



Summer 2017



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Our Values shape how we act as individuals, in teams and as a group.



We believe in **Respect**

We believe in treating everyone we come into contact with as an individual, with due regard for their feelings and wishes. We listen to and value everyone's contribution and are non-judgemental.



We believe in **Empowering**

We believe in developing and encouraging each person that we work with, including our staff and volunteers, to achieve their full potential creating a lasting social impact.



We believe in **Collaboration**

We believe in teamwork, building partnerships and sharing our knowledge to *build better futures* for the people we work with and for one another.



We believe in **Innovation**

We believe in challenging the status quo and shining a light on emerging social issues. We are committed to finding new or improved ways of working, resulting in greater social impact.



We believe in **Excellence**

We believe in delivering high-quality professional services that are person-centred.

We believe in *Building Better Futures* through our Values.

Message from John McMullan – CEO

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about what is currently happening across Bryson and our plans going forward.

I had the great pleasure recently of meeting many of you at our staff celebration event at Belfast Castle in June. It was a wonderful event and allowed an opportunity for staff and volunteers to take time out of their busy day and reconnect with colleagues from across Bryson.

The celebration event is a key date in the calendar to recognise staff for long service, plus learning and development achievements. For me this type of event is vitally important and demonstrates the values that have shaped Bryson over the last 111 years – **Respect, Empowering, Collaboration, Innovation and Excellence.**

Many congratulations to all staff who received awards on the day and I'd like to again say a big thank you for your commitment to delivering real social value to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

As I have said in previous communications we are still experiencing many challenges and facing difficult business decisions; not least the fact that we have no N. Ireland Executive, current uncertainty around Brexit and continued pressure on Government budgets, while the need for our services continues to grow. However, it is through your continued hard work and dedication we have had some fantastic achievements in the last few months, not only in securing new business but in helping people change their lives and creating social value.

You can read more throughout this magazine and feel proud of your achievements.

Some recent examples include:

- £2 million contract awarded to Bryson FutureSkills for work in North Belfast with support from Bryson Energy and Groundwork NI.
- New contract awarded to Bryson Recycling in Wales with a new model of civic amenity sites with reuse sales outlets.
- Roll out of domiciliary care services in Limavady and Derry City with lots of new staff joining the team in Bryson Care. A big welcome to you all.
- Reading about the journey made by the Syrian family from Aleppo, who have settled in Armagh made me think about the importance of the work we do at Bryson and on this occasion the staff in Bryson Intercultural. The family talked about how they had to leave everything behind – their home (now bombed out), their jobs/careers, all their possessions and most important; their wider family. To read the full story go to <http://www.brysongroup.org/news/from-aleppo-to-armagh-one-syrian-family-story>
- Big milestone of over 5 million litres of home heating oil purchased by the work of Bryson Energy in partnership with NIHE through the Oil Buying Clubs. Fantastic result in tackling fuel poverty.
- Launch of the Bryson LaganSports adventure summer schemes targeting 8 to 15 year olds (see page 27 for more information).

We are recruiting - please spread the word we are looking for people to work at Bryson in a number of areas from HGV drivers at Bryson Recycling to Support Workers for Bryson One2One to Domiciliary Care staff in the Western region. To find out more go onto our website at www.brysongroup.org/careers-volunteering/current-job-opportunities/

We need your feedback – to do this we plan to carry out the next staff survey between August and September of this year. Your feedback is vitally important, so that we find out as a Group what we are good at and the areas where we need to improve. Do make sure you get your voice heard and complete the survey when you receive it.

I hope you enjoy reading the ARC magazine which showcases the work you are delivering in building better futures for our service users, staff and volunteers.

I would like to close my remarks by thanking each of you; our volunteers, board members and staff for your continued hard work and effort you make, which has such an impact on those who rely on our support.

Don't forget to enter the competitions in this magazine (see page 16 and 17 for more details).

If you want to get in touch with me please email jmcmullan@brysongroup.org or if you are in Bryson House call in and say hello. Follow me on twitter @BrysonCEO or keep up to date via our website with links to social media and youtube www.brysongroup.org



Follow John on twitter
@BrysonCEO

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Managed and operated by Bryson Energy.
Supported by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

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COVER STORY

Caught on camera at Belfast Castle celebration event.

L to R – Staff from Bryson Care Uel McCrea, Patricia Mulholland, Susan Taylor and Terry Whiteside enjoying the staff get together.



