

# Education

## We all have a role to play

“The Role of Local Communities”

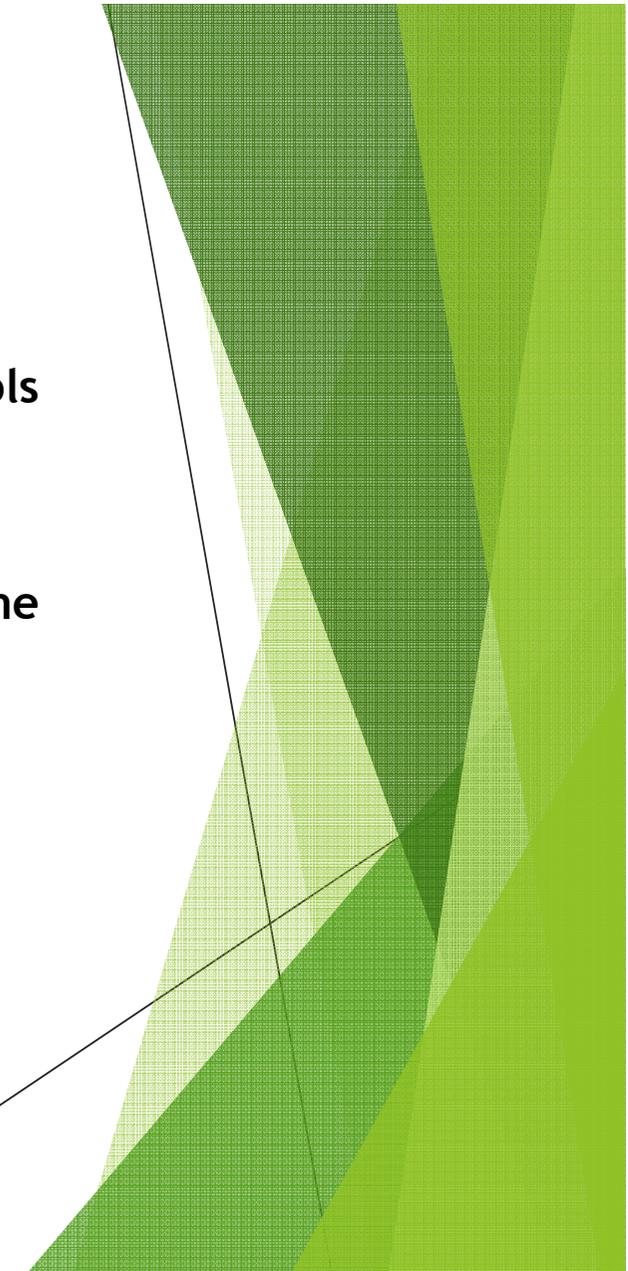
Charmain Jones  
Rural Community Network

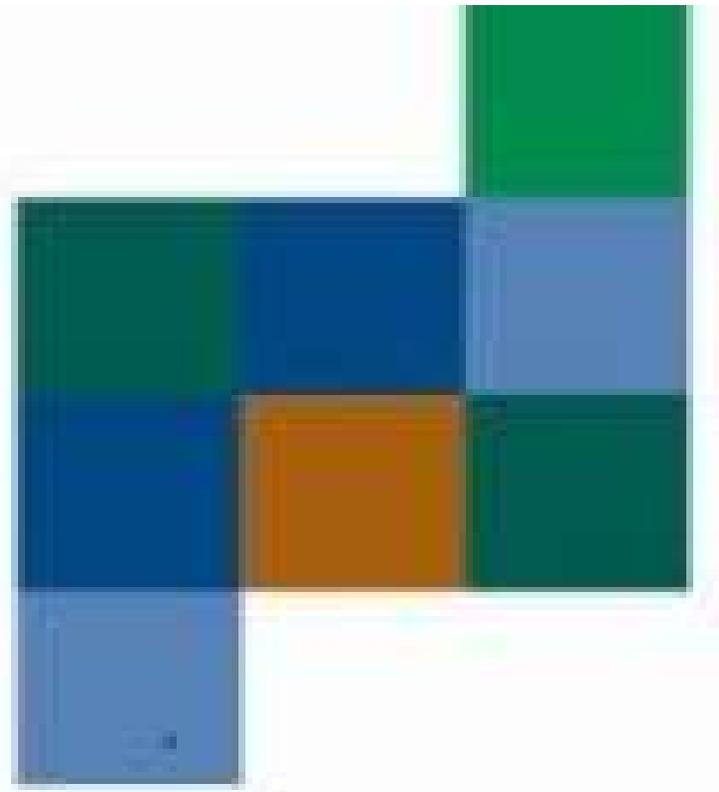
## **JOB ROLE**

- ▶ **Community Relations Officer**
- ▶ **Worked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector for 19 years**
- ▶ **Worked in the informal education sector as a youth leader in charge**
- ▶ **Worked with formal and informal education sector on a wide range of initiatives**
- ▶ **Worked with IEF for 8 years**

## **ME**

- ▶ **Parent of two children**
- ▶ **Board of governor - 3 schools**
- ▶ **Parent fundraiser**
- ▶ **Voluntary Advisory on a shared education programme with a local primary school**





# Rural Community Network

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

## How we see our role in Education?

- ▶ RCN see it's role in Education in the broadest sense:
  - ▶ Developing a holistic approach to the development of a child or young person
  - ▶ Developing a strong sense of self
  - ▶ Grasp opportunities available to them either voluntary, paid
  - ▶ Role as an active participant in society - wider society and wider peacebuilding agenda
  - ▶ Advocate the voice of young people - we can learn so much from young people

# Young people are living in a changing world

- ▶ **Challenges they face:**
- ▶ Social media, mental health, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, self harm, etc the world is fast pace and we need to help support young people through that together
- ▶ **Living in an adult world:**
- ▶ Levels of uncertainty, no government, Brexit, budget cuts, welfare and poverty, rural school closures, etc.
- ▶ **Living in a world which is post conflict**, many born post 1998 so we also have to help navigate their way through that:
- ▶ personal stories (family and friends), legacy issues, sectarianism, racism, address stereotypes, perceptions, interfaces and contested spaces

## Where do we fit in?

- ▶ There is a wide network, funded by CRC, open and willing to work with the formal and informal education sector, skills trained facilitators in a wide range of issues - skills, expertise and toolkits
- ▶ Practitioners can help raise issues, topics which the formal or informal education sector may not have the confidence to discuss - family and community
- ▶ We can be a support mechanism to you
- ▶ We can be the risk takers but we would work collaboratively to reduce risks
- ▶ Using community development processes towards progress
- ▶ We have an ethos of listening
- ▶