first steps Women's Centre

Support. Educate. Empower.

Annual Report 2025-26



Michael McGoldrick
Chief Executive Officer



Marion Murphy
Finance Manager



Carmel Creaney
Training & Education Coordinator



Amanda Boyd
Training & Education Coordinator



Theresa Boyle
Finance Assistant



Franco Donnelly
Minibus Driver



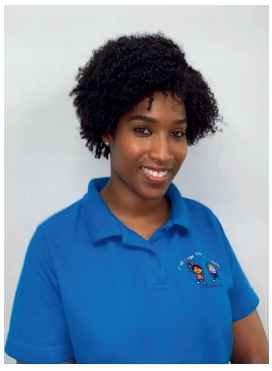
Sonata Slajiene
Housekeeper



Jacqueline Donnelly
Childcare Leader



Giedre Blair
Childcare Assistant Leader



Francisca Mendes
Childcare Assistant



Samia Mando
Childcare Assistant



Gedaa Alkhteeb
Childcare Assistant



Rosie McCreanor
Project Manager - Peaceplus Project



Gillian Glass
Heritage Lottery Project Coordinator



Ailis Crogan
Admin Assistant - Heritage Lottery



Norah Hughes
REAP Coordinator



Tara Gilkinson
Admin Support

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Chairperson's Report

Building Communities. Changing Lives. Shaping the Future.

Over the past year, I have once again been reminded that First Steps Women's Centre is far more than a place where women attend courses.

It is a place where confidence is rebuilt, friendships are formed, opportunities are created and lives are transformed.

As a Board, we have witnessed remarkable achievements across every area of the organisation.

From Childcare and Wellbeing to Employability (through our REAP Programme), Education, Cultural Heritage and Community cohesion, our staff and volunteers have continued to respond to the changing needs of women across Mid Ulster with professionalism, compassion and innovation.

What makes these achievements even more significant is the context in which they have been delivered.

Only a few years ago, the Centre faced one of the greatest challenges in its history following the loss of European Social Fund investment and the resulting restructuring of the organisation.

That period demanded resilience, determination and difficult decisions. Today, it is encouraging to see First Steps Women's Centre not simply recovering, but continuing to evolve and strengthen.

During 2025 – 2026, we have continued to invest in the future of the organisation.

One of the most exciting developments has been the continued diversification of our programmes. Heritage Journeys has provided an inspiring platform for migrant women to preserve and celebrate their cultural heritage through professionally recorded oral histories, photography and storytelling.

It has reminded us that heritage is not only found in buildings and artefacts, but also in the lived experiences, traditions and memories that shape our communities.

Our new PEACEPLUS programme, Unity in Diversity, has also laid strong foundations for the years ahead.

Through dialogue, cultural awareness and community engagement, it is helping to build relationships across different communities while promoting understanding, respect and belonging in an increasingly diverse Mid Ulster.

Alongside these exciting developments, our long-established programmes have continued to flourish.

Hundreds of women have participated in wellbeing activities, employability support, English language classes and cultural awareness programmes.

Many have gained recognised qualifications, progressed into employment or further education, improved their mental wellbeing or simply found a place where they feel welcomed, valued and supported.

Our childcare provision remains fundamental to everything we do. It enables women to participate fully in learning and personal development while ensuring their children are cared for in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment.

The diversity represented within our crèche reflects the changing communities we serve and demonstrates our commitment to inclusion from the earliest years.

One of the defining characteristics of First Steps Women's Centre has always been its ability to respond to emerging needs.

Whether supporting newly arrived families, women seeking employment, those experiencing isolation or those rebuilding confidence following difficult life experiences, the organisation continues to adapt its services to ensure no woman is left behind.

As a Board, we have also continued to strengthen our own governance throughout the year.

Good governance provides the foundation upon which successful organisations are built, and I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for the time, expertise and commitment they continue to give voluntarily in supporting the Centre's strategic direction.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of our Chief Executive, Michael McGoldrick.

Under his leadership, the organisation has continued to secure new funding, develop innovative programmes, strengthen partnerships and position First Steps Women's Centre as one of Northern Ireland's leading women's organisations.

My thanks also go to every member of staff, tutor and volunteer whose dedication, professionalism and compassion make such a lasting difference to the women and families we support every day.

Our sincere thanks are also extended to our tutors, our many funders, statutory partners, community organisations, businesses and individual supporters. Your investment enables us not only to deliver services but to create opportunities, foster hope and strengthen communities.

Most importantly, I want to thank the women who place their trust in First Steps Women's Centre.

Every qualification achieved, every friendship formed, every new job secured, every barrier overcome and every child who thrives within our crèche is a reminder of why this organisation exists.

As we look towards the future - and towards our 30th anniversary in 2028 - we do so with confidence. While financial pressures remain across the voluntary sector, we are ambitious for what First Steps Women's Centre can achieve.

We will continue to invest in innovation, strengthen partnerships, champion equality and ensure that women from every background have the opportunity to realise their potential.

The past year has demonstrated that when women are given the right support, they do not simply overcome challenges - they become leaders within their families, workplaces and communities.

That is the lasting legacy First Steps Women's Centre continues to build.

This year also marks a number of significant staff milestones. We are proud to recognise the exceptional commitment of colleagues who have each dedicated two decades of service to First Steps Women's Centre.

Their loyalty, professionalism and unwavering commitment have helped shape the organisation we are today. Such long service is increasingly rare and reflects not only the dedication of these individuals but also the values, culture and sense of purpose that define First Steps Women's Centre. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere thanks to each of them for their outstanding contribution.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to everyone who has contributed to another remarkable year. Together, we are building stronger women, stronger families and stronger communities.

Thank you.

Nicola Quinn
Chairperson



Chief Executive's Report

Building Hope, Strengthening Communities, Shaping the Future

As I write this report, I find myself reflecting on two significant milestones.

The first is personal. This year marks my twentieth year at First Steps Women's Centre, having joined the organisation in May 2007. The second is organisational. In less than two years, First Steps Women's Centre will celebrate its **30th anniversary**, three decades of supporting women, strengthening families and helping communities across Mid Ulster thrive.

Looking back over those twenty years, it is remarkable to see how much the organisation has evolved. What began as a local women's education project has grown into one of Northern Ireland's leading community organisations, providing integrated support through education, employability, wellbeing, childcare, cultural inclusion and community development.

Yet despite all that has changed, our purpose remains exactly the same: to ensure that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, has the opportunity to realise her potential.

Throughout this Annual Report you will read about qualifications achieved, employment secured, improvements in mental wellbeing, children supported through our childcare service and inspiring stories of women rebuilding their lives. Behind every figure is a woman who found confidence, discovered new opportunities or simply realised that she was not alone.

That remains the true measure of our success.

Responding to a Changing Society

This has been a year in which the importance of our work has become even more apparent.

Across Northern Ireland, public debate around migration, identity and community relations has continued to intensify. At times, incidents of racial hostility and community tension have reminded us that building an inclusive society cannot be taken for granted.

While Mid Ulster has not been immune to these wider challenges, it has largely demonstrated resilience, respect and a willingness to work together. I believe organisations such as First Steps Women's Centre have an important role to play in helping ensure that remains the case.

Every day within our Centre, women from many different nationalities, cultures, faiths and backgrounds learn alongside one another, share experiences, build friendships and discover far more that unites them than divides them.

That is why our work extends beyond education and employability.

Projects such as Heritage Journeys, Unity in Diversity, Cultures Unveiled, our ESOL programmes and our culturally diverse childcare provision are helping to create stronger, more connected communities. They celebrate identity while building understanding, preserving heritage while encouraging integration and ensuring that diversity is recognised as one of Mid Ulster's greatest strengths.

In many respects, First Steps Women's Centre has become more than a women's centre. It has become a place where communities come together.

The People Behind Our Success

Organisations are defined not by buildings or programmes, but by people.

This year we are proud to celebrate an exceptional milestone, with three members of staff each reaching 20 years' service.

Our Finance Manager, Marion Murphy and our Housekeeper, Sonata Slajiene have together contributed **40 years of continuous service** to First Steps Women's Centre.

In a sector often characterised by uncertainty and short-term funding, such longevity is extraordinary. It reflects the commitment, professionalism and shared values of people who have devoted much of their working lives to supporting women and families across Mid Ulster.

I would also like to thank every member of staff, Board member, tutor and volunteer for the compassion, dedication and professionalism they demonstrate every day. They continue to go above and beyond in ensuring that every woman who enters our Centre is treated with dignity, kindness and respect.

My sincere thanks also go to our Chairperson, Nicola Quinn, our Treasurer Margaret Martin and our Board of Directors, our funders, statutory agencies, community partners and supporters. Your confidence in our work enables us to continue responding to the changing needs of our community.

Looking Towards Thirty Years

As we look ahead, we do so with both optimism and realism. The voluntary and community sector continues to face increasing financial pressures. Demand for our services continues to grow, while securing sustainable funding remains one of our greatest challenges.

Yet I have never been more optimistic about the future of First Steps Women's Centre. Our ambition is clear.

We will continue to strengthen our financial sustainability, develop innovative services, embrace new technologies, build stronger partnerships and ensure that every woman has access to the opportunities she deserves.

In 2028, we will celebrate thirty years of First Steps Women's Centre. That anniversary will not simply mark the passage of time.

It will celebrate thousands of women who have discovered confidence, secured employment, improved their wellbeing, learned new skills, built lifelong friendships and transformed not only their own lives but also those of their children and families.

It will celebrate children who experienced their first friendships within our crèche, migrant families who found belonging within our community and volunteers, trustees, staff and supporters whose dedication has made all of this possible.

Most importantly, it will celebrate a simple but powerful belief that has guided this organisation since its beginning:

When women are given opportunity, support and encouragement, entire communities are strengthened.

As we approach our thirtieth anniversary, we are not simply celebrating our history - we are preparing for our future.

Together, we will continue to build an organisation that is innovative, inclusive and ambitious; one that responds to changing needs while remaining true to its founding purpose.

Thank you for believing in First Steps Women's Centre and for continuing to walk alongside us on this remarkable journey.

"Over the past twenty years I have learned that lasting change rarely happens through one conversation, one course or one intervention. It happens through relationships, trust and people who believe in one another. Every day I see women taking their first steps towards a different future. It remains the greatest privilege of my career to be part of that journey."

With heartfelt thanks,

Michael McGoldrick
Chief Executive Officer



2025-26: Our Year in Review

A Year of Opportunity, Inclusion and Impact

During 2025–26, First Steps Women's Centre continued to support women and families across Mid Ulster through an integrated programme of **education, employability, wellbeing, childcare, cultural inclusion and community development**.

This was also a year of growth and innovation. Alongside our established services, **Heritage Journeys** and the new PEACEPLUS-funded **Unity in Diversity** programme strengthened our work in cultural heritage, integration and community cohesion.

Heritage Journeys began capturing the stories and traditions of migrant women who have made Mid Ulster their home, while Unity in Diversity created new opportunities for people from different backgrounds to meet, learn and build relationships.