Time to Celebrate Bryson Long Service Awards Read more page 6-9



Win a lunch for you and 3 work colleagues in our photo competition see page 17



Bryson LaganSports at the Maritime Festival -Page 27

In this edition

Hope you enjoy reading the summer edition of ARC and finding out about what is happening across the Bryson Group from Donegal to Belfast.

Don't forget send us your stories and feedback for future ARC magazines. As you know we rely on you and your Group Company to supply us with all the news and pictures featured in the ARC magazine.

We love to get your feedback as we are always striving to improve so please continue to send any stories, articles, ideas or views to arc@brysongroup.org

To find out more about what is happening across Bryson check out our website www.brysongroup.org

Charitable Donations at Bryson Recycling - Page 24



www.brysongroup.org



Bryson Staff Long Service Awards Ceremony - Time to Celebrate . . .

Staff from across Bryson came together to enjoy lunch and the beautiful surroundings of Belfast Castle on Tuesday 6th June. The celebration was to recognise staff for their Learning and Development achievements over the last year and also to recognise staff for their long service.

Chair of the Bryson Group, Hugh Crossey, welcomed all staff and spoke about the two important factors that have helped Bryson deal with the challenging times in the wider sector and economy.

"At Bryson I believe the two most important factors that have allowed us to weather the current economic storm in these challenging times is having experienced and committed staff and our focus on continuous learning and development of you, our staff. It keeps us current and relevant, allowing for flexibility and adaptability. Over the last year we received the Investor in People Gold Award and recommending us for this award the Assessor said,

Learning and development continues to be a key strategic issue for the organisation, with regular development activity ensuring knowledge, skills capacity is current and relevant. People's willingness to address change issues, problems and find solutions, reflects the characteristics of a well-developed, committed and focused workforce."

Almost half of the staff members from across Bryson have been with the organisation 5 years plus and a quarter of staff have been with the group between 10 and 34 years. While not everyone could make it to the event, this year 54 staff have been recognised for long service and 23 staff for Learning and Development awards including ILM Level 4 – Certificate in Leadership and Management, Building Future Leaders – ILM Level 5 in Leadership and Management and Post Graduate Diploma In Human Resources Management.

Hugh, thanked all the staff from across Bryson for their dedication to the very important work that Bryson undertakes.

"Having experienced and well trained staff is key to the success of our organisation. Bryson has been around for over 111 years because we change and adapt to the needs of society and we can only do that because of our staff."



20 year long service award
Top L to R - John McMullan Bryson CEO with Nigel Brady Director of Bryson Energy receiving his 20 year certificate and gift of Galway Crystal wine glasses and vase



John McMullan Bryson CEO with Paul O'Kane Maintenance Manager Bryson Group receiving his 20 year certificate and gift of Galway Crystal red and white wine glasses



10 year long service awards L to R - John McMullan CEO Bryson Group with Susan Taylor and Patricia Mullholland from Bryson Care One2One receiving their 10 year certificate and gift.



15 year long service awards
L to R - John McMullan CEO Bryson Group, John Curran Bryson Corporate Services, Katie Pilkington Bryson Energy, and Diane Gilliland Bryson Care receiving their 15 year certificate and gift.



5 year long service awards L to R - John McMullan CEO Bryson Group with Shauneen Killyleagh Bryson Corporate Services, Deborah Chapman and Raisa McLarnon from Bryson Children's Services, Sebastine Aluko- James Bryson Intercultural and Ciara Laverty from Bryson Care Children's Services all receiving their 5 year certificates

Staff who could not attend the Celebration Event:

Bryson Care

(5 years service) - Anna Patricia Barber, Alyzon McVeigh, Caroline Gillespie, Nina Torney, Tammie Braiden, Neil Bradley, Nicola Lynch, Anika Dunn and Laurian Doherty.
(10 years service) - Liz Logan, Nadine Fannon, Sarah Ferguson, Lesley Bell, Elaine McSparron, Cathy Harkin, Mary Carlin, Louise White, Carol Irwin and William Olphert.

Bryson Group – Corporate Services

Thomas McKee (5 years service).

Bryson Energy

Jacqueline Murray and Elaine Brownlee (10 years service).

Bryson FutureSkills

Christopher McCready (5 years service), Noelle McElroy (10 years service) and Adele O'Loan (15 years service).

Bryson Recycling

(5 years service) - Fergal McGorman, Shane Clerkin and Ayesha Shanmugham.
(10 years service) - Kenneth Ewing, William Megarry, John Smith, Pawel Skwiercz, John Wallace, Gary Hanna, Marcin Jopek, Gareth Townsley, Bogdan Kuzanski, Clayton Redpath, Andrew Clarke and Gordon Gault.



