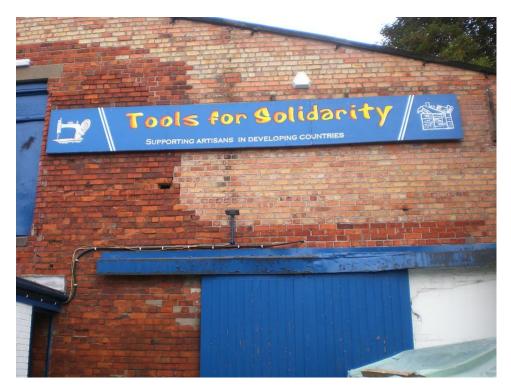
# **TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY**

# **Annual Report 2014 – 2015**



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### **Background Information**

### Principles



Underlying all the activities of Tools for Solidarity are the principles and values of self-help and empowerment, individual and global equality, environmental awareness, inclusiveness, voluntarism, and the right to challenge/oppose activities/actions that contradict these values.

### **Mission Statement**

TFS supports self-reliance by providing high quality refurbished tools to working people overseas, promoting international solidarity, and challenging global inequalities through critical examination of development issues, environmental sustainability and ethical working practices.



### The Aims of TFS

- Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycled hand tools and sewing machines.
- Involve individuals, organisations and the public in development and environmental issues. Utilise working methods that develop and support a sense of international solidarity and promote volunteering and ethical working practices.
- Tools For Solidarity will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation.





## How Can You Help?

Solidarity in practice is the heart of TFS's work. You can contribute in a very practical way by donating hand tools or sewing machines, by making a donation towards essential shipping and running costs, by providing materials or by volunteering.

#### Please, contact us at: Tools For Solidarity 55A Sunnyside Street Belfast BT7 3EX Telephone: +44 028 9543 5972 Webpage: toolsforsolidarity.com Email: tools.belfast@myphone.coop Charitable company number: NI052306

facebook.com/toolsforsolidarity



@2l4s





### **Chairperson's Address**

The organisation achieved a milestone this year: it is now 30 years since we set foot on the streets of Belfast, knocked on the first door and started collecting tools. From such a small beginning and with no thought of where this might lead the organisation has developed into one that has many volunteers and supports centres in East Africa.

The year itself was the busiest in the history of TFS. We sent 2 containers in one year for the first time, we held a celebration of the organisation's 30th birthday and moved into our own workshop.

Over the last 15 years TFS has had the dream/plan to try and secure its own building. For many years we have built up a financial reserve for this but prices were unaffordable for most of this period. In recent times this changed and TFS was able to buy a building that would become its new home. Based on the other side of town and with literally tons of tools and thousands of sewing machines to move TFS had an enormous job in boxing and moving everything it has. The work did not stop there - with alterations and work to the building itself. It was a mammoth task and one that has given the organisation, in the long term, more security and a more accessible workshop.

We continued with our partnership with MSTC (Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre) which is working very well. At the same time we developed a new project in Uganda with WORI (Women's Rights Initiative) and sent a container in October 2014. To run the project Simon from Uganda came to Belfast and he had a three-month intensive training programme. TFS then went out to undertake additional training in-country from February to end of April.

It was 30 years since Tools began and we could not let this go by without a big celebration. It was the first in our new workshop and we had many volunteers from previous years who came to visit as well as many letters of congratulations from those who could not make it.

The organisation as usual had a new influx of volunteers this year and we were very fortunate able to hold onto 2 volunteers both of whom took up critical roles within the organisation. Our educational programme has been re-invigorated by Laura, from Galicia, who has organised visits to schools providing a programme around 'Education For Sustainable Development' (ESD). Francesca has stayed to help TFS with the new project in Uganda and has been in the field for 3 months helping to establish the project.

The organisation has also been strengthened by the arrival of Conor who has taken on the job of 'Zero Waste Management', a project to reduce waste from tools/sewing machines within the Belfast area and supported by Belfast City Council. He has also been instrumental in getting funding to fix up the new building and get facilities, a lift and toilet, so that the new workshop can be accessible by people with disabilities.