Our **Vera's Wellbeing Project** delivered its largest programme to date, with **51 courses, workshops and sessions** across Dungannon and Magherafelt. Among participants completing wellbeing assessments, **53% experienced a meaningful improvement**, with an average increase of 6.3 points on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale.

Education remained central to our work. Women participated in ESOL, Pre-ESOL and Essential Skills programmes, achieving **150 qualifications and awards**, including **140 ESOL qualifications**, with an overall pass rate of **84%**.

Our classes continued to bring together women from many different nationalities and backgrounds.

Our **REAP employability programme** supported **74 women**, combining accredited training with mentoring, CV and interview support, confidence building, employer engagement and access to the Centre's wider services.

The programme recognised that the journey towards employment often begins with rebuilding confidence and addressing barriers such as language, childcare, isolation and wellbeing.

Childcare remained essential to women's participation. Our crèche supported **68 enrolled children from 13 nationalities**, providing a safe and inclusive environment while enabling mothers to access learning, wellbeing and employability opportunities.

Our minibus service further removed barriers to participation, providing **1,657 passenger journeys across approximately 694 runs** during the year.

Behind every statistic is an individual story: a woman gaining a qualification, rebuilding confidence, improving her English, moving closer to employment, making new friendships or finding a sense of belonging.

As First Steps Women's Centre approaches its 30th anniversary in 2028, our purpose remains clear: to ensure that every woman, regardless of her circumstances or background, has the opportunity to realise her potential.















2025 - 2026 at a Glance

150 Qualifications & Awards	**140** ESOL Qualifications	**84%** ESOL Pass Rate	**51** Wellbeing Activities
53% Meaningful Wellbeing Improvement	**6.3 points** Average WEMWBS Improvement	**68** Children Enrolled Crèche	**13** Nationalities Represented in Childcare
74 Women Enrolled on REAP	**1657** Minibus Passenger Journeys	**490+** Unity in Diversity Survey Responses	**18** Countries Represented among Heritage Journeys

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Building stronger women, stronger families and stronger communities.



The Heritage Journeys figure is particularly impressive: the project had identified 74 potential participants from 18 countries, completed 15 interviews including eight videos, and produced 25 portraits by the end of March 2026.




SANCTUARY RUNNING
DUNGANNON







Childcare Report

High-quality childcare is fundamental to the work of First Steps Women's Centre. It enables women to participate fully in education, training, employability and wellbeing programmes, knowing their children are cared for in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment.

Access to high-quality childcare continues to remove one of the greatest barriers preventing women from participating in education, employability and wellbeing programmes.

By providing safe, reliable childcare, the crèche enables mothers to focus on their learning, improve their confidence and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

During 2025–26, the crèche supported 68 enrolled children representing 13 nationalities, with 66 children attending regularly.

Many mothers attended multiple courses throughout the year - some participating in up to 13 different programmes - demonstrating the vital role childcare plays in removing barriers to learning, confidence and progression.

The average attendance for this period was 62%

first steps Childcare









Diversity and Inclusion

The crèche continued to reflect the rich cultural diversity of Mid Ulster, with 13 different nationalities represented during 2025–2026. Children from a wide range of cultural, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds learned, played and developed together in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

For many families, the crèche provides one of their earliest opportunities to engage with community life in Mid Ulster and Northern Ireland. It offers children a positive introduction to learning alongside their peers while also helping parents build confidence, develop friendships and establish connections within their local community.

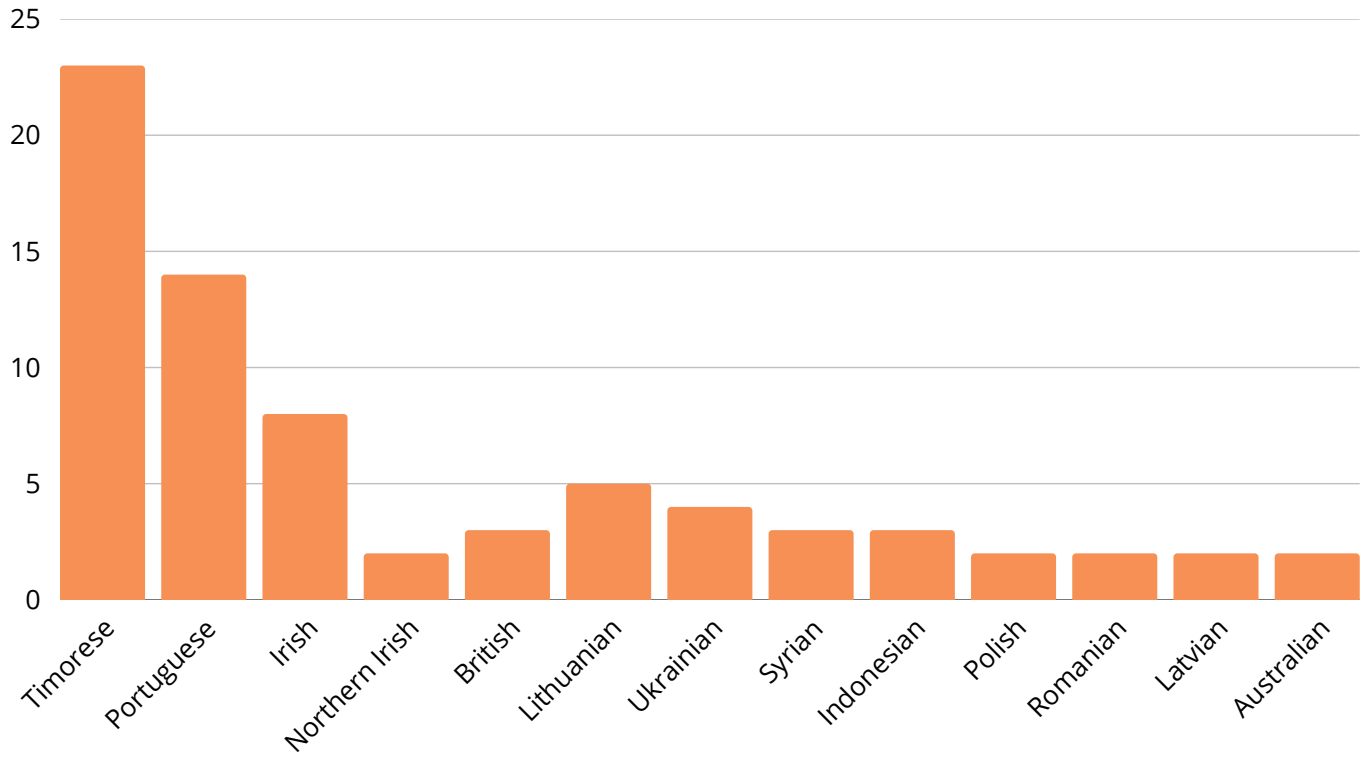
The diversity within the crèche enriches the experience of every child. Through shared play, stories, songs, celebrations and everyday interactions, children are introduced to different cultures, languages and traditions from an early age.

These experiences help to foster curiosity, respect and understanding, while encouraging children to celebrate both their own identity and that of others.

The childcare team actively promotes an inclusive environment where every child feels valued, respected and supported. Bilingual members of staff play an important role in helping children and parents whose first language is not English, easing the transition into the setting and helping families feel welcomed from their very first visit.

As First Steps Women's Centre continues to support women from an increasingly diverse range of backgrounds, the crèche remains an important part of the Centre's wider vision of building stronger, more inclusive communities. By nurturing friendships, encouraging respect for different cultures and creating positive early experiences for children and families, the childcare service contributes not only to children's development but also to long-term community cohesion across Mid Ulster.

Nationalities in the crèche are displayed in the chart below



Every day, the crèche demonstrates that diversity is not simply something to be accommodated - it is something to be celebrated. By giving children the opportunity to learn and grow alongside one another from their earliest years.

First Steps Women's Centre is helping to build a more inclusive, respectful and connected community for future generations.

Staffing

The year also saw a successful leadership transition within the childcare team. Jacqueline Donnelly was appointed Childcare Leader, while Giedre Blair became Deputy Childcare Leader, providing continuity and strengthening leadership within the service.





Quality of Care

Providing high-quality childcare remains the crèche's highest priority. Children are cared for in a safe, clean and nurturing environment that supports learning, development and emotional wellbeing.

Throughout the year, policies and procedures were reviewed, staff maintained all mandatory training, and bilingual team members played a vital role in supporting children and families whose first language is not English. A Keyworker system was in place and One to One Meetings helped to ensure each individual child got the care and support they needed. Fire drills were conducted weekly.

Inspections

Each year the crèche is inspected by Social Services within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

The areas of inspection this year included Safeguarding and Child Protection, Monitoring, Evaluation and the Physical Environment.

Environmental Health also conducted an inspection in October with the crèche retaining a food hygiene rating of 5.

Reggio Emilia - Learning Approach

The learning approach used in our crèche continued to be The Reggio Emilia Approach. This is a child led approach for learning, viewing children as curious competent and capable learners.

Monthly themes were put in place and the children were encouraged to lead play and actively construct knowledge as opposed to passively receiving it.

The themes were adjusted according to each child's interest to extend their learning.

Partnership Working

Staff worked in partnership with other professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists to help support individual needs. Input from service users was welcomed and ensured good partnership working.

Throughout the year mothers/carers were encouraged to voice their opinion by providing suggestions or ideas. Evaluations were distributed to allow for confidential feedback and 100% of the evaluations distributed were returned.

The continued demand for childcare demonstrates its importance in enabling women to access education, wellbeing and employability opportunities.

As First Steps Women's Centre continues to grow, the crèche remains central to the organisation's ability to remove barriers to participation while providing children with a safe, inclusive and stimulating environment in which to learn and develop.

"The crèche is super clean and safe"

"A lot of activities for kids"

"The staff are amazing."

"Absolutely aware and celebrate different cultures"



Unity in Diversity

Unity in Diversity is a three-year PEACEPLUS-funded programme delivered by FSWC, designed to strengthen community cohesion and integration across Mid Ulster by bringing together minority ethnic, newcomer, and longer- established communities.

The programme formally launched in October 2025, with Year 1 public delivery commencing in January 2026. The 2025 - 26 annual report period therefore captures the programme's critical foundation phase and the early stages of active public delivery.

Why Unity in Diversity Matters

Mid Ulster has become one of Northern Ireland's most culturally diverse regions, with people from many different nationalities now living, working and raising families together.

While this diversity enriches local communities, it also creates opportunities and challenges as communities adapt and build new relationships.

Unity in Diversity has been developed to create safe spaces where people from different backgrounds can meet, learn from one another and develop meaningful connections.

By encouraging dialogue, reducing prejudice and promoting shared experiences, the programme aims to strengthen community cohesion and contribute to a more welcoming and inclusive Mid Ulster.

490+ Baseline survey responses

190+ Participants engaged

3 Large-scale events across Mid Ulster planned for Year 1

6 Year 1 activities launched

49 people registered

Programme Launch and Foundations

The programme was officially launched in November 2025 with a 'Tea Without Borders' press event at First Steps Women's Centre, attended by Frances Burton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, along with representatives from nine nationalities.