Lesley Anne Hanna who was not able to attend the celebration event received her 20 year certificate and gift of cutlery.

Bryson Staff Learning and Development Awards

This course was designed by Queens University Belfast and Bryson for our staff and all achieved ILM Level 5 in Leadership and Management.

Many congratulations to all staff who completed courses throughout the year.



Clayton Redpath receiving his Building Future Leaders ILM Level 5 certificate in management from Jim Sinclair.



Amanda Lloyd receiving her Building Future Leaders ILM Level 5 certificate in management from John McMullan.



Bryan McGahan receiving his Building Future Leaders ILM Level 5 certificate in management from John McMullan.



Ayesha Shanmughan receiving her Building Future Leaders ILM Level 5 certificate in management from Jim Sinclair.



Jaroslaw Stanislawek receiving his Building Future Leaders ILM Level 5 certificate in management from John McMullan.



Jenny England from Bryson Corporate Services who received her Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management



Danielle Crockford from Bryson Recycling receiving her certificate of Technical Competence



Staff receiving their ILM Level 4 – Certificate in Leadership & Management. L-R Dayna McCreddie, Bryson Energy; Helen Brown, Bryson Care; Declan Reynolds, Bryson Recycling; Danielle Crockford, Bryson Recycling; Tracey Gillespie, Bryson Care; James Brown, Bryson Recycling.



Kathryn Pilkington from Bryson Energy who received her certificate in Prince 2 Foundation

The following staff all worked hard to achieve their certificates but were not able to join us on the celebration day.

- ILM Level 4 Certificate in Leadership and Management – Colin Bell, Rachel Brady, Lynsey Freeburn, Fergal McGorman, Simon Sinclair and Gareth Townsley.

- Building Future Leaders course – Steven Kelly.
- CRS Health and Safety Refresher – Vincent Quinn.
- City & Guilds Level 3 Award Energy Awareness – Mary McGlade.

16/17 Year Old School Leavers

open day

Friday 25th of August 2017

10.00am – 6.00pm

For further details please call 02890745408 or text 07786206696



Train for Success in:

- **Bricklaying**
- **Business Administration**
- **Catering**
- **Childcare**
- **Hairdressing**
- **IT**
- **Joinery**
- **Playwork**
- **Retail**



Follow us on **Facebook** or catch up with us @ www.brysonfutureskills.org

Bryson Marathon Relay Team Delivers



Bryson FutureSkills joined 15,000 other runners in Belfast on the 1st May to take part in the Belfast City Marathon. We want to congratulate them for taking part and raising £650 for their chosen charity, Cancer Lifeline. A big well done to all involved.

Staff members who took part in relay were Eamon Clarke, Kevin McNally, Michelle McConnell, Shauna McGrath and trainee Robbie Gould. The representatives who volunteer for Cancer Lifeline are Gloria Mathews and Brieger Petticrew.

Bryson FutureSkills staff support orphans in Mushviq Orphanage Centre in Azerbaijan

Article submitted by Richard Henderson,
Senior Manager at Bryson FutureSkills.

As a lifelong Northern Ireland fan and recognised by the Irish Football Association as one of the top 100 supporters, I recently had the opportunity to go to Azerbaijan to watch the Northern Ireland football team play a qualifying game for the world cup in 2018. We won, which was a great result, but as a member of the Amalgamation of Northern Ireland Supporters Club we along with the other home football nations have developed a resource network that shares information. Through this network the British Embassy approached us and asked could we contribute to a worthy cause in Azerbaijan supporting disabled orphans in Baku. In Azerbaijan, disabled and those children with mental health issues are largely disowned and any centres set up to look after these disadvantaged children are maintained by donations.

I asked staff at Bryson FutureSkills would they like to contribute to this worthy cause and the response was overwhelming. I was given a vast range of soft toys, dolls, Lego kits, Disney character outfits, playsuits, colouring books, interactive musical toys, stimulating playsets and of course kids sports kits which I took with me on the trip.

The photograph shows 2 orphans 'modelling' a NI Football Kit and, to keep in the spirit of things, an O'Donovan Rossa GAA kit both donated by FutureSkills staff. A big thank you goes to all the staff for rising to this challenge and I can testify that the contributions will have a lasting legacy within that orphanage and had an emotional impact upon the volunteers who manage the Mushviq Centre.



Financial and pension advice Ltd from Aspect Financial



Image courtesy: Pixabay.com

As the Government have just recently announced an increase in the age of retirement we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the help and advice available from Aspects Financial Ltd.

