men's Shed based in Lisburn continued to develop/grow over the last year and provided structured activities for male attendees each morning and afternoon.

Projects included environmental sessions, music therapy, and woodwork activities, making planters and bird boxes. The "shedders" also started to work at a local allotment to grow food and plants and sold these as part of enterprise activities.

## Orchardville Grows

Orchardville Grows is a horticultural project based at Balloo Training & Resource Centre which uses a large garden area and poly tunnel to enable participation in creative gardening and artistic projects.



**28,400**  
Hours



**8054**  
Attendances



**119**  
Participants



# Transitions

During 2020 funding ended for Project Connect, however we were successful in securing funding from BBC Children in Need.

The project aimed to support young people to develop ICT skills and stay connected during the pandemic. As a result, staff worked face to face and virtually with 60 young people who attended six special education schools in Belfast and North Down.

Orchardville also led on an Erasmus+ project which ended in September 2020, having achieved very positive outcomes. The primary outcome was the launch of a website to support young people and their families prepare for leaving school. Staff continued to deliver training to young people and their families using the STARS website and resources. For more information visit [www.starsinfo.web](http://www.starsinfo.web)



# Social Activities

Recognising the importance of a whole person approach, Orchardville offered places at several social clubs, giving participants the opportunity to develop friendships in a safe environment.





# Social Enterprises

Orchardville operates several Social Enterprises which provide training and development opportunities to our participants while functioning as commercial businesses.



2020/21 was a bittersweet year for our social enterprises. We saw the loss of our long established contract with Coca Cola Hellenic (Industrial Solutions) due to the impact of Covid-19 but were delighted to establish 2 new social enterprises, namely Orchardville Cleans and Orchard Café @ Castle Buildings.

Whilst the award of the contract coincided with lock down restrictions, we began trading in June 2020 and were honoured to be able to provide much needed on site catering solutions to colleagues in the Departments of Health, Justice and to the NI Executive.

We were pleased to be awarded the contract to operate catering services at Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, following a competitive tender exercise.



# Staff Members

 **91**  
Total number of staff employed by March 2021

 **6**  
Number of New Jobs Created in 2020/21



# Our Finances

We were heartened to have achieved an operating surplus in the 2020/21 financial year. We applied for various grants and support mechanisms designed to mitigate the financial impact of Covid, the devastating impact of lockdown and restrictions on trading income from our social enterprises.

*Thank you!*

**Orchardville would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who have supported us throughout 2020/21 and we look forward to your continued support as we build back from the impact of Covid-19.**

Working to achieve an inclusive society where **equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.**



opportunity  
employment  
support

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