The organisation's finances have remained stable even though we have a mortgage for the new building. We have saved money from not having to pay an even higher rent for the old workshop.

The organisation has achieved many of its aims that were set out from previous strategic meetings: development of centres in partner countries; the purchase of a workshop/centre for the TFS; the operating of an ESD programme. More work needs to be done on building and strengthening the capacity of TFS.

It is important to finish on a point of celebration and congratulations to all involved in TFS in achieving a proud and influential 30 years of work.

- John Wood



## **Partnership Development and Support**

### MSTC – Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre, Mwanza, Tanzania



This year marked a series of changes in the MSTC. Following the start of a 3year programme launched by DAA (Disability Action aimed Abroad), at supporting people with disabilities in establishing a small business, the project was faced with the difficult challenge of having its manager working on two programmes at the same time. Both the MSTC and the DAA programmes are extremely demanding and despite her great range of skills, Jane, the MSTC manager, realised it was

not possible to run both programmes effectively. As of Autumn 2014, Jane Madete is no longer the MSTC manager and she is now managing the DAA programme. MSTC now has two members of staff, Athuman and Christine. While Athuman is the senior sewing mechanic, Christine acts as training officer organising the training sessions at MSTC.

In October 2014, TFS sent its 9th container to MSTC with a total of 280 sewing machines, 8 industrials, 10 knitting machines, and sewing accessories. TFS is currently discussing with a Dutch tools organisation - Betuwe Wereldwijd (BWW) - about the possibility of them supplying the next container to Mwanza. Diversifying the source of sewing machines would strengthen the long term sustainability of the project and would also allow TFS to have a break from supplying sewing machines to focus on new projects.

Overall, MSTC is doing extremely well. During this year a total of 233 tailors have received training. Considering that the number of sewing machines supplied was 241, we can say that training was given to almost 100% of artisans. This is an incredible result and can be explained with the fact that MSTC went back to offer training to tailors who didn't receive any in previous years.

As of March 2015, a new Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between TFS and SIDO. This will last one year and a new 3 year MoU will be drawn up in 2016.

Despite the project being a success, there remains the need to create a bank reserve in order to be able to meet unexpected events such as delays in container consignments or high clearance taxes. A new budget has been drawn for this purpose.

MSTC Team: Damian Ch'anga (SIDO regional manager), Athuman (MSTC senior mechanic), Christine (MSTC training officer), Rose (SIDO – MSTC accountant)



### ASTC – Artisans Support and Training Centre, Jinja, Uganda

In April 2014 TFS received news that a funding application to Irish Aid to start a tools centre in Uganda was successful. Together with the funds received from NIPSA - Northern Ireland Public Sector Alliance - TFS will run a three-year project aiming to establish a sustainable tool centre in Jinja, Uganda.

In July 2014, two members of staff of TFS travelled to Jinja to discuss with the partner - WORI, Women Rights Initiative – the different stages of implementation of the project and to meet the workshop mechanic, Mr. Simon Koma. Simon arrived in Belfast in September and stayed three months. Additional training is being provided in-country where TFS staff spent three months to assist with the implementation of the project. A sewing mechanic and an additional tool mechanic were also trained.

TFS staff assisted the manager with the promotion of the programme and the organisational aspects of the project (training organisation, work schedules, selection and assessment process, etc.). While it seems straight forward to get women tailors interested in the programme and in the training, the tools element proved more difficult to promote. Artisans are mainly interested in purchasing individual tools and they do not value the training component as much as their female counterparts. The idea came to approach senior students learning a trade in Vocational Training Colleges (VTCs) around the region with a small starter kit including all essential tools to start working. The kits, inclusive of a box to store the tools, are designed for different trades - carpentry, auto mechanics and builders kits. The building hosting the workshop, the office space and the training room have been completed. TFS members of staff are continuing training the ASTC mechanics.