Article provided by Stephen Casey, MD from Aspects Financial Ltd

As independent Financial Advisers, we constantly review the market to identify who we believe have the most robust solution for you and your colleagues at Bryson in terms of your retirement savings.

We look at track record, financial pedigree, investment performance, financial strength, service, costs, and technology proposition amongst other things. The result of these findings is that of all the providers available, we believe Scottish Widows presents the best solution.

All Bryson employees have access to, and many have joined the Scottish Widows Group Personal Pension Plan. Scottish Widows has been helping people plan their financial futures for over 200 years. Through two World Wars and into the era of global mass communication, they have grown and developed their business to help our customers plan their long-term financial futures.

We at Aspects Financial Ltd are at hand to answer any queries you may have, not just in the area of retirement savings, but also in respect of your other savings or protection needs.

Feel free to contact us on 028 9131 0342 or e-mail info@aspectsfinancial.com www.aspectsfinancial.com/

For independent advice from the Government please check <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/getting-information-and-help-pensions>

Bryson FutureSkills - Bridging the gap to employment

Bryson FutureSkills is supporting young people to find fulfilling jobs and careers through the Young Persons Employment Initiative. This initiative is designed to help reduce or remove barriers to employment, education and training. It involves linking young people (18 to 24 year olds) with employers for a ten week employability programme.

In early June, seven young people started the programme with Belfast City Council. The programme includes a number of different elements including work placements, mentoring, use of job search facilities and employability training.

They all attended a workshop with their Employment Officer to apply for live vacancies with Belfast City Council and some availed of one to one support. The majority of participants progressed on to short listing and interview stages for a Assistant Community Centre Supervisor position and received further guidance to prepare for interview. They are now awaiting feedback on their interviews.

All participants have received positive feedback from their placement supervisors in Belfast City Council and are having a positive experience.

'I have learnt the different types of plants and how to plant them. I have used the leaf blower to clean up areas in my placement and find it all interesting. I feel like I will learn a lot more from this programme. So far I am really enjoying it and enjoying how well everything is going' – Paul Craig, YPEI Participant, Ormeau Park, Gardening Placement.'



'Chris has excellent computer/IT skills and has very quickly and accurately completed a number of IT related tasks. He picked up the HR system very quickly and completed the work accurately. He is very hard working and gets stuck in as soon as he arrives. His pace of work is very impressive and he is not afraid to ask questions or ask for more work' – HR Supervisor, Belfast City Council.

To find out more about the initiative please contact Eamon Clarke at Bryson FutureSkills on (028) 90 745 408

Lagan Dragons Regatta

On June 3rd 2017 Bryson LaganSports supported Lagan Dragons, Northern Ireland's only breast cancer survivor dragon boat team in hosting their first ever Belfast Dragonboat Regatta at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

Hundreds of competitors battled it out along the picturesque River Lagan racing in the shadow of Samson and Goliath the Harland and Wolff shipyard cranes next to the Waterfront Hall. Dragonboat teams were cheered on by enthusiastic family, friends and spectators.



UTV were in attendance and captured footage which was aired on Pamela Ballantine's UTV Life programme, the Q Radio street team were handing out goodies, there were crafts and balloons for the kids and the Waterfront provided delicious refreshments for everyone in attendance.

Corporate, Fancy Dress and Breast Cancer survivor dragonboat teams all paddled against each other ensuring the event was very well attended and supported by all corners of the community.

Bryson LaganSports ran the waterside activities like clockwork, adhering precisely to the event timetable providing an excellent and professional service which did not go unnoticed by participants.

Belfast's Lord Major Nuala McAllister presented the winning dragon boat teams with their trophies and spoke eloquently about the importance of exercise following breast cancer treatment.

Social media was overflowing with positive comments and praise for the event with competitors and spectators posting photographs and videos describing how much they enjoyed the spectacular day of family fun, laughter and impressive dragonboat racing!

<http://www.itv.com/utvprogrammes/utv-life/utv-life-episode-63>



Bryson Staff **Celebration** Event at Belfast Castle - June 2017



Freddie Recognised for his 15 Years of Volunteering at Bryson

During Volunteer week we took the opportunity to recognise Freddie, who has volunteered with Bryson for 15 years.

Freddie is so much part of the life of Bryson and is very well known not only in Bryson House but throughout the organisation. Freddie is part of the maintenance team and is based at Bryson House – always helping and supporting staff in many day to day tasks including caretaker duties, maintenance, recycling and painting to name but a few of the tasks and support that he provides.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Freddie for all his hard work and dedication to Bryson over the years. We hope you enjoy your gift and it brings your favourite team lots of luck.