A Community Wellbeing and Cohesion Survey was simultaneously conducted across Mid Ulster, generating 490 completed responses to establish a baseline against which programme impact will be measured over three years.

By the end of the reporting period, key programme infrastructure was in place: a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework submitted to Council; Angel PR (Lisa McElroy) appointed as PR and Campaigns Consultant; the Advisory Group constituted with Terms of Reference adopted; and programme branding finalised by Elucidate.



Year Highlights

Despite launching only in October 2025, the programme achieved significant milestones in the months to March 2026:

- 'Friendship in Diversity' interfaith dialogue evening (22nd January 2026) brought together 45 participants - Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and non-religious - alongside newcomer community representatives from East Timor, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan. Evaluation feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants describing the event as hopeful, inspiring, and a model for community-led dialogue.
- Sanctuary Runners was officially launched on 26th March, establishing a weekly inclusive walk/jog/run group in Dungannon, open to all community members regardless of fitness level, with further groups planned for Cookstown and Magherafelt.
- Unity in Diversity landing page went live on the FSWC website, with all six Year 1 programme activities open for registration.
- Unity in Diversity Facebook page was launched to further promote programme activities and events
- Advisory Group held its inaugural meeting with representatives from the Polish, Afghan, East Timorese and Hungarian communities in Mid Ulster.
- 'Courage in Diversity' campaign progressed with billboards booked across Mid Ulster ahead of Refugee Week (15 - 23 June 2026).

Year 1 Programme Activities

Programme activities are open for registration and entering active delivery from April 2026:

- Information Disorder Dialogue Circles (5-week programme)
- Sanctuary Runners - weekly walk/jog/run group
- Improve Your English Classes (7 sessions)
- Exploring Trauma and Moving On (3 × 4-hour sessions)
- Cultural Awareness and Integration Classes (5 sessions)
- Citizenship Exam Mentoring Sessions (5 weeks)

Looking Ahead

The programme enters Year 1 public delivery in April 2026 with strong community momentum and well-established partnerships.

Priority areas for the year ahead include the Refugee Week programme (15–23 June), district-wide expansion of Sanctuary Runners, schools engagement, and targeted outreach into Cookstown and Magherafelt.

Employer engagement - following positive early response at the EDI networking event - will be developed further through a planned Zoom workshop.

With strong foundations now established, Unity in Diversity enters its first full year of delivery well positioned to achieve its PEACEPLUS outcomes while making a lasting contribution to community cohesion, integration and mutual understanding across Mid Ulster.





Wellbeing Report

Vera's Project continued to provide women across Mid Ulster with opportunities to improve their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing through a diverse programme of courses, workshops and activities.

During 2025/26, demand for the project remained exceptionally strong, with more women than ever before engaging in programmes designed to build confidence, reduce isolation and improve overall wellbeing.

Wellbeing lies at the heart of First Steps Women's Centre's mission. Many women come to the Centre experiencing stress, anxiety, loneliness, low self-confidence or the pressures of balancing family, work and caring responsibilities.

Vera's Project offers a safe, welcoming and non-judgemental environment where women can take time for themselves, develop new skills, build meaningful friendships and strengthen their resilience.

Throughout the year, the project delivered its largest wellbeing programme to date across Dungannon and Magherafelt.

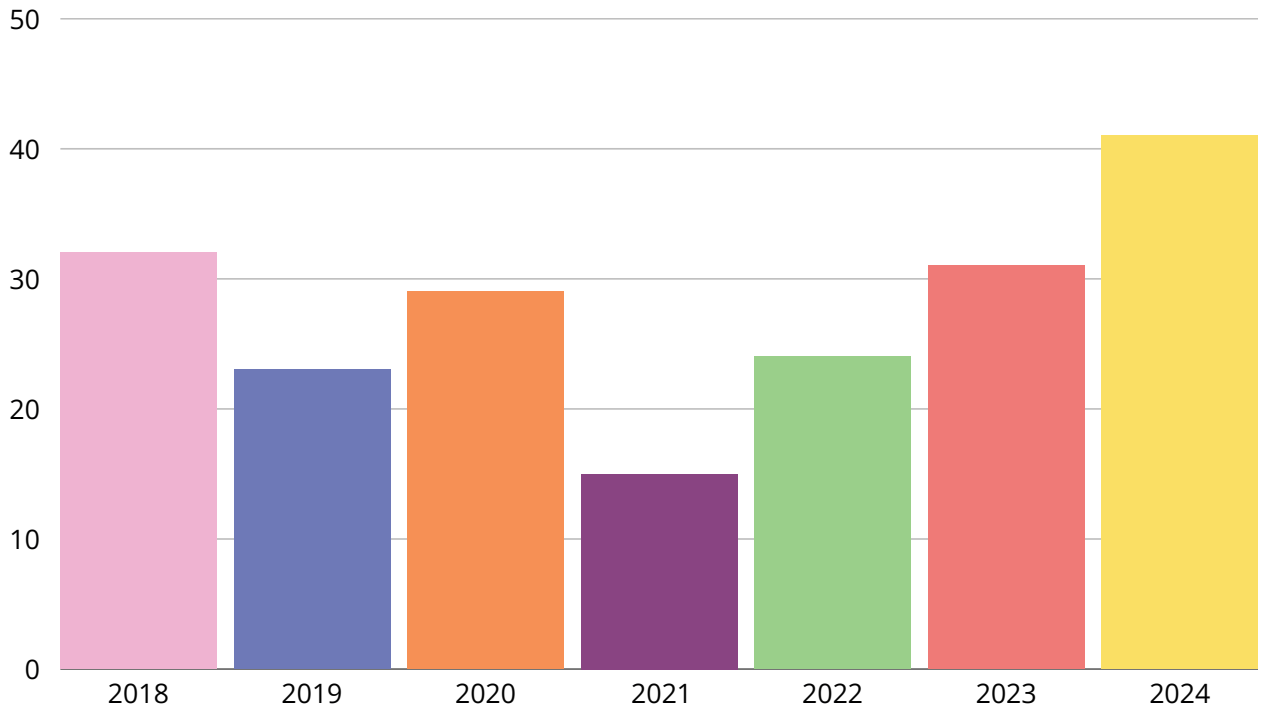
Activities ranged from physical exercise and mindfulness to creative arts, confidence building and practical life skills, ensuring there were opportunities to meet a wide variety of interests and needs.

The statistics presented in this report demonstrate the scale of the project and the growing demand for its services. More importantly, however, they reflect the positive difference the project is making in women's lives. Behind every statistic is a woman who has gained confidence, improved her wellbeing, formed new friendships or taken positive steps towards a healthier and more fulfilling future.

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, Vera's Project continued to provide women across Mid Ulster with opportunities to improve their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Number of courses / workshops / sessions that have run in this period:

- 32 in FSWC and 19 in Magherafelt: **Total 51**
- 2 provided by AWARE, 2 provided by the Ulster Bank, 1 by Relate NI



Courses at FSWC:

- 1 Wellbeing in Nature
- 1 Spring Clean Your Life
- 1 Creative Writing
- 2 Pilates
- 2 Stretch & Tone
- 2 Tai Chi for relaxation
- 1 Building Self Confidence
- 1 Meditation & Journaling
- 1 Dancing Your Way to Health & Happiness
- 1 African Drumming
- 1 Introduction to Holistic Therapies
- 1 I Can
- 1 Body Mind Emotions
- 2 Living Life to the Full
- 1 Stress Management
- 1 Women Barriers & Breakthroughs
- 1 Mindfulness & Kindfulness
- 1 Frauds & Scams workshop
- 2 Smart phone Photography
- 1 Cost of Living workshop
- 2 Sound baths
- 1 Wellbeing Morning
- 1 DIY
- 1 Stitching Our Stories
- 1 Spanish
- 1 Respectful Relationships

Courses at MWG:

- 1 Pilates
- 1 Yoga
- 1 Time For Me
- 1 Floral Water Colour Painting
- 1 Natural Art Gel
- 1 Tai Chi
- 1 Preparation for Menopause
- 1 Fire Safety Talk
- 1 Easter Wreath Making
- 1 DIY
- 3 Maternal Advocacy & Support
- 1 I Can, I Will
- 1 Healthy Eating
- 1 Makaton
- 1 Self Care for Mind Body Soul
- 2 Armchair Yoga

Statistics

327 individuals attended at least one class

565 places were accepted where the person attended at least one class.

NB: an individual may have accepted a place on more than one course

73% Retention Rate

The average number of women in each course was 12

The average attendance per course was 8





Warwick Scale

The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) is a tool to assess mental wellbeing.

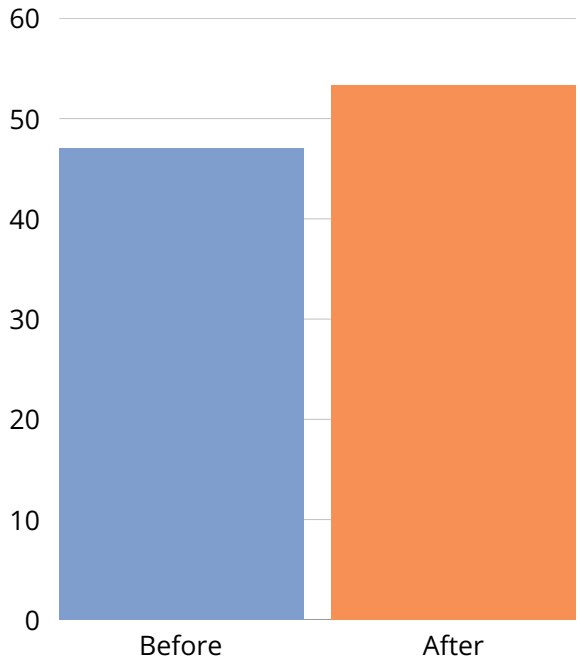
Participants on every course completed this form on both the first day and last day of their course to measure any improvement.

Results:

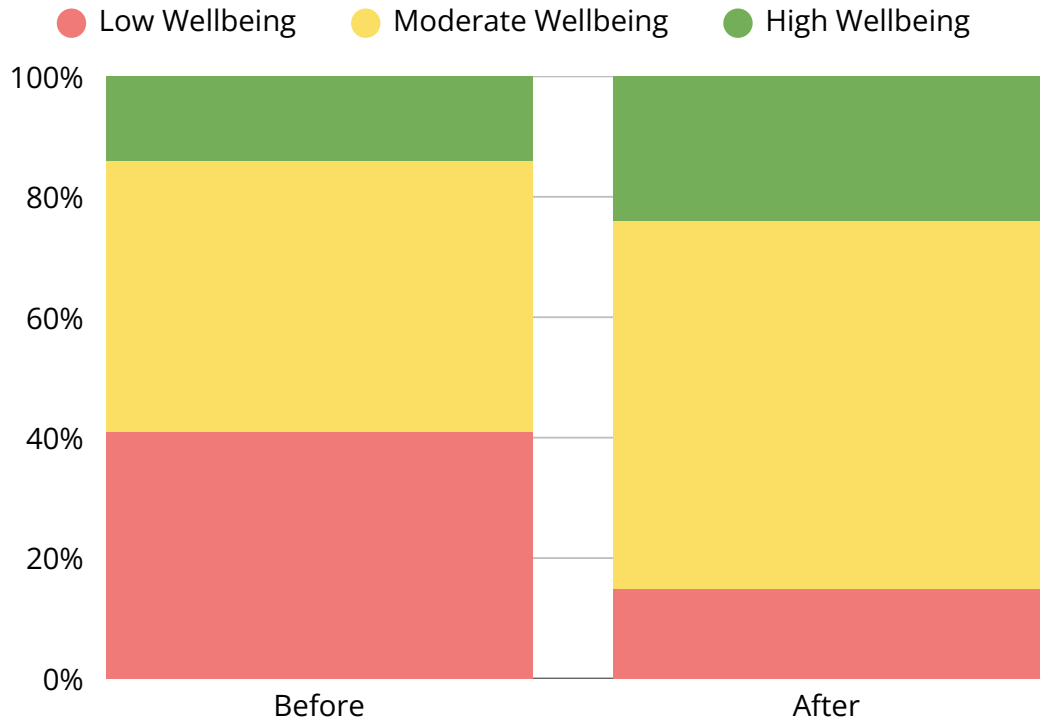
53% had a meaningful positive change.

WEMWBS creators found that between a 3 to 8-point change in score from pre- to post was evidence of a meaningful "felt" difference in wellbeing. The average improvement was 6.3 points.

Mean WEMWBS Scores



Proportions of wellbeing before & after intervention



Additional Wellbeing Comments

The statistics demonstrate the scale of Vera's Project, but they do not fully capture its impact. Women attend for many different reasons — whether to improve their physical health, rebuild confidence, reduce isolation or simply find time for themselves.

Across the courses, participants consistently reported increased confidence, stronger friendships, improved wellbeing and renewed optimism.

The Project Co-ordinator described 2025–26 as another excellent year for FSWC and for the wellbeing programme and is extremely proud of what the project continues to achieve.

While meeting targets is important, the real measure of success is how women experience and benefit from the courses provided.

Feedback received throughout the year demonstrates that these courses are making a positive difference. From physical activity and self-confidence programmes to creative and uplifting activities, each plays an important role.

Women come to the Centre for different reasons, but many leave with new friendships, new skills, different perspectives and an improved sense of wellbeing.

The original target for Vera's Project was 234 new women per year. Following discussion with The National Lottery Community Fund, it was agreed that this target could be reduced in recognition of the high number of repeat participants who continue to engage with FSWC.

During the year, **215 new women** participated in Vera's Project. A further **18 women received counselling**, two of whom were new to the Centre. Across the first three years of the project, **656 new women** have engaged with FSWC.

The end-of-year progress report was submitted to The National Lottery Community Fund in April, with positive feedback received on the project outcomes.

The **Project Co-ordinator** also highlighted the exceptional contribution made by the project's tutors. Their commitment to each class is instrumental in the success of Vera's Project and the wider Centre.

The Project Co-ordinator provides the coordination that holds the programme together, while tutors deliver the activities that help bring about change.

FSWC also plays an important role in this transformation by creating a warm, welcoming and non-judgemental environment. This helps women feel comfortable and supported, enabling them to learn, grow, relax and enjoy their time at the Centre.

The Project Co-ordinator values the opportunity to work alongside such a professional, compassionate and talented team.

Following procurement in Spring 2025, the Project Co-ordinator introduced several new courses, including Women, Mindful Photography, Barriers & Breakthroughs, Stitching Our Stories, Holiday Spanish, Sound Baths and Unlock Your DIY Potential.

New courses and sessions were also delivered by external organisations. These included Respectful Relationships with Relate NI and Cost of Living and Frauds & Scams sessions delivered by Ulster Bank.

Representatives from the PSNI and the Library also visited FSWC to engage with participants across classes.

Several new tutors joined the programme during the year, integrating extremely well into the Centre and delivering high-quality courses.

The Project Co-ordinator also attended numerous networking events and Health and Wellbeing Fairs throughout the year.

These provided valuable opportunities not only to promote and recruit participants to Vera's Project, but also to develop relationships with organisations that can support participants through signposting and other services. Networking also helped identify potential tutors, new partnerships and ideas for future courses and activities.

Testimonials

Tai Chi for Relaxation May 25

- I have enjoyed this course, I feel it has helped me relax more. “ME” time has improved and my overall outlook on life on what I can achieve is more realistic
- Made to feel very welcome
- Very relaxing and teaching you how to make and take time for yourself
- Meeting other women of all ages feeling good about myself after the course





Building Self Confidence Autumn 25

- Learning new ways to control stress, improve confidence, look after yourself
- Learning to be confident, learning to know myself and identifying strategies to put in pace in my life
- Realising through group discussion that I’m not alone in feeling the way I do and that its ok to make time to look after myself
- To nip negative and self-judgemental thoughts in the bud. You are doing the best you can in the circumstances you are in with the skills and resources you have at present
- Norah was a very good tutor to me thank you so much for everything on this course it really has helped me a lot

Meditation & Journalling Autumn 25

- Excellent for relaxation. Christina lovely and very knowledgeable. Great techniques to help in a busy life
- Importance of quiet space and feeling justified in taking time out
- Just believe first steps is a great place to have, they do so much for the ladies of the area
- Thank you so much for the place on the course. I have really appreciated my Tuesday morning relaxation and will really miss it.
- Excellent course from start to finish. Excellent content and delivery

Mindful Photography Autumn 25

- This course is excellent, would like another course as well
- Building on knowledge already there. Patience of tutor in delivery
- Encourages interest in nature. Meeting new people
- The different angles I can take photographs at. How to adjust the settings on my phone re photography
- A greater knowledge of how to use my phone for better photographs. Also tips on how to improve my wellbeing



Creative Writing May 25

- I can write and touch others emotions
- That I can write however simple
- Confidence… it is growing, and Fionnuala helps encourage it
- This course was brilliant, I loved every aspect of it. The real confidence builder it was. Fionnuala is inspirational
- So glad Fionnuala is now future and that Creative Writing is to stay here! Such a benefit for women in Dungannon

Dancing Your Way to Health & Happiness Autumn 25

- This course gave me the opportunity to set time to attend and participate and I found the social and physical aspects of the course to have a positive mental effect on my wellbeing.
- It made me more relaxed, enjoying meeting new people, and felt more energised. Very enjoyable course.
- Helped with movement. Help with pains in knees = hips.
- Brilliant experience. Really help me for back into dance = exercise. Balance training.
- Such an uplifting course, enjoyed every minute. Tutor presented the course really well – so relaxing. Thank you.

Pilates Jan 26

- Motivates me to go out and join a class to keep going with movement and exercise.
- The social aspect of the group was very meaningful. I found the Pilates exercise to be beneficial and motivation to engage in other exercises – going forward.
- Ability to get one moving to exercising again often. Slowing up in wishes.
- The importance of attending a class and sticking to it. I found it to be very uplifting and friendly, especially meeting new members of group.



Drumming Autumn 25

- Thank you so much for this course. Thoroughly enjoyed learning and meeting new people
- A new skill. A passion for wanting to continue learning African drumming
- Being involved – meeting new people. Achieving something new
- The ability to speak for myself. To mix well. Anything is possible when you put your mind to it

Wellbeing in Nature May 25

- How amazing to be out in nature and there's so much more to see and discover
- Tutor is excellent at helping us enjoy nature
- Being in the outdoors and learning about nature. Excellent and well organised tutor

About FSWC

- FSWC is a wonderful place to have and I have enjoyed several different classes here
- Love this venue, we need as many classes as possible.
- Anytime I attend a class in FSWC I feel very welcome and comfortable
- I would recommend this Centre to a lot of people and the Staff are all very kind.
- All courses are really amazing and good opportunity to know better yourself.
- Thank you FSWC for all.
- I love this place, all the people.
- Brilliant organisation.
- FSWC is amazing place! Helped me so much to go back to myself and go back to work, make new friendships.
- FSWC is a very calm space, people here super nice.







Tutor Feedback

Helen Quinn – Tutor - I Can

From the second you step in through the door of FSWC, there is a feeling of calm and peace. It is clear to see those who work in FSWC love the work they do, it is not just a job to them, it is a way of life, welcoming and accepting everyone just as they are - providing practical help and support and building skills and self-confidence so women can live happy and fulfilling lives.

As a seasonal tutor at FSWC, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work in this space, to meet these amazing women, hear their stories, and support them on their journey.

Some examples I have seen are women valuing themselves more, learning to feel good about themselves and prioritising their own wellbeing so they can continue to support others in all their roles.

I have witnessed women learn to change the way they think and adopt a more positive outlook for better outcomes in work, life and home.

I have seen women grow in confidence, build friendships and make positive changes in their lives including volunteering in the community.

FSWC is a beacon of hope and is making a difference in the lives of so many people, their families, their workspaces and the wider community in the Dungannon area.





Eileen Fegan – Tutor – Women, Barriers & Breakthroughs

Participants became really engaged in learning about the barriers women have historically faced in society, in the home and in the workplace.

There were many 'light bulb moments,' when they began to see the barriers to empowerment in their own lives - both structural and personal.

By the end of the 7-week course, all participants were enthusiastic about making breakthroughs related to their own individual issues.

Each of them expressed a desire to learn new ideas and skills to overcome common barriers still encountered by women - and to share that knowledge with others.

Marcella Gilliland – Tutor - African Drumming

I bring these workshops to FSWC because of the quality of the outcome after 6 weeks.

For some people, the experiences are new which I completely welcome as steps to self-connect. For others it's an ongoing self-development program, which is also wonderful to be able to offer and be part of.

The workshop contents they are meditative methods of creating connection with oneself, then the group.

The activities are stress relieving and relaxing. I can see that after participating for some sessions there is a gradual better sense of self.

This adds to a feeling of confidence and belonging to the group which the participant will then feel encouraged to bring out into their lives beyond the room. WINNER WINNER!

Charmaine McMeekin – Tutor – Dancing Your Way to Health & Happiness

FSWC is an innovative, inspiring, inclusive and joyous organisation. They invite women into a safe, creative and empowering space to be free to be themselves wholly and completely.

Their projects make a difference in that they invite women to be free to play, create, learn and grow.

As a tutor with FSWC I can see the positive impact their projects have on women, as each week passes the women become more confident and at ease in themselves.

You can see them develop an understanding of their own potential and FSWC invites them to share that potential, to step forward with self-belief and joy for life.

Giovanna Baistrocchi – Tutor – Body Mind Emotions and Coming into Balance

I truly love delivering my wellbeing programmes at First Steps Women's Centre. It's such a special place — filled with warmth, peace, and a genuine sense of welcome.

Women from different nationalities and backgrounds come together here, creating a beautiful space of connection, support, and understanding.

Being part of a centre that empowers women to grow, heal, and feel supported is something I deeply value.



Norah Hughes – Tutor – Spring Clean Your Life and Building Self Confidence

Funding from Vera's Project has allowed women in the local Mid Ulster area to access both Confidence and Spring Clean Your Life courses.

This course helped participants to create small manageable steps to achieving personal goals. The feedback from the course was that the women felt respected and were supported to overcome personal barriers.

As a Centre FSWC helps so many women from different backgrounds to build resilience and self-esteem allowing them to make positive changes to their families and wider communities.

Transport Report

April 2025 - March 2026

Total passengers: 1,657

Total runs: 694 approx.











Heritage Journeys

Preserving the Living Heritage of Mid Ulster

Heritage is often thought of as historic buildings, monuments or treasured artefacts. Yet some of our richest heritage cannot be placed in a museum cabinet or preserved behind glass.

It lives in people's memories, languages, customs, traditions, recipes, songs, celebrations and family stories.

It is known as **Intangible Cultural Heritage -** the living traditions passed from one generation to the next that shape who we are and how we understand the world.

Over the past twenty-five years, Mid Ulster has become home to people from across the globe.

Women from countries including East Timor, Ukraine, Syria, Portugal, Brazil, Lithuania, Indonesia, Poland and many others have chosen - or, in some cases, been forced - to make this area their new home.

Together they have enriched our communities with new cultures, traditions and perspectives, helping to shape a more diverse and vibrant society.

Too often, however, the stories behind these journeys remain untold.

Heritage Journeys was created to ensure those voices are heard. Through professionally recorded interviews, portrait photography and personal storytelling, the project is preserving the lived experiences of migrant women for future generations.

It records not only where these women came from, but also the traditions they carry, the sacrifices they have made, the resilience they have shown and the hopes they have for their children.

These stories are much more than personal memories. They are an important part of the evolving history of Mid Ulster itself.

They document a period of significant social change and help future generations understand how our communities have grown through migration, friendship, understanding and shared experiences.

The project has also demonstrated something equally important. The process of telling one's story can itself be transformative. Many participants have described feeling listened to, valued and empowered for the first time.

By recognising the importance of their experiences, Heritage Journeys has helped women strengthen their confidence, reconnect with their cultural identity and develop a greater sense of belonging within their new communities.

At a time when prejudice, misunderstanding and division can still exist, Heritage Journeys offers a different narrative—one built on listening, empathy and shared humanity.

Every interview, photograph and testimony reminds us that, while our languages, customs and histories may differ, the hopes we have for ourselves and our families are remarkably similar.

This project is therefore about far more than recording history. It is about preserving living heritage, celebrating cultural diversity and creating a permanent legacy that future generations can learn from and be proud of.

It ensures that the voices of the women who have helped shape modern Mid Ulster will not be forgotten, but will continue to inspire understanding, compassion and belonging for many years to come.



The Heritage Project captures and records the migrant women's stories, focusing on the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of the women who have travelled to and settled in the Mid-Ulster area between 2000 and 2024.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with First Steps Women's Centre (FSWC) has made this story telling possible.

These stories have been waiting to be told, helping women integrate back into their own lives and also their new lives in Mid-Ulster.

Through the project we have connected with the women, their memories and recollection of their heritage and explored the importance of traditions and how these have been retained, lost or diminished since arrival in Mid-Ulster and reflected on how these traditions have evolved in a new environment or sadly have been left behind.

In so doing a rich tapestry of memories, traditions and stories have been uncovered bringing a greater glimpse and understanding of the struggles, resilience, determination and hopes of the migrant women.

Perhaps through storytelling and highlighting the difficulties faced by many women, the fires of hate, prejudice and racism can be diminished and our communities will begin to reflect, to take notice and perhaps acknowledge the true humanity of these women bringing acceptance, integration and a richer, evolving, diverse society.

These stories tell a bigger story of a country evolving growing in generosity, resilience and belonging. This is our hope.

HERITAGE JOURNEYS









Phase One rollout

Over the past year since April 2025 a strategic framework and timeline for delivery of the project has been the priority.

The project coordinator came into post in July 2025 and upon familiarization began reaching out and identifying women who are or have been linking in with FSWC as well as other migrant women in the Mid Ulster area and who may be interested in participating.

As well as getting to know the women and establishing trust, practical matters regarding the tender process for website, videography and photography came into play.

By November 2025 these tender processes were successfully completed and the first videos and portrait photo sessions scheduled.

The first interview was conducted by First Minister Michelle O'Neill interviewing Domingas Gusmao from East Timor. This felt like a land mark day for the project and is a signature piece on the website.

International Women's Day on 5th March 2026 was the phase one deadline with the team working towards the launch of Heritage Journeys website and hosting a pilot exhibition of the portrait photos and biographies of the women.

This event was hugely successful with many attending from the local community and beyond.

The feedback following the event was very positive and the women involved expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to take part in the project.

It has been very encouraging how each woman has taken such a sense of ownership of the project and their willingness to step up and host at the event was extremely special.

Catriona Corrigan, Heritage Journey photographer, captures the stories, histories and cultural traditions of the women wonderfully through portrait photography. The pilot exhibition included 10 portraits.

Cathal Hegarty's videography and facilitation of the interviews with the women have been extraordinary and it is a deep privilege to hear stories of the women's incredible resilience, courage and cultural traditions. The women have greatly enjoyed the process both with photo and video shooting.

They tell us how therapeutic and helpful it has been to have opportunities to share their histories, hopes and dreams.

The website, www.heritagejourneysni.com, designed by Elucidate Studios, has brought the project alive and we feel represents the women and project very well. It is regularly updated.





We are also aware that many women have gone through enormous trauma in their lives and although we had already built in safe guarding and additional support and counselling this need has been highlighted on a number of occasions.

Balancing the hope for a new and better future in a host country with the difficult tension of leaving home countries either through choice or forced due to war, carries such grave loss.

We have been able to secure additional support for counselling services and are hoping to develop a trauma recovery course to support some of the most vulnerable women.

We are also very careful to ensure the women are happy with the content disclosed and discussed at their interviews.

Many have expressed how this opportunity is so important to them, to share, to use their voices and hopefully also through this process help and encourage other women to believe and foster hope for their futures and lives.

The importance of family is woven into each and every story.

Family, parents, grandparents and siblings who have been left behind as women made the difficult choice to leave their home countries in the hope of a better and safer tomorrow.

The complexities of loss and hope so intricately linked is deeply moving.

Many women speak of their children and the legacy they hope they will carry and how moving from their home country has established in fact a stronger sense of their roots, culture and heritage which they hope will not be lost.

They are keen for the recordings and stories to be archived for these very reasons so I think this project is fundamental in order for this to happen.

These themes of family, belonging, legacy and home are very clear as we speak with all the women.

Nationality and Participation

By September 2025 the team had connected with women through FSWC and various outreach activities in Dungannon and the wider Mid Ulster area and have identified 74 women from 18 countries as potential participants. Here is a breakdown by nationality:

East Timor - 21
Portuguese -10
Lithuanian - 9
Ukrainian - 7
Syrian - 6
Polish - 5
Mexican - 3
Brazilian - 2
Indonesian - 2
Latvian - 1
Moldovan - 1
Kurdish - 1
Hungarian - 1
Moroccan - 1
Zimbabwean - 1
Afghanistan - 1
Chinese - 1
Thai - 1

As discussed, Phase One focused initially on targets to be met for IWD 2026 in order for the website to be launched with portraits photography exhibition, videos and bios of the women to give a realistic taster of essence of the project.

This required a great deal of commitment and effort and after being showcased successfully and with commendation from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project resumed in earnest. By the end of March 2026 we had completed 15 interviews including 8 videos.

Here is the breakdown by nationality:

East Timor - 3
Moldovan - 1
Brazilian - 1
Ukrainian - 3
Polish - 2
Syrian - 2
Indonesian - 1
Portuguese - 1
Latvian - 1

Phase Two rollout

Having successfully achieved outputs and outcomes over the 2025/26 period, we look forward to the next phase of the project which will include a final exhibition of the photography and biographies at Linen Hall Library, Belfast on IWD 2027.

17 more videos have been rescheduled for April and May 2026 and the aim is that all videos will be completed by the end of term and these will be edited and ready to upload to the website over the summer.

The team will then be concentrating on the recording written stories of remaining participants and portrait photography prepared to be uploaded to the website.

Having already identified women who have expressed interest in contributing to the project, the team are confident the timeline and delivery is on track for the in coming year.

Catriona, continues to liaise with the project coordinator to schedule photography sessions with remaining participants. To date 25 portraits have been completed.















Testimonies from the women:

"We have stories to tell. We want to be heard and seen but often language is a barrier, it leaves us feeling vulnerable and lacking confidence. So, we choose to stay silent, to shrink, to hide in case we don't get it right. Somehow it is often easier to stay hidden and quiet than risk speaking out."

"Often it is our choice to be migrant women. Not always, some women have to leave their home countries because of conflict or war but for many of us we have to weigh everything up. Do I stay at home or pack my bags and leave, suffering the loss of the people and country I love in the hope of finding a better life for not only myself but also for my children. It's not an easy decision. It's a hard choice."

"Home is everything. Home will always be East Timor for me, not so much for my children though as they were born here."

"English has become our first language and we speak English at home, in fact my children have become my teachers!"

"Hu'u feto ida ne'ebe forte, ha'u bele halo ida-ne'e" - "I am a strong woman and I can do it".

"It's been my pleasure to tell my story. When I read and listen to my story I am so emotional but in a good way."

"I don't think people understand it is difficult to leave your country either by force or choice. You still leave a lot behind even though you are following a dream of a better life".

"My mother tongue will always be important. I hope my children carry this legacy".

"I am still Brazilian, just a little diluted!"

Life Skills Report

Our Life Skills programme is a key gateway into the Women's Centre bringing together women from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds who share a common goal: to improve their English, build confidence and become more connected to the community around them.

Women come to us from different countries and cultures, bringing varied life experiences but sharing a desire to improve their English. What begins as an English class often develops into much more.

Our classrooms provide a welcoming and supportive environment where women can learn together, form friendships and develop the confidence and communication skills they need to participate more fully in everyday life.

As women progress through ESOL and Essential Skills levels, they celebrate their achievements while building the foundations for greater independence, participation and belonging.

This year our Life Skills programme supported women to learn, progress, achieve and become more connected to their new community.

Recruitment and Participation

During the reporting year, Life Skills continued to attract strong interest from women seeking to improve their English and develop their skills.

A total of 237 places were accepted by students in this report period for Life Skills Classes.

In the period April 2025 to June 2025 there were 98 Life Skills attendees. From September 2025 a further 125 students attended classes with 53 of them New Start to the centre and 72 returning or progressing to the next level.

A further 14 new Life Skills students commenced in January 2026. A total of 67 new women to the centre in this period.

These women accepted one or more places over 11 classes per week which included ESOL Classes Speaking & Listening, Reading & Writing, PRE-ESOL classes and Essential Skills Classes.

Most of these classes were delivered in two to three-hour sessions. Class sizes ranged from 12-20 in ESOL classes to 20 in Essential Skills level 1 and 2 combined.

Demand for accredited progression was particularly strong with 30 applicants for Essential Skills Level 1 and 2 Communications.

These figures demonstrate the continuing demand for accessible women centred English language provision and the strong motivation of women to develop their skills and qualifications.



Attendance and Retention

Maintaining attendance can be challenging for women balancing learning with family, employment and other responsibilities. Despite these challenges, the programme achieved an overall annual attendance rate of 71% and an overall retention rate of 72%.

Table below shows Attendance Rates April 2025 to March 2026 by Class

Course	Annual Attendance Rates	Annual Attendance Rates
ESOL Entry Level 1	70%	65%
ESOL Entry Level 2 Morning	69%	89%
ESOL Entry Level 2 Afternoon	72%	67%
ESOL Entry Level 3	71%	67%
Pre-ESOL	70%	71%
Improve your English	73%	73%
TOTAL	**71%**	**72%**

Factors Affecting Retention and Attendance:

Several significant factors have adversely impacted retention and attendance during the reporting period:

- Family obligations, including caregiving responsibilities for sick children, have limited the ability of some participants to attend regularly.
- Work commitments and shift patterns have created scheduling conflicts, leading to inconsistent attendance.
- Some individuals have discontinued participation due to securing new employment opportunities.
- A number of participants have returned to their countries of origin, resulting in withdrawal from the programme.

These factors collectively present considerable challenges to maintaining consistent attendance and participant retention.

Additionally, requirements imposed by the jobcentre, such as the mandate to increase working hours beyond 15 per week to comply with Universal Credit conditions, have exerted pressure that has negatively affected retention.



Life Skills Qualifications ESOL

Although achievement in Life Skills is about more than gaining a qualification there was a total of 150 qualifications/awards achieved in Life Skills this year with an overall pass rate of 84%
In 2025 to 2026 year 140 ESOL Qualifications were achieved. This represented an overall pass rate of 84%.

Exams Taken	Number started on 1st day of course Sept 25	Number in Course at end of March 2026
ESOL Entry Level 1 Speaking & Listening March 2026	12	80%
ESOL Entry Level 2 M Speaking & Listening March 2026	15	100%
ESOL Entry Level 2 A Speaking & Listening March 2026	7	78%
ESOL Entry L3 Speaking & Listening March 2026	15	88%
TOTAL	**49**	**97%**
ESOL Entry Level 1 Reading December 2025	16	94%
ESOL Entry level 2M Reading December 2025	15	100%
ESOL Entry level 2A Reading December 2025	10	91%
ESOL Entry level 3 Reading December 2025	17	90%
TOTAL	**58**	**93%**
ESOL Entry Level 1 Writing June 2025	9	56%
ESOL Entry Level 2M Writing June 2025	7	78%
ESOL Entry Level 2A Writing June 2025	7	70%
ESOL Entry Level 3 Writing June 2025	10	77%
TOTAL	**33**	**69%**
YEARLY TOTALS	**140**	**84%**

Celebrating Achievement and Progression

For many women, progress begins with the confidence to walk through our doors and join a class. Over time, we see that confidence grow as students move through levels, achieve qualifications and communicate more independently.

These skills support women in speaking with teachers, health professionals and other services, supporting their families, accessing opportunities and engaging with the wider community.

However, achievement cannot always be measured by a certificate alone. Success may be confidently having a conversation in English for the first time, attending an appointment independently, helping another student, making a new friendship or progressing to the next level.

For some women, developing confidence in English is the step that enables them to consider further education, volunteering or employment. Each achievement represents meaningful progress and creates a platform for the next stage of their journey.

Essential Skills Achievement

While the Centre's resources did not extend to providing accredited Essential Skills English at Levels 1 and 2, we recognised the importance of ensuring that women had a clear pathway to continue their learning and progress to higher levels.

Through our partnership with Southern Regional College, we were able to provide this important progression pathway, enabling women who began their English language journey at the Centre to move forward into accredited Level 1 and Level 2 Essential Skills provision.

Our partnership with Southern Regional College demonstrates how collaborative working can extend opportunities beyond what any one organisation can provide, creating a clear and meaningful pathway from initial English language learning through to accredited progression.

This has been our most successful year to date for Essential Skills achievement:

- 7 students achieved Essential Skills Level 1 Communication
- 3 students achieved Essential Skills Level 2 Communication



Celebrating Diversity

Our Women's Centre brings together a wide range of national, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This diversity is one of the strengths of our Centre. Throughout the year, women from 12 different nationalities attended our ESOL and Essential Skills programme reflecting the increasingly diverse community we serve.

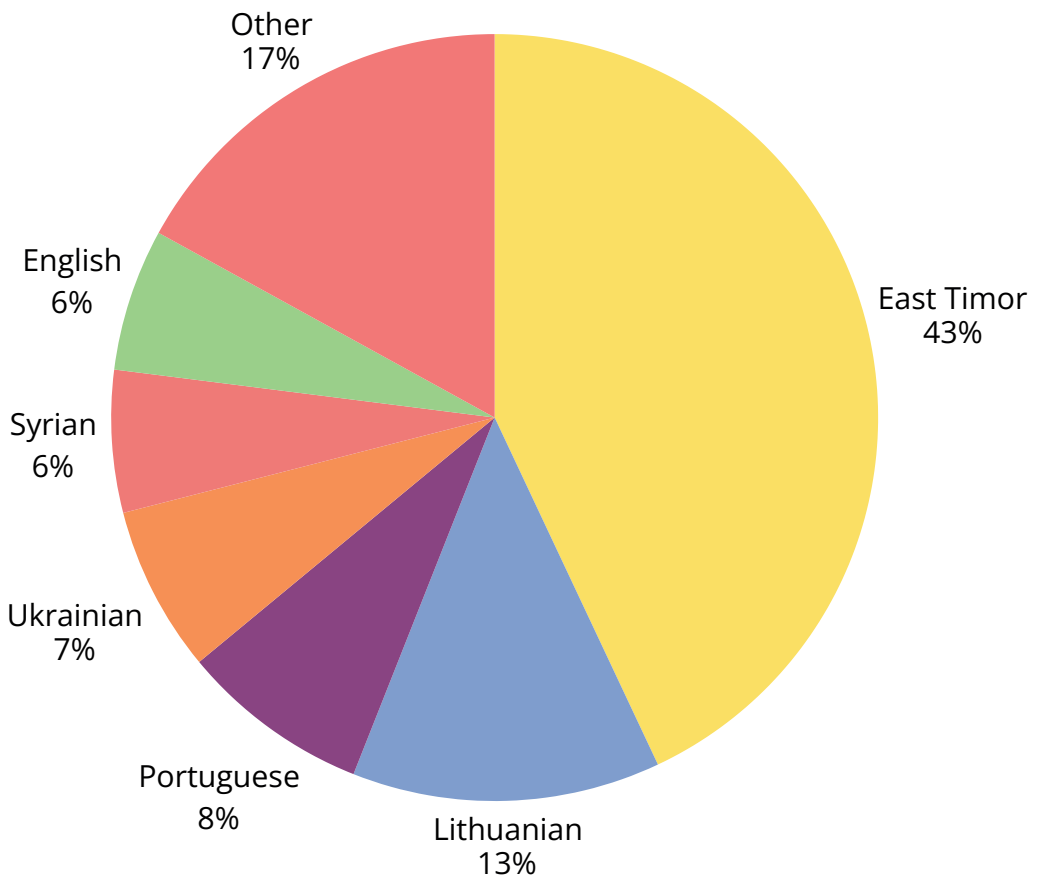
We welcomed women from countries including East Timor, Lithuania, Portugal, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan. We also had new participants from different regions including Morroco, and Mexico and from Eastern European countries.

The diversity of our students enriches the learning environment and creates opportunities for women to share experiences learn about different cultures and build connections that may not otherwise have happened

The accompanying chart illustrates the breadth of nationalities represented among our learners and highlights the truly multicultural community that has developed within the centre.

Nationalities	Numbers	Percentage of Total (%)
English	6	6
East Timor	41	43
Lithuanian	12	13
Polish	2	2
Portuguese	8	8
Syrian	6	6
Indonesian	2	2
Moldova	1	1
Ukrainian	7	7
Mexican	1	1
Afghanistan	2	2
Morroccan	1	1
TOTAL	**95**	**100%**

FSWC Nationalities 2025 to 2026



Pre-ESOL: Building Confidence from the Beginning

Not every woman who comes through our doors is immediately ready to access Entry level 1 qualifications. For some English is completely new.

One day a week, our Pre-Esol tutor works with students who have more initial learning needs that would allow them to access Entry Level 1 and its qualification route.

Some students are just new to Northern Ireland, some have had a poor experience of learning in their own countries and some are lacking in confidence and would benefit from learning in a smaller group.

This has worked really well for the students with those benefitting wanting to progress at the end of the year. The students were from Portugal, Ukraine Cape Verde, Angola and East Timor etc.

Success may be confidently having a conversation in English for the first time, attending an appointment independently, helping another student, making a new friendship or progressing to the next level.

For some women, developing confidence in English is the step that enables them to consider further education, volunteering or employment.

Each achievement represents meaningful progress and creates a platform for the next stage of their journey.

The Wider Impact of Life Skills

Throughout the year, we see women who once lacked confidence finding their voice. We see students progressing from one level to the next and celebrating qualifications they may never have believed they could achieve. We see friendships forming between women who might otherwise never have met.

We also see women becoming more independent, more confident and more willing to take part in community life. Their progress creates a positive ripple effect, extending into families and the wider community.

Together, these achievements demonstrate that our Life Skills programme is not only about learning English. It is about creating opportunities for women to build confidence, develop relationships and shape their own futures.

Looking Ahead, The Impact beyond the Classroom

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to providing women with opportunities to learn, progress and connect.

We will continue to support students as they develop their English, celebrate their achievements and take the next steps towards further education, volunteering, employment and wider community participation.

Life Skills is not simply to help women learn English, but to help them develop the confidence, relationships and skills they need to build stronger futures for themselves and their families.

Our students are the story of our ESOL programme: learning, progressing, achieving and belonging.



Student Testimonies

Q1. How did you feel about learning English before you started First Steps Women Centre?

- Before the course I had a lot of difficulty communicating, but when I started learning I felt more confident. I was worried and thinking I never will learn English
- When my mother was in hospital it helped me to be able to translate for her.
- I have improved my English in so many ways compared to a few years ago before attending English classes here at the centre.
- I felt really bad because my English was poor but I feel stronger now because I can call the doctor or my child's school.
- I was uncertain, I didn't feel confident in myself, also I didn't have enough practice for speaking in English. I hadn't developed my English skills well before.
- I wasn't as confident as now but I feel I have made progress and I am happy about that.
- I feel learning English is not easy particularly writing and reading and grammar. But, decided to learn because English is an international language

Q2. How did you feel during the programme?

- It makes me feel more comfortable to communicate with English people
- Now I feel more confident, I still have problems with my writing but, I think I have made some improvement.
- I feel more confident in myself and my pronunciation. I don't be afraid now to say my own opinion in English and also, I understand native speakers. I am really appreciative of this opportunity.
- There are different courses I can attend and a lot of them are interesting for me. I have learnt about other countries and cultures as all the attendees are from different countries
- I feel very happy and enthusiastic every time I take part in this course I can understand English more
- I feel great. The people here are friendly. I have learnt a lot here in the centre not only learning English but also how to socialise in the centre.

Q3. Do you like Women's Centre? Do you have childcare or use transport?

- Women's Centre made some of my dream come true, especially with English language. I like the women centre. The venue is spotless.
- The staff are very polite and friendly
- I meet with wonderful women and most important my teacher is a really good woman.
- I like the Women's Centre and I have child at the creche.
- It a really nice centre with a community feeling.
- It is an amazing organisation
- I have childcare here and use the transport from time to time
- It is great I can attend the courses because childcare is here

Q4. What are the strengths of the course? Is it a good course? Is the tutor a good teacher?

- The course is really helpful for me because I learn many things from this place like rules of English and grammar
- I have an excellent teacher. She is always patient and teaches us in different ways to understand more better
- I have many friends from different countries too
- Una is a good teacher and I had Louise before she is a good teacher too.
- It is so interesting and all the people are helpful
- The biggest strength for me is learning grammar
- There is a lot of opportunity for your development and improving your English skills
- This course taught me a lot of practice, grammar tasks, speaking and writing! I appreciate it! The tutor is excellent

Q5. What have you learnt here?

- I have learnt a lot such as how and when to use tenses and verbs in the future, past and present tense and many more
- I learnt how to write, speak, read, spell and new grammar
- I learnt to speak English and to work better with others
- I met new friends from other countries
- Every lesson I hear English and it improves my life in UK
- I feel comfortable and free when I can talk to others
- I like learning English also I have attended courses of yoga, I learn here ESOL level 3, job club

Q6. Did you make new friends? Where they from other countries?

- In this place I met some friends from other countries like Indonesia, Lithuania, Guinea-Bissau
- I have new friends from the same country as me
- Yes, East Timor, Brazil, Portugal most of my friends are from other countries
- Yes, it is a nice place to find new friends
- It is a pleasure for me to talk with them during coffee time

Q7. How do you feel about the end of the course? What will you do next year?

- At end of course, I feel happy and next year I want to continue to study for another English level
- I feel good, next year I will continue my studies
- I want to continue my Entry 3 because I need to learn more and more
- A Little sad. It was a good time. I would like to continue my study in FSWC
- I'm happy that I chose this course. I feel stronger in my English. I would like to attend level 1 if possible
- I feel more and more confident with my English. I would like to continue for the next year and also attend other courses
- Thank you very much! You all help women on their way to become more professional, confident and happy
- I am happy and excited to continue my course here in the same subject or maybe try another course too.
- I will look for a job that makes me grow my business
- I want to study English again next year with my child at the creche and I will continue my English to a higher level



ESOL Class Testimonials

EL1 Testimony Answers

Q1. How did you feel about learning English before you started First Steps Women Centre?

- I wanted to learn English but I thought I would never learn it all.
- English sounded difficult to learn
- I was scared to try and speak English. I felt nervous and shy.
- I was eager to learn so I could speak to more people
- I didn't know the English alphabet
- I felt at the beginning my English was weak/poor
- I didn't have confidence in myself and I was afraid to make mistakes.

Q2. How did you feel during the programme?

- I felt welcome
- Everyone was friendly
- I felt I could try and not to worry about making mistakes
- It really helped and I felt so much better learning English here
- During the learning I felt my self-confidence improving
- I felt supported and confident

Q3. Do you like Women's Centre? Do you have childcare or use transport?

- I love the Women's Centre. It feels like a community.
- I use the creche/childcare and its easier for me to attend the classes as my child goes to childcare while I am in my English classes
- I use the bus/transport every time.
- The people who work here are very sincere and kind. That is why I like coming back to the centre.
- It a very cozy environment with nice staff.



Q4. What are the strengths of the course? Is it a good course? Is the tutor a good teacher?

- The length of class- 2hrs is good
- There is a good variety of speaking, listening, reading and writing
- The teacher is helpful a great teacher because she is very kind and patient and she always takes time to explain things clearly
- The best part is the practice of speaking. It is a very good course because it is practical.
- The tutor is excellent
- The teacher is wonderful, patient and helpful
- The main strength of the course is how clearly the information is explained.

Q5. What have you learnt here?

- I have learnt the English alphabet
- I can have short conversations
- I learnt speaking skills, grammar and vocabulary and reading and writing
- I can ask questions
- I can fill in forms
- I have learnt to have confidence in myself
- I learnt English conversation and practice for writing

Q6. Did you make new friends? Where they from other countries?

- I made new friends from....
- There were students in my class from....
- I met wonderful women in these classes from other countries.
- Yes I have made new friends from different countries They are from Portugal Poland Lithuania and East Timor
- I made new friends in class from my own country.

Q7. How do you feel about the end of the course? What will you do next year?

- I am happy to have completed my course
- I am hoping to continue learning English next year
- I want to go to the next level – EL2
- I want to repeat EL1
- I will have to start work when I finish the course.
- I will be sad that the class is ending
- I want to continue to improve my English and Writing

EL2 A Testimony Answers

Q1. How did you feel about learning English before you started First Steps Women Centre?

- I had difficulty understanding and was afraid of expressing myself incorrectly
- I wasn't confident in my speaking and wanted to improve this
- I feel happy while learning English
- I think English is very important for me to make communication for other people in here
- I was excited, I need to improve my English
- Before coming to FSWC I was really nervous about learning English. I didn't know where to start and I was worried I would be too slow or make too many mistakes
- I felt a bit lost and unsure of myself
- Coming 2 times per day help me much better and thank you so much all the teachers in Women's Centre

Q2. How did you feel during the programme?

- I felt happy and had progress in understanding grammar and I was more confident in speaking
- I feel more confident and motivated and started to understand more. I saw my progress
- I enjoyed doing the programme because I learn a lot from here
- Friendly to learn English so I'm okay
- The teachers were so patient and supportive and I started to understand things better each week
- I made friends with other people in the class and we helped each other learn
- It was a really positive experience
- It help me to study lots and make my head to much understanding. I am here to much progress for myself
- I feel good, because I can learn more about English
- I have new friends and even English is difficult to learn but I thankful for the opportunity

Q3. Do you like Women's Centre? Do you have childcare or use transport?

- Yes, I like the Women's Centre and I have an admiration for all the programme and for all support and opportunities offered to community
- I don't use transport or childcare
- I feel comfortable in Women's Centre
- Yes, I have child in childcare and I use the transport
- Yes, thank you for this opportunity
- I love the Women's Centre. It's such a welcoming and friendly place
- Yes, I use the childcare and it has been a lifesaver. It means I can focus on my studies knowing my child is safe and happy
- Yes I do like Women's Centre because it help to much women in the world to study English

Q4. What are the strengths of the course? Is it a good course? Is the tutor a good teacher?

- The course and the tutor is great
- I consider the time of the courses excellent and very interesting to learn in the room just women
- We had many opportunities to speak, listen, learning new words, writing which helped build real communication skills
- The teachers were also very supportive and explained everything clearly
- The strengths of course are meeting people from another country and have 2 hours to learn English
- For me personally I like the way the teacher teaching us
- The teachers making learning English fun and easy to understand. She is always willing to help and explain things in different ways until we get it
- The English class is too much time like 3 o'clock I think more time
- It is a good course because only women who participate

Q5. What have you learnt here?

- Communication with people from other countries, expressing myself without fear and form correct sentences
- I learnt here a lot of new words and grammar rules
- I learned a lot writing, speaking and reading
- I learn a lot of verbs present tense, past, future and adjectives
- I have learnt so much here. I can now speak English much better and I feel more confident in everyday situations

Q6. Did you make new friends? Where they from other countries?

- Yes, the girls from Timor
- I met a lot of new people from other countries. There was people from East Timor, Brazil, Portugal and Lithuania in my group
- I have more friends in the class. I like them because they are all very friendly
- Ukraine
- Poland

Q7. How do you feel about the end of the course? What will you do next year?

- The end of the course is little sad, but I am happy for the time to learn in the programme. I would like to continue to learn in the next level and maybe searching work
- I'm feeling sad because this course was the place where I could practice my English language
- I need to continue because I want to improve my English
- I want to keep learning
- I feel a sense of accomplishment
- Explore new interests
- I would like to do entry 3 because the course helps me to do work and study good
- I feel good
- Satisfied because here I can learn English to improve my English and I need to continue learn more about English and other course









EL3 Testimony Answers

Q1. How did you feel about learning English before you started First Steps Women Centre?

- Before I started FSWC I feel hard to speak, write, or listen with English language
- Before the course I had a lot of difficulty communicating, but when I started learning I felt more confident.
- I was worried and thinking I never will learn English
- My first feeling was a little scared and nervous and Thank God I got through it all
- When my mother was in hospital it helped me to be able to translate for her
- I have improved my English in so many ways compared to a few years ago before attending English classes here at the centre.
- I felt really bad because my English was poor but I feel stronger now because I can call the doctor or my child's school.
- Before joining FSWC I'm feeling excitement and anticipation to nervousness and apprehension
- I was not really sure what I needed and what I want from this course
- I was uncertain, didn't feel confident in myself, also I didn't have enough practice for English. I didn't develop English skills before.
- I wasn't so confident as now and I feel the progress and I am happy about that
- I didn't have much confidence and I couldn't speak to other people
- I feel learning English is not easy because of writing and different reading and too much grammar. But, decided to learn because English is international language

Q2. How did you feel during the programme?

- I feel excited to attend this programme because with English course I can learn more about rules of English.
- It makes me feel more comfortable to communicate with English people
- I am progressing
- Now I feel more confident, I still have problems with my writing but, I think I have made some improvement
- I feel happy because I like the programme
- Good programme for understanding
- More trust in myself
- I feel more confident in myself and my pronunciation. I don't be afraid now to say my own opinion in English and also I more understand natives speakers. I am really appreciative of this opportunity
- I feel okay, sometimes it was too easy for me, but in most cases the programme is good enough
- There are different courses I can attend and a lot of them are interesting for me
- I feel very happy and enthusiastic every time I take part in this course I can understand English more
- I feel great. The people here are friendly. I have learnt a lot here in the centre not only learning English but also how to socialise in the centre.
- I have learnt about other countries and cultures as all the attendees are from different countries

Q3. Do you like Women's Centre? Do you have childcare or use transport?

- Yes, cause Women's Centre make some of my dream come true, especially with English language
- I like the women centre. The venue is spotless
- ·The staff are very polite and friendly
- I don't have childcare or use transport
- I meet with wonderful women and most important my teacher is a really good woman.
- Yes, I do like Women's Centre and I have child at the creche, but I don't use transport
- Really nice community
- Yes, I do! It is amazing organisation
- I have childcare here and use transport time to time
- It is a great possibility for me to attend the courses because childcare is here



Q4. What are the strengths of the course? Is it a good course? Is the tutor a good teacher?

- The course is really helpful for me because I learn many things from this place like rules of English
- Lucky me I have an excellent teacher that always has patience to teach us in different ways to understand more better
- Practice and communication
- For me, the strengths of this course are that when we do some work this helps us more
- I have many friends and from different countries too
- Yes it is a good course and miss Una is a good teacher
- It is so interesting and all the people are helpful
- It is good and helpful course
- The biggest strength for me is grammar
- Una is the best teacher. There is a lot of opportunity for your development and improving your English skills
- Has taught me a lot of practice, grammar tasks, speaking and writing! I appreciate it! The tutor is excellent

Q5. What have you learnt here?

- I have learnt a lot such as how and when to use tenses and verbs in the future, past and present tense and many more
- I learnt how to write, speak, read, spell and new grammar
- I learnt to speak English and to work better with others
- I met new friends from other countries
- Every lesson I hear English and it improves my life in UK
- I feel comfortable and free when I can talk to others
- I like learning English and also I have attended courses of yoga, I learn here ESOL level 3, job club

Q6. Did you make new friends? Where they from other countries?

- In this place I met some friends from other countries like Indonesia, Lithuania, Guinea-Bissau
- I have new friends from the same country as me
- Yes, East Timor, Brazil, Portugal most of my friends are from other countries
- Yes, it is a nice place to find new friends
- It is a pleasure for me to talk with them during a coffee time

Q7. How do you feel about the end of the course? What will you do next year?

- At end of course, I feel happy and next year I want to continue to study for another English level
- I feel good, next year I will continue my studies
- I want to continue my Entry 3 because I need to learn more and more
- A Little sad. It was a good time. I wish to continue study in FSWC
- I'm happy that I chose this course but Im still not sure about next year
- I feel more stronger in my English. I don't know yet about next year
- I would like to attend level 1 if possible
- I feel more and more confident with my English. I would like to continue for the next year and also attend other courses
- Thank you very much! You all make a big deal to help women on their way to become more professional, confident and happy
- I am happy and excited to continue my course here in the same subject or maybe try another course too.
- I will look for a job that makes me grow my business
- I want to study English again next year with my child at the creche and I will continue my English to a higher level

Rural Economic Accelerator Programme

Empowering Women Towards Employment

The Rural Economic Accelerator Programme (REAP), funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, continued to support economically inactive women across Mid Ulster by helping them overcome barriers, develop confidence, gain new qualifications and move towards education, training and employment.

Throughout 2025–26, REAP combined accredited training, personalised one-to-one mentoring, employer engagement and practical employability support.

Women were encouraged to progress at their own pace, recognising that sustainable employment often begins with building confidence, improving wellbeing and developing transferable skills.

By the end of Mar 2026, **74 women** had enrolled on the programme, with new participants continuing to join throughout the year despite uncertainty surrounding future funding.

A Whole-Centre Approach

REAP forms part of FSWC's wider support model, recognising that women often need more than employability training alone.

Participants were encouraged to access:

- Wellbeing programmes
- ESOL and Improve Your English classes
- In-house counselling
- Childcare
- Transport

During October alone:

- 18 participants attended wellbeing courses.
- Around 23–25 women attended ESOL or Improve Your English classes.
- Women were referred into counselling where appropriate.

This integrated approach ensures that barriers such as confidence, language, childcare, mental health and social isolation can be addressed alongside employability.



Minister for Employment, Caoimhe Archibald, MLA, addresses First Steps Women's Centre during a visit in Feb 2026

Building Skills and Confidence

During the year, participants accessed a wide range of personal development, employability and accredited training, including:

- Step Into Your Power
- Mindset Matters
- Job Club
- CV Building and Interview Skills
- Introduction to Canva
- Refresher IT
- First Aid
- Paediatric First Aid
- SEN Awareness
- Level 2 Award in Counselling
- Level 2 Mindfulness for Children
-

Many courses quickly reached capacity and received excellent feedback.

The Refresher IT programme proved particularly popular, with women requesting additional sessions to allow more time practising Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Participants commented positively on the tutor's patience and requested that future courses be extended from three to six weeks.

Throughout the year, practical qualifications also remained popular. Women completed First Aid, Paediatric First Aid and Mental Health First Aid courses, equipping them with recognised skills that strengthen future employment opportunities.

Personalised Employability Support

Alongside group learning, every participant had access to personalised mentoring.

Support included:

- Personal Development Planning
- CV preparation
- Job applications
- Interview preparation
- Career planning
- Confidence coaching
- Signposting to training and funding opportunities

During February and March alone, staff delivered 13 individual support sessions, covering employment advice, housing difficulties, family crises and mental health concerns.

Recognising that employment barriers are often complex, six women also accessed one-to-one counselling to help address personal issues affecting their confidence and progression into work.

Connecting Women with Employers

One of the year's highlights was the REAP Employment Event, held on 18 February 2026. Approximately 30 employers attended alongside participants, staff and partner organisations.

Women heard directly from employers, listened to inspiring participant stories and explored local employment opportunities within a supportive environment. The event strengthened relationships with employers while helping women gain confidence in engaging with potential recruiters.

Throughout the year, the programme also developed relationships with local employers and education providers through visits, networking events and partnership working.

Highlights included:

- Employer and employee surveys
- Invest NI UKSPF networking
- Visit to Northern Hydraulics
- Collaboration with South West College
- Liaison with recruitment agencies regarding future employment opportunities.

Celebrating Success

The programme concluded with the Step Into Your Colours celebration event in March.
Thirteen women attended the workshop, which explored how colour, confidence and personal presentation can positively influence interviews and future employment opportunities.

Participants described the session as empowering and reflective, with many requesting copies of the workshop materials afterwards.

The event provided an opportunity to celebrate participants' achievements while recognising the confidence, resilience and personal growth that had taken place throughout the year.

Looking Forward

Although uncertainty remained regarding future funding arrangements, REAP ended the year having supported dozens of women to develop new skills, gain qualifications, strengthen confidence and move closer to employment.

For many participants, success was measured not only by securing a job but by taking meaningful first steps—attending training, updating a CV, improving digital skills, completing qualifications, building resilience or believing in their own potential once again.

Accounts Report

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31 March 2026

	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
Fixed Assests	**£266,645**	**£292,340**
Current Assets		
Grant Income Receivable	£90,953	£84,379
Prepayments	£2,910	£2,910
Bank	£442,246	£437,507
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**£536,109**	**£524,796**
Current Liabilities	£9,544	£6,367
New Current Assets (CA_CL)	£526,564	£518,429
Net Assets	£793,209	£810,769
Represented By		
Restricted Funds	£397,654	£448,830
Designated Funds	£150,000	£150,000
Unrestricted Funds	£245,556	£211,939
TOTAL	**£793,209**	**£810,769**

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 4 November 2026 and signed on its behalf:

Nicola Quinn
Chairperson

Company Number: NI066869

Income from Charitable Activities

	12 Months Ending	Unrestricted	Restricted	12 Months Ending
Grant Income	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2025**
Department for Communities - CIF	£68,355	-	£68,355	£62,710
Department for Communities - WCCF	£43,312	-	£43,312	£39,727
Mid Ulster District Council -Strategic Community Development Grant	£5,700	-	£5,700	£6,000
The Pathway Fund	£37,333	-	£37,333	£16,500
TEO (MEDF)	£41,224	-	£41,224	£41,223
Garfield Weston Foundation	£30,000	-	£30,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)	-	-	-	£2,310
Mid Ulster District Council - Community Development	-	-	-	£200
Radius Housing	-	-	-	£12,178
Choice Housing	£1,500	-	£1,500	£10,211
Big Lottery - VERA'S Project	£95,141	-	£95,141	£98,822
Dungannon Credit Union	-	-	-	£875
WRAP - Accounts Receivables	-	-	-	£1,230
Big Lottery - Heritage Fund	-	-	-	£115,521
Esme Mitchell Grant	-	-	-	£1,000
Victoria Holmes Trust	-	-	-	£2,650
HSE	-	-	-	£1,000
UKPF - Levelling Up - REAP Project	£136,000	-	£136,000	£168,592
The Openwork Foundation	£15,000	-	£15,000	-
DUNBIA UK	£350	-	£350	-
PEACEPLUS - Programme Minority Communities Project	£61,158	-	£61,158	-
Greiner Packaging Ltd	£1,000	-	£1,000	-
Apex/Choice	£13,143	-	£13,143	-
Awards for All 26/28	£20,000	-	£20,000	-
Funding EAD Clawback (23/24)	-	-	-	£269
TOTAL	**£569,217**	**-**	**£569,217**	**£580,481**

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	12 Months Ending	Unrestricted	Restricted	12 Months Ending
Expenditure on charitable activities:	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2025**
Wages and salaries	£312,416	-	£312,416	£242,855
Employers Pension	£5,324	-	£5,324	£2,984
Staff Life Insurance	£1,776	-	£1,776	£1,845
Staff T&S /Expenses	£6,419	-	£6,419	£2,272
Staff training and recruitment	-	-	-	£2,408
Facilitation & Events	£9,727	-	£9,727	£1,362
Tutor Costs and Exam Fees	£60,981	-	£60,981	£67,832
Participant Travel	£1,348	-	£1,348	£1,465
Participant Training & Course Materials	£700	-	£700	£736
Volunteer Expenses	£922	-	£922	£1,742
Room Hire	£2,300	-	£2,300	-
Rent and Rates	£16,350	-	£16,350	£16,278
Light and heat	£7,327	-	£7,327	£5,256
Telephone	£3,859	-	£3,859	£3,016
Printing, postage and stationery	£3,235	-	£3,235	£3,102
IT support	£4,562	-	£4,562	£4,364
Motor expenses	£804	-	£804	£1,140
Repairs and maintenance	£6,794	-	£6,794	£7,765
Insurance	£6,805	-	£6,805	£3,934
Small Equipment Purchase	£3,599	-	£3,599	£1,796
Creche Equipment	£2,090	-	£2,090	£1,820
Professional Fees	£23,951	-	£23,951	-
Subscriptions	£720	-	£720	-
Health and Safety	£35	-	£35	£120
Donations to other Charities	£344	-	£344	-

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	12 Months Ending	Unrestricted	Restricted	12 Months Ending
Expenditure on charitable activities:	**31/03/2025**	**31/03/2025**	**31/03/2025**	**31/03/2024**
Emergency Assistance	£729	-	£729	£562
Advertising	£5,155	-	£5,155	£7,920
Participant comfort expenses	£1,496	-	£1,496	£2,003
Counselling	£3,720	-	£3,720	£3,010
Evaluation Fee	£4,120	-	£4,120	£1,971
General Expenses	£1,742	-	£1,742	£1,107
Depreciation of tangible assets	£25,695	-	£25,695	£27,333
Support Costs - Note 7	£75,229	-	£75,229	£64,856
TOTAL	**£600,273**	**-**	**£600,273**	**£482,853**

Restricted Expenditure on charitable activities for 2026 £600,273 (2025 £482,853).

Funders 2025-2026

UK Government

Rural Economic Accelerator Programme

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn Pobal

Männystrie o Communities

The Executive Office
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

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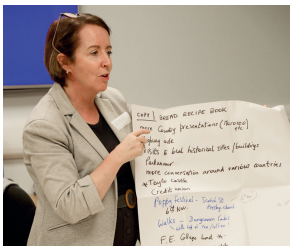






































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