Despite receiving funding at the end of June 2014, the project only started in September and its actual implementation was in February 2015. This leaves very little time to achieve the targets set for Year One (the year is due to end in June 2015). Nevertheless, we are confident that if demand for tools and sewing machines is generated effectively, the target of 50 sewing machines and 2500 tools is achievable. Training in tailoring is set to be provided to 30 tailors, representing 60% of beneficiaries.

### BWW – Betuwe Wereldwijd, Culemborg, Netherlands

Over a year ago we were approached by a Dutch tool organisation, GG - Gered Gereedschap - willing to partner with us in supplying sewing machines to our project in Tanzania. The organisation agreed to ship a container of sewing machines to MSTC. Unfortunately, GG faced a severe funding crisis and was temporarily forced to dissolve. In 2014 we were contacted by BWW – Betuwe Wereldwijd – another Dutch tool organisation based in the centre of Netherlands. Their programme Tools4Change aims to support developing countries by providing bicycles, tools, sewing machines and other used materials to improve people's social and economic conditions. The organisation has been working in Central America, Africa and South Eastern Asia.

In January 2015, Stephen together with a group of volunteers travelled to Netherlands to visit BWW's workshop and discuss a possible partnership. The idea is that BWW supply a container of sewing machines to MSTC for this coming year (autumn 2015) and then every other year. Having a partner supplying MSTC would help to secure resources for the centre. There is also the possibility to that BWW could partner us in the establishment of additional tools projects.

- Francesca Rosada



### **Volunteer Report**

The ethos of TFS is, at its core, about the development of people and TFS strives to support people in their personal and economic development in the spirit of solidarity. Our volunteers usually gain an awareness of environmental issues, support for people who are marginalised or who have limited opportunities in their lives. In working for TFS as volunteers we develop empathy for people in need and learn renewed respect for them and the environment that we share. This helps to reinforce and improve our spirit of volunteering.

The volunteers work on different tasks for the TFS from collecting and sorting tools to checking sewing machines for shipment abroad.

We started to move our workshop to the current address in April 2014, so besides the usual duties the work included moving our equipment and stock over to the new place as well as fixing up the new building.

We also have the opportunity to work on publicity, fundraising and evaluating new projects of the future. As an important segment of what TFS does, we also work with supported volunteers. However, we needed to stop the supported volunteer programme in May 2014 due to the move. The new workshop needed to be refurbished to meet health and security standards.

In 2014 and 2015 we had more than twenty international and local volunteers working with TFS for different periods of time as well as volunteers with special support needs. The international volunteers have played an increasingly important role in our organization since the first international work camp was organised in 1984. Today our international volunteers mainly come to us from the European Voluntary Service (EVS), an EU program under (formally) Youth in Action and from 2014 Erasmus+ programmes. Their placements last from one month to one year and this past year we have had volunteers from Finland France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Spain and Uganda. We still host one volunteer each year from Eirene, a German organisation committed to international peace work.

There are hundreds of people who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to help TFS achieve our objectives. It is an inspirational experience as many visitors to our workshops will testify. We are also thankful those organisations and institutions that help us in finding and funding our volunteers especially the British Council for their role in the Youth in Action Programme and Volunteer Now for local volunteer recruitment.

- Boglarka Benke













# Activity Report

This past year has been a very intense one for the organisation: moving the workshop, two shipments, starting a new project and the usual workshop activities kept everyone in the organisation extremely busy. Far from being enough, August 2014 marked also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tools. The birthday was the perfect opportunity to officially open the new workshop in Sunnyside Street as well as an occasion for former volunteers and friends to gather together.

Below are the activities that took place during the past 12 months.

### End of March – May 2014

During three weeks we hosted a group of young people from Wetck, Berlin. Six young men came to our workshop and worked alongside with our volunteers in Belfast, boxing up sewing machines and tools to be moved in the new workshop.

While activities went on in the workshop in Crumlin Road, a dedicated team of volunteers started working in the new building, making shelves and moving part of our stock. The plan was to move in the new building during the summer and celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of tools in its new home.

At the end of April, TFS also found out that the funding application to Irish Aid to start a tool centre in Uganda has been successful and that the funds would be released in June. An application to NIPSA had also been accepted, allowing TFS to gather the funds needed to start this three year project, the Artisans Support and Training Centre (ASTC).