Meet Bryson bee



Treasure Magnets
made with love, gems & bottle caps!

BOTTLE TOP TREASURES

This issue we Transform bottle caps into treasure magnets! Safety first! Ask an adult to help with the hot glue and gun!

All you need is:

- Washed caps
- Glue gun (adult supervision needed here!)
- Little bits and bobs such as beads, tiny pieces of lego, gemstones etc.
- Small magnets to stick on the back.

1. Add a little hot glue into the cap and carefully drop in your choice of filling and let this set.
2. Glue the magnet to the reverse flat side.
3. You can put these on your fridge, or if you like, you can use a magnetic board or make a magnetic shape.

More ideas at www.hattifant.com

Well Done Abby!

Terry Whiteside from Bryson Care One2One entered the competition in the last ARC magazine and we were thrilled to receive this lovely photo of Abby with her Eco Toy.

Abby was delighted and her little fairy has moved into her doll's house.

The prize for this issue's competition is a £5 book token from Easons.

All you have to do is tell us the five Bryson values.

Send your entries by email to info@brysongroup.org before Friday 25th August 2017.



Bryson Bee says -
Send us photos of your projects & any ideas you'd like to share with other readers.

Joanna's new wheels

Ring the changes bike competition winner



Joanna Morrow, who works for Bryson LaganSports was delighted to receive her new bicycle from East Belfast Mission.

Joanna won the bicycle through taking part in the competition in the Bryson staff magazine in April.

This bicycle has been given a second chance through the East Belfast Mission reuse centre. They take donated bicycles and carry out over 30 safety checks and where, necessary, parts are replaced or repaired.

Joanna is keen to get on her new wheels with her three children and husband and also to cycle along the River Lagan.

We wish her many hours of happy cycling and a big thank you to the two Michael's from East Belfast Mission who kindly delivered the bicycle.



COMPETITION TIME

Bryson through the lens
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION 2017

For our competition we want you to share a photo that captures something that makes you smile during your working day at Bryson.

It could be your journey to or from work, it could be the view from your window, it could be chatting with a colleague over coffee, your teacup, . . . whatever you want – let your imagination take over.

If you do take a photo that includes work colleagues please get their permission. Please avoid taking photos of clients as you would need written permission.

Our competition is open to all staff and volunteers and you don't need to be a professional photographer, simply use your smartphone.

Please send the image or images as a jpeg (at least 300 dpi) and email it to arc@brysongroup.org by Friday 25th August with your name, Group Company and contact details.



If you wish please include a short caption for the photo(s).

The winning photo along with a selection of the photos will be shared in the next ARC, on the Bryson website and social media.

The prize will be lunch for you and up to 3 of your work colleagues to the value of £10 each.

To read more about top tips on taking photographs go to <http://www.betterphoto.com/exploring/tips.asp>

Happy snapping:)



Call us today on
028 9034 7731
to find out
how we can help you.



Just out of hospital, and need some help around the house while you get back on your feet?

Are you struggling to cope with the constant demands of work, life and family and need some time for yourself?

Perhaps you are elderly or alone and need assistance around the house, but don't know who to ask?

If the answer is yes make that call today to Bryson and take your first steps into new found freedom.

Ellie from Bangor made the call, she said,

"One2One removes lots of stress and pressure - 10 out of 10 for service".

This is just one of the people we are helping and supporting in your area today.

We are highly trained, discrete, professional, dependable, and friendly team and there when you need us.

We are urgently looking for Support Workers to join our rapidly growing team.

As a Bryson One2One Support Worker we are offering you flexible hours, full training, holiday pay and you will make a real difference to people's lives every day (we do not undertake any personal care) but more importantly companionship.

**If you want to use our service or work for us
please call Bryson One2One - supporting you with care
028 9034 7731 • one2one@brysongroup.org**

Family Support Book Sale



Anne Calder at the book sale table in Bryson House.

Anne Calder, Bryson Care Children & Young People's Service, has been running a book sale since Christmas 2006.

She started it with the aim of raising some additional funds to help give the vulnerable families that Children & Young People's Services work with, some extra support in times of need.

Anne explained, "Over the years the money has been used to help families buy various items including school uniforms, baby equipment, household essentials and outdoor toys. In addition we have been able to send families on outings to Belfast Zoo. The book sale has been well supported by staff and friends donating and buying books. We have raised almost £800 over the time and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support in both donating and buying books."

**For anyone unfamiliar with the process – here's how it works
Buying Books (£1 each):**

Call into the tea room in Bryson House (2nd floor) and you find a wide range of second hand books in excellent condition and at a fraction of the retail price – all books are just £1 each. Just choose your book, write your details on the form provided and leave your money with Anne Calder or with any of the staff in the Children & Young People's Service office on the 2nd floor of Bryson House.

