**CONWAY EDUCATION CENTRE: STRATEGIC AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

**AIM 1:**

*Supporting the development and regeneration of the local community through learning and capacity building and providing opportunities for educational progression***.**

**Rationale;**

The work of Conway Education Centre is based on a response to the needs of local communities. We believe that community education is a powerful tool which can challenge educational disadvantage, promote socio-economic resilience and foster positive attitudes towards lifelong learning. The educational experience provided within Conway builds networks and communities of learners, individuals share knowledge, experience and skills and most importantly we believe our community-based learning helps to transform lives.

**Objectives:**

1.1 To provide a range of formal and informal learning opportunities to support the emerging needs of the local community

1.2 To provide an alternative education programme with person centred support for young people at risk within west Belfast

1.3 To deliver a family learning programme designed to meet the needs of local at risk families

1.4 To enable participants to build personal capacity, identify issues and advocate on their own behalf.

**AIM 2:**

*Championing community education as a tool for community engagement and providing opportunities for educational progression and employment.*

**Rationale:**

Conway Education Centre champions community education as defined in the ‘Learning for Life’ white paper on adult education. (Department of Education and Science 2000):

(Community Education is*)…. “in an ideological sense a process of communal education towards empowerment, both at an individual and collective level. Such an approach to community education sees it as an interactive challenging process, not only in terms of its content but also in terms of its methodologies and decision making process.”*

**Objectives:**

2.1 To actively support and advocate for the future of community education provision.

2.2 To promote community education as a progression route to further and higher education, training and employment

2.3 To continue to provide a safe reflective learning space for discussion, debate and dialogue.

**AIM 3:**

*To contribute to improved health, particularly the mental and emotional wellbeing of the local community***.**

**Rationale:**

As well as providing opportunities for individual learning progression, Conway Education Centre contributes to the creation of a healthy, cohesive community by providing a dynamic learning community which helps break down isolation, builds individual and community connectedness and thus supports the building of social capital.

**Objectives:**

3.1 To promote the social and health related outcomes of Community learning provision designed to overcome isolation, enhance community engagement, connectedness and wellbeing

3.2 To build community capacity to enable participants to identify issues and advocate on their own behalf

3.3 To identify, actively support and encourage those most disadvantaged to engage in community activity.

3.4 To promote health and well-being through a range of activities.

**AIM 4:**

*Actively promoting a creative and safe reflective space to facilitate community dialogue, cultural expression and diversity, and creative problem solving*

**Rationale:**

For the past thirty years Conway has provided community based adult education and second chance learning opportunities for individuals. Space has also been used by individuals and organisations on an ad hoc basis for the discussion of topical issues.

Conway wishes to strategically develop and promote our resource as a safe reflective space for community dialogue, discussion and debate.

**Objectives:**

4.1 To promote Conway Education Centre as a safe, reflective learning space for groups and organizations who concur with the values and ethos of Conway Education Centre

4.2 To facilitate meetings and discussion events to promote community learning through debate and dialogue, cultural diversity and expression.

**AIM 5**:

*Ensuring the maintenance of an accountable, transparent, participative and sustainable organisation*

**Rationale:**

Given the need for organisational efficiency and effectiveness, and in compliance with both the new charity legislation and the code of good governance Conway recognises the need to maintain and develop good practice in terms of organisational governance.

**Objectives:**

1. To promote and encourage inclusive delivery of services at Conway Education Centre informed by community involvement, accountability and affordability
2. To develop best practice in participatory governance structures reflecting key principles of the code of good governance
3. To develop services designed to financially sustain the organization in an ethical and principled manor