



Downpatrick

Lisburn



Newtownards

Stepping Stones^{NI}

*Supporting People.
Realising Potential*

Expanding Our Reach *Delivering Change*

Impact Report
2015/2016



2015/2016 has been a tremendous year in the life cycle of Stepping Stones NI in the delivery and expansion of its services and social enterprises to support our mission...

To support people with a learning disability or learning difficulty to realise their potential for a better future.

In line with the organisational strategy and vision for 2015 - 2020 we expanded our services and social enterprises outside Lisburn to other geographical areas specifically Newtownards and Downpatrick.

On 1 April 2015 we opened our new social enterprise **The Garden Cafe** at the St Patricks Visitor Centre in Downpatrick. On 3rd November we also opened **The Gatelodge Cafe** in Newtownards and replicated our **Training + Employment Service** in this area.

During the year we also developed our own new **Youth Service** and expanded our **Training + Employment Service** in Lisburn. We were successful in our European Social Fund applications and are grateful to the funding support from the Department for the Economy, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust who were instrumental to our growth.



"I have learned so much from the training and support I received from Stepping Stones NI, my confidence has grown and I now use the skills I learnt at my new job"

Jamie, Stepping Stones NI Trainee

We had many challenges in our new expansions and we are delighted to report that our new services have been a great success, and have opened up many new opportunities for people with learning disabilities across a greater geographical spread.



39 Seymour Street, Lisburn
T: 028 9266 7124
www.pinkelephantcards.com
@pinkelecards



Church Street,
Newtownards
T: 028 9182 1395



Downpatrick



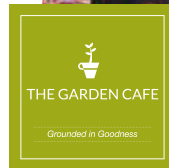
39 Seymour Street, Lisburn
T: 028 9266 7124

Lisburn

Newtownards

Training + Employment Service

Lisburn T: 028 9266 6404
Newtownards T: 028 9181 9937
and Downpatrick



The St Patrick Centre,
Downpatrick
T: 028 4483 5322



theavenue

3 Wallace Ave, Lisburn
T: 028 9260 4055



We love what we do and here's the stats on our year in review...



"Excellent initiative, well delivered with superb motivation, keep it up"



People

They make our organisation special

We have a passionate staff, and a brilliant group of volunteers, that support our trainees and clients to develop their skills, gain qualifications and increase their employability. This is what drives us in all we do.

34 People supported in Transition Service

26 People registered with the Youth Service

77 People training in Social Enterprise

173 People supported through our Employment Service

100%

User Satisfaction

94% Parent + Career Satisfaction

>85% Customer Satisfaction

87% Employer Satisfaction

97% Staff Satisfaction

Training + Qualifications

Building skills and confidence

Our training team work with our clients and trainees to deliver NVQ and OCN accredited training and soft skills development that enhance their employability skills leading to jobs.

Non Accredited Qualifications Service 60

Completed Accredited Qualifications 182

Transitions + Youth Service

Pathway to Learning

Our Transition Service supports school leavers with guidance on their transition from school. Our Youth Service connects with people aged 16-24 who are not engaged in any education, training or employment to develop their interpersonal skills.

34 Young people accessing the Transition Service

26 Supported Young People aged 16-24

146 Soft Skills Course attainments



"Really impressed with the support from the employment service and the care and enthusiasm taken in supporting adults with learning difficulties in our communities"



Jobs + Volunteering

Realising everyone's potential

Our team of dedicated Employment Officers and Job Coaches work with each of our clients and employers to match work placements, volunteering experiences and paid jobs. With the right support our clients dreams can come true.



173

People with learning disabilities and learning difficulties supported through our Employment Service

400 Employers engaged

5 People supported through Workable NI Programme

19 People achieved paid employment

19 People gained voluntary work



Our Year in Review

2015/2016

Financial

We are hugely grateful

To all our funders and donors who support and help us achieve our mission. Our social enterprise activity is also vitally important to generating an income and we appreciate the support of our loyal customers.

Donations and Grants £1,104,298

Increase of 52% on 2015/2016

Social Enterprise Income £257,814

Increase of 101% on 2015/2016



#buysocial

Social Enterprises

Supporting our Trainees

Our social enterprises serve as a realistic training platform for our trainees. We strive for excellence in our products and customer service, and delighted we have expanded this offering with two new social enterprise cafés.



theavenue



Innovation + Development

Continuously Improving

Our 2015-2020 Strategy got off to an amazing start in its first year! We established two new social enterprise cafés in Downpatrick and Newtownards, and replicated our Training + Employment Service across the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust region.



2015 Shortlisted Lisburn City Business Awards Best Eating Establishment

Chief Officer Nominated Business Person of the Year

Social Enterprise Awards Highly Commended Best Social Enterprise

✓ New The Gatelodge Café Newtownards

✓ New The Garden Café Downpatrick

✓ Training + Employment Service in Newtownards

✓ New Youth Service

✓ 97% Increase in staff



"The Gatelodge is a hidden gem with lovely food and atmosphere. It is great to sit and watch a group of people with disabilities run a coffee shop simply with little supervision. Excellent"



Stepping Stones NI Ltd

39 Seymour Street

Lisburn BT27 4SY

T: 028 9266 7124

F: 028 9266 8900

E: info@steppingstones.org.uk

www.steppingstonesni.com

Employment Service

First Floor, 3 Wallace Ave

Lisburn BT27 4AA

T: 028 9266 6404

E: employmentservice@steppingstones.org.uk

[@steppingstonesni](https://www.instagram.com/steppingstonesni)



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust

This project is part financed by the European Social Fund
and the Department for the Economy

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100727



Stepping Stones NI



@steppingni



SteppingStonesTV