The famous "back room" was emptied and all sewing machines moved in May, TFS decided to host a day rave in the workshop to say goodbye. Charlie helped us organising this event with the aim to fundraise for our organisation and to let people know that we would be moving soon to the other side of the city. Cocktails, disco, magic tricks and a room full of red balloons transformed the workshop for an all day long event.

May also brought another important event for TFS with the organisation having its first employee, Conor to work on the 'Zero Waste Management Programme'.

### June – September 2014

Ground work was done for the project in Uganda: tools needed for the project were identified and boxed up in both Belfast and Downpatrick. In the meanwhile, volunteers kept moving resources over to the new workshop.

In July, two members of TFS travelled over to Tanzania and Uganda to visit both MSTC in Mwanza and WORI, the partner in Uganda. Detailed information about the projects and the trip can be found into the project section of this report.

In August, the office finally moved over to Sunnyside Street and by now all work is carried out in the new workshop, with a couple of small units functioning as storage. No better way to celebrate this momentous step than the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party. The last week of August saw former volunteers and friends come together to Belfast during a week of events marking the important anniversary.

Work to prepare the shipments to MSTC and the first shipment to the new project was started.

In the middle of September, Simon Koma, the senior mechanic who is going to run the workshop in the tools centre in Jinja has arrived in Belfast where he received training in tools maintenance and refurbishment.



### October 2014 – December 2014



In the months of October November. and TFS organised two shipments to its projects overseas. In October a container loaded with over 280 sewina machines (including industrial and knitting machines) and sewing accessories was shipped to MSTC in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Shortly after this in November a second container was sent over to Jinja, Uganda for the Artisans Support and

Training Centre. This was the first consignment to our new project. Equipment and machinery to set up a small workshop have been sent over together with 6000 tools and 60 sewing machines. Meanwhile, in Uganda the manager of the programme had started to advertise the project among artisans and tailors in the area.

Although quiet compared to the previous months, December saw the volunteers busy with work on the building.

### January – March 2015

In January Stephen travelled over to the Netherlands for a preliminary visit to BWW, a tool organisation that was looking to team up with us in providing sewing machines to Africa. The aim of the visit was to discuss a possible partnership in supplying machines to the MSTC project as well as looking at the possibility of establishing new projects.

At the end of the month, two members of staff from TFS travelled to Uganda where they spent three months working to establish the new project, the Artisans Support and Training Centre (ASTC). At present a small building hosting the workshop has been built while the two containers have been adapted to serve respectively as storage and office. Training is being given to both the two tool mechanics and the sewing mechanic. TFS is equally assisting the manager in the implementation of the programme and the organisation of various components such as training, assessment and selection procedures, etc.

While in Uganda, TFS travelled also to Mwanza in Tanzania for a week-long visit to MSTC.

Feedback from the programme was extremely positive. Once again more detailed information on the two projects and their implementation can be found in the project section of the report.

Work on the new building is still been carried out. A lift to guarantee disabled access to the first floor has been installed as well as a disabled toilet on the ground floor. A kitchen area has also been created and plaster-boarding has been completed.

TFS remains very busy and it is fair to say the next year will not be a more relaxing one. TFS staff is due to be back from Uganda at the end of April, by then the main work on the building should be finished leaving only minor jobs to be done. The organisation is also hoping to be soon ready to start again to offer sheltered placements to supported volunteers as the programme has been put on hold till completion of main structural work was carried out on the building.

Moving the workshop was a gargantuan task, especially considering that at the same time we were also in the process of starting a new project and supporting the existing one. A big



Thank You to all the volunteers, local and international ones, for without their great work all of these activities wouldn't have been possible.

- Francesca Rosada





# **Financial Report**

### (1st April 2014 – 31th March 2015) Company No: NI052306 Charity No: XR78009

The financial period 2014-15 was dominated by the move from Crumlin Road to Sunnyside Street which incurred significant additional expense to the extent that costs during the year went up from £84,422 to £200,381

Fortunately this was more than matched by an increase in income from £112,094 to £206,507 which has meant that overall the financial situation remains a healthy one. EVS Grants were down from £58,680 to £47,026. However significant Grants from other bodies, notably **Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI**, **Tudor Trust** and the **Ulster Garden Villages** ensured the move was completed successfully from a financial point of view.

In addition the purchase of 55a Sunningside Street is a move towards a more stable financial footing. A mortgage has been taken out to finance this and stood at £26,137 at the beginning of 2015-16.

Other costs have been kept to a minimum thanks to the work carried out by volunteers and the majority of materials, tools, sewing machines coming from donations.

### **Balance Summery**

	1st April 2014	31st March 2015
Building Society	6761	40443
Bank Account	14204	12948
Petty Cash	33	334
PayPal	933	300
TOTAL (addition of above)		
Mortgage	0	26137
NET Financial Assets (Total minus Mortga	ge) 21931	27888



	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total Founds £	2014 Total Founds £
INCOMING					
RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated					
funds					
Voluntary income		12,694	-	12,694	13,206
Activities for generating	2	3,350	-	13,350	15,199
funds					
Investment income	3	469	-	469	834
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Restricted	4	<u>-</u>	<u>179,994</u>	<u>179,994</u>	<u>82,855</u>
Total incoming resources		26,513	179,994	206,507	112,094
RESOURCES EXPENDED Charitable activities Restricted Unrestricted Governance costs Other resources expended Total resources expended NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS Gross transfers between fun Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		- 32,470 750 2,252 35,472 (8,959) <u>69,415</u> 60,456	85,100 10,394 - - 95,494 84,500 ( <u>69,415)</u> 15,085	85,100 42,864 750 2,252 130,966 75,541 = 75,541	71,820 11,852 750 <u>-</u> 84,422 27,672 <u>-</u> 27,672
RECONCILIATION OF FUND Total funds brought forward	S	261,385	10,285	271,670	243,998
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		321,841	25,370	347,211	271,670
FIXED ASSETS	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total Founds £	2014 Total Founds £
Tangible assets	8	314,993	-	314,993	252,890



<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b> Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	9	- <u>8,187</u>	8,678 <u>45,671</u>	8,678 <u>53,858</u>	1,288 <u>18,562</u>
		8,187	54,349	62,536	19,850
<b>CREDITORS</b> Amounts falling due within one year	10	(1,339)	(10,210)	(11,549)	(1,070)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>6,848</u>	44,139	<u>50,987</u>	18,780
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		321,841	44,139	365,980	271,670
<b>CREDITORS</b> Amounts falling due after more than one year	e 11	-	18,769	18,769	-
NET ASSETS		<u>321,841</u>	<u>25,370</u>	<u> </u>	271,670
FUNDS Unrestricted funds	12				
Funds represented by tangible fixed assets Free reserves Restricted funds				314,993 6,848 <u>25,370</u>	252,890 8,495 <u>10,285</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>347,211</u>	<u>271,670</u>

Accounts were audited by MB McGardy & Co Full audited report is available for request.

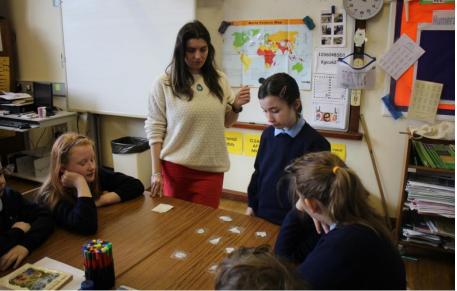


## **ESD Annual Report**

This is the second year of the implementation of the Education for Sustainable Development Programme with the aim of raising awareness through Northern Ireland about issues of Sustainable Development.

The methodology in classroom is active and participatory in order to help build students to critical learning step The by step. sessions start with general knowledge of Sustainable Development and build up to a more concrete understanding of our actions and their impact on the world.

From the end of the



last school year (April 2013 to September 2014) the ESD group kept working on communication with several communities and we closed the year with 11 groups and 197 participants of which 72% was primary schools (8), 18% was secondary schools (2) and 10% was vocational training (1). Putting emphasis on some special events, we can mention the Drumlins Integrated Primary School Assembly where we reached 80 participants as well as the Methodist College Belfast Assembly where we had 400 participants.

During the current year (2014-2015) some changes and new activities have been incorporated in order to improve the programme. One of the main changes in the programme was the incorporation of a new lesson based on knowledge of Fair Trade as an example of a positive action to achieve a more fairer and sustainable society. The lesson plans that we have currently been working with are the follow ones:

- Inequality in the world, aim to create knowledge and understanding of the inequality in the world and how other people lives.
- Poverty and inequality, aim to increase knowledge and understanding of poverty and different kinds of poverty.
- Resource Exploitation and critical thinking, aim to increase knowledge and understanding of the exploitation of natural resources and involve children in a process of being critical, and identifying their real needs and the needs of others.
- Fair Trade. Conclusion and Reflection. Aim to show a practical example of how our decisions can make a difference.

During the current 2014-2015 school year the ESD group had a significant increase in the number of schools that signed up for taking part in the programme. Most of the schools we worked with last year had already signed on and we have some new schools on board such as:

- St Patricks Catholic School
- Star of the Sea Primary School
- Paragon Training Centre



At the beginning of the year we approached a new group, the Foot Print Women's Association. We had a meeting with the centre manager and she has showed enthusiasm and engagement to the programme from the very beginning. The methodology and lessons that we are going to apply are the same to the other groups, however, all the activities will be adapted based on the women's experience and knowledge on the different topics. The ESD group is delighted to have this new group on board and we are looking forward to working



with them. At this point we have an 20% increased in the participants with regard to the first year and we expect to reach up to 24% increase in participants by the end of the year.

### The feedback

Based on the information received from students and teachers the feedback was very positive. 90% of the participants enjoyed the activities and 95% of the teachers would recommend the programme to other schools or institutions.

#### Some comments from the teachers:

"Very interesting and relevant to the topics being studied by class" St Mary Star of the Sea "Very educational and has given the children lots to think about" St Patricks Primary School

*"We found this programme very interesting and will definitely use it in the future if available"* Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain Primary School Belfast

### Conclusion

The long term goal of the project is to create a new society with more conscientious participants in their actions and questioning their decisions towards living in a more sustainable way. We know that there is a lot more to do to achieve the sustainable and proenvironmental society that we are working towards but we also know that the longest journey starts with the first step.

We are very happy with the ongoing activities and the increase of participants taking on the programme. We plan to focus on working on innovative teaching practice, but also we keep looking for funding to ensure the long term future of the programme.

- Laura Rio Fernandez



# **Special Thanks**

Action Mental Health	All the Schools and Colleges that particpated in the ESD programme	Philip Allen	Paddy Bloomer
Love Furniture Terri Hooley A.R.S.E.	Restore Petesy Burns Blast Proof Sunglasses	WS Handbags Dockers Club The Hagen family	Michael Collins Tim McGarry Simon Koma
Daniella	Nancy Graham	Action Mental Health	Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA)
Hamilton Shipping	Autism Initiatives	NICVA	Ashfield Boys' High School
Pam and Tara, Patchwork Goose North Belfast Quakers	Belfast City Council recycling centres South Belfast Quakers	Pat and Heather, Kilkeel Cedar Foundation	Belfast City Council Central Grants Unit Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
Combined Services Third World Fund	Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO)	Damian Ch'anga, Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) Regional Manager, Mwanza	St Malachy's College Old Boys Association
Department for Social Development Friends of Mourne Grange	Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR), Garvald Edinburgh	The Co-operative Society Geoff and Tina Claxton	The Orchardville Society Tony and Brid Weeks
Ulster Garden Villages	John Moores Foundation for Northern Ireland	Headway	Tudor Trust
Souter Charitable Trust	Erasmus+ team, British Council	Volunteer Now	Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland
Roisin McEvoy	Ballynafeigh Community Development Centre		
Beatric Laing Trust	Enkalon Foundation	Bruce Wake Trust	Belfast City Council Zero Waste Management Scheme