Donating Books

If you have any books that you no longer need just leave them in the tea room or with Anne on the 2nd floor in Bryson House. So if you need to do a clear out or require some holiday reading it couldn't be simpler.

Sure Start with Bryson

Bryson Care Children's Services manage two Sure Start services in Lisburn and Bangor. Sure Start is a UK Government area-based initiative with the aim of "giving children from 0 to 4 years old the best possible start in life" through improvement of childcare, early education, health and family support, with an emphasis on outreach and community development.

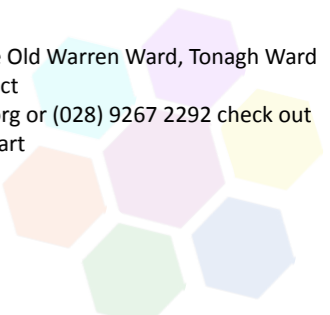
Our Sure Start offers free services both in the home and community and includes

- Antenatal and postnatal programmes,
- Play development programmes,
- Speech and language support,
- Home visiting and physical activity and healthy eating programmes



The areas covered in Bangor include Whitehill, Dufferin, Bangor Harbour, and Conlig (which includes Rathgill and Kilcooley). To find out more contact bangor@brysonsurestart.org (028) 9145 7248 www.facebook.com/bangorsurestart

The areas covered in Lisburn include Old Warren Ward, Tonagh Ward and Hillhall. To find out more contact lisburnreception@brysonsurestart.org or (028) 9267 2292 check out our facebook page @ lisburn sure start



Volunteer Update



Volunteers' Week is a special time of year, giving us extra reason to recognise and celebrate volunteering.

To celebrate volunteer week we hosted lunch in Bryson House on Monday 5th June,

To read more about the event and see photos click the link below

<http://www.brysongroup.org/news/celebration-lunch-for-volunteers-at-bryson-group>

Bryson has had a long history in volunteering and many of the projects that started in Bryson in the early days needed volunteers to make them happen.

The main areas of volunteering in Bryson today involve our European Volunteers and our many Board Members for each Group Company.

Over the last 20 years we have supported over 300 young people to be involved in the EVS programme, either by facilitating hosting placements in and around Belfast or by sending young people from Northern Ireland to other countries. This year we have 17 volunteers from 9 countries including Finland, Hungary, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Czech and Poland. They are volunteering in a range of organisations including Bryson, Ulster Wildlife, Women's Aid, Now Group and Crescent Arts Centre.

My name is Eliza . . .

I am 20 years old. I have been a European Voluntary Service volunteer for 10 months in Bangor. I originally come from Riga, which is the capital of Latvia. I decided to do EVS for my gap year and now I can say that it was a great decision.

I have been working with kids at North Down YMCA from 6 weeks to 17 years of age. Being a youth worker, nanny and many other things in one person has taught me a lot. I have improved my English, travelled a lot across Ireland and UK and did things I have always wanted –photography course in the local college, started to learn how to play guitar, tried surfing, celebrated St. Patrick's day in Dublin, made international foods, went to great concerts (The Lumineers, The Passenger, Lukas Graham and Mumford & Sons).

In my project I have a weekly schedule: I work with babies and toddlers for 2 hours in the morning, help with the after school club where we collect the children and go to the park, help with homework and have fun. In the evenings, I work in a local youth club. It has been great fun and I will definitely miss the kids.

EVS is a good opportunity to learn new skills, gain work experience, meet new people, think about things you want to do and do them.

European Voluntary Service

Bryson EVS is gearing up for the busy summer period when we're looking forward to welcoming Lucille, Eva, Esther, Zdeňka, Marta, Natalie, Anett and Lisa.

Recruitment is underway for some of our other vacancies and along with Antoine, Maria, Cristina, Nina, Anja and Paola who arrived in the Spring, this means that by the end of the summer, we will be hosting volunteers from France, Hungary, Spain, Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic, Greece, Austria and Poland.

The downside of new arrivals is that unfortunately it means that other volunteers will be leaving and we will be very sad to say goodbye to Uula, Mandana, Anna-Lena, Laura, Julie, Fabian, Lucia, Eliza, Radka and Aneta, who have been wonderful volunteers.

We wish them all great success with their future plans and thank them for all they have contributed during their placements.



We will be featuring our EVS volunteers' and other stories on the Bryson EVS Facebook page, so if you're a social media user, please follow us.

Eurodesk UK Partner Organisation

Bryson Charitable Group has been appointed as one of the 15 Eurodesk UK Partner organisations across the UK and is the only Partner organisation in Northern Ireland.

The UK team is part of a wider European network with national representatives in 34 countries. Eurodesk is an EU initiative, managed at European level by the European Commission. Eurodesk UK is an information and support service to help young people and youth organisations find out about opportunities in Europe.

The Eurodesk network is a recognised support structure under Erasmus+, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Eurodesk works closely with the National Agencies across Europe to provide up-to-date information and guidance on Erasmus+ and many other funding programmes.

We are delighted to be involved in this work, building on 20 years of solid European Voluntary Service activity, during which time we've enabled over 300 young people to be involved in the programme, either by facilitating hosting placements in and around Belfast or by sending young people from Northern Ireland to other countries.

We have always been advocates for these European programmes and are delighted to be able to promote these amazing opportunities more formally through our Eurodesk UK Partner Organisation status.



Bryson Care Round Up



Book Launch at Ulster University

A big congratulations to Siobhan Wylie on her involvement in the writing of a new book for social work practice called – “Doing Relationship-Based Social Work” The book was officially launched at Ulster University, Magee College on Friday 19th May and the book will form part of the recommended reading material for social work students. Siobhan played a key role getting the book off the ground and the ideas around the development of the book. She also contributed a chapter along with a previous staff member of Bryson, Denise MacDermott. Cheryl McMullin, who has recently moved on from Bryson to do her PhD at Queen’s University was the co editor along with Professor Mary McColgan (previous Chair of Bryson CareWest). **A true bringing together of talent and collaboration.** We are delighted for Siobhan and our previous colleagues Denise, Mary and Cheryl, who have worked incredibly hard to produce this book, which will help and support future social work students in their studies.

A big well done to all involved.



Bryson Care staff visit Belgium to share their knowledge

Story by Siobhan Wylie, Senior Manager Bryson Care

In March 2017, Caoimhe Harkin MacDermott and I attended the Thomas Moore University in Geel, Belgium following an invitation to attend their teaching conference. We taught and presented in partnership with a colleague from the University of Ulster and discussed our model of practice learning here in Northern Ireland with an emphasis on the seamless transition on ‘From the classroom to the Field’.

We contextualised how the Northern Ireland ‘troubles’ have impacted on social work learning and development, especially in relation to a generation of students who have grown up in the era of the peace process. We also looked at social work training in a post – Brexit climate, most especially the impact on those from Europe and Eastern Europe who have completed their social work training here in Northern Ireland. One of our current students was able to record her thoughts and feelings around this and we shared this during the presentation. It was a great opportunity to share with the Belgium students what is happening here and indeed the uncertainty which has been engendered.

The teaching presentation was well received, even though at times they struggled to understand our accents – especially regional dialects.

Inset: Siobhan Wylie was delighted to bump into Michele Gossens at Thomas Moore University. Michelle previously was an Erasmus student through EVS with Bryson back in 2013.

A very warm welcome

We want to take this opportunity to welcome Caoimhe Harkin MacDermott to Bryson Care. Caoimhe has taken up the role as Social Work Practice Learning Manager and she will be based in the Derry office. Caoimhe will work closely with Siobhan Wylie who is Practice Learning Manager in Belfast.

Each year the Bryson Practice Learning Centre supports up to 20 social work students during their placement year. The students are from both Queens and Ulster University.

We wish Caoimhe well in her new job.



Collaboration in Action at Bryson Care

Back in January 2017 the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) sought the support of Bryson Care in Belfast as they began developing a new guideline for use by employers and domiciliary care managers about the best way to maintain and develop good social care practice. NISCC were very keen to engage Bryson due to the excellent working relationship established by Bryson Assistant Director, Liz Leatham. Staff from both organisations recently met up, providing a great opportunity to update on the progress they had made. According to NISCC, Bryson Care was instrumental in providing an invaluable insight in to the guideline’s use of language, usefulness and effectiveness.

NISCC Manager, Brenda Horgan said;

“Many thanks for facilitating our session with domiciliary care workers to progress our Guideline. It was a great session, very productive for us and it was brilliant to get the chance to speak with and hear from your staff. They were inspiring and totally committed to social care. We will return in the near future to progress this further. I appreciate that their time is precious and we value the commitment made for this engagement.”



Image courtesy: Pixabay.com

Congratulations to the staff at Bryson Care (Belfast)

Bryson Care, based in Belfast, had their annual Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) Inspection in May 2017. Bryson staff, management and board members are delighted to announce that they have met all four requirements and in some cases exceeded the expected standards.

RQIA inspect and report on four key areas and they carry this out by speaking to the people who use the service, talk to managers and staff and examine records including policies and care records. To celebrate staff took time out to enjoy lunch together. A big well done to all involved



Charitable donations at Bryson Recycling



Staff right across Bryson Recycling have been actively supporting local charities from Donegal to Belfast.

Left - Staff from Bryson Recycling joined 15,000 other runners in Belfast on the 1st May to take part in the Belfast City Marathon. The team got across the line in 3 hours 50 minutes. We want to congratulate them for taking part and raising over £615 for their chosen charity, the Children's Heartbeat Trust. A big well done to all involved. (L-R): Pawel Skwiercz, Chris McLaughlin, Alison (Children Heartbeat Trust), Stephen O'Hare, and Conor McLaughlin

Below- Paul Farren Site Operator in Carndonagh Co. Donegal making a presentation of £250 to the staff and nurses at Carn Community hospital. Bryson Recycling also donated £250 to the Foyle Search and Rescue.



Jim Sinclair retires from Bryson Recycling



Bryson Recycling held a special event in May to mark the retirement of Jim Sinclair. Jim was Operations Director at Bryson Recycling and had been with the organisation over 16 years. Staff, family and board members attended the event to mark the special occasion and all at Bryson wish Jim and his wife Sadie a long and happy retirement.

Above – Jim received gifts from his friends and colleagues at Bryson Recycling and Bryson Group (L to R Eric Randall, Jim Sinclair, Katy Fulton, Aileen Monaghan, Brian McGinn and Ayesha Shanmughan

Left – Jim with his wife Sadie at his retirement lunch.



Defib for Bryson Recycling

Bryson Recycling is delighted to announce that we have installed our first defibrillator machine at our Mallusk site. This came from a staff suggestion by our Engineer, Craig Laughlin. Craig is camera shy but our MRF Engineering Manager stepped in for the photo, Jaroslaw Stanislawek.



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Bryson LaganSports Adventure Sports Camp

A range of water and land based activities for 8 years+ all abilities.

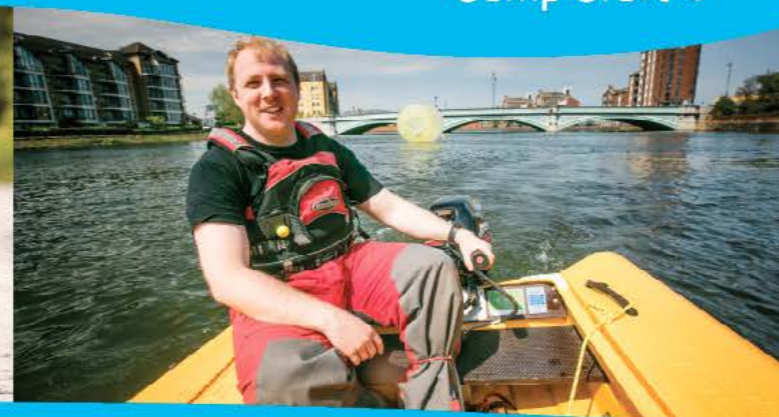
- Mon 24th – Fri 28th July ◀
- Mon 31st July – Fri 4th August ◀
- Mon 7th – Fri 11th August ◀
- Mon 14th – Fri 18th August ◀

9.30am - 4.00pm

Activities Include:

1 Week - £100 per child
 10% discount for multiple bookings
 Early drop off (8.30am) and or late pickup (5pm) - £5 per child, per day
 Early booking recommended

- Outdoor/Indoor Games • Zorbing •
- Arts & Crafts • Bellboating •
- Orienteering • Kayaking •
- Circus Skills • Canoeing •
- Balloon Modelling • Archery •
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Maritime Festival

The Maritime Festival was a huge success again this year. The sun shone and the crowds came in their masses to see the tall ships and experience lots of family fun on the Belfast quaysides.

Bryson LaganSports were delighted to once again showcase their activities, offering paddlesport experiences to visitors regardless of their ability or age everyone was welcome to have a go!

The taster sessions went down a storm with nearly 1,000 participants enjoying a paddle over the two days.



Brenda Willis, City Events Officer Belfast City Council said,

"The activities proved very very popular and I'm not sure the guys got a break all weekend! The staff and instructors were all very accommodating, hardworking and enthusiastic. We had great feedback from the public who participated."



It was great to get some feedback...

"Just wanted to send you a note to thank you for the great work and activities provided at the Belfast Maritime Festival."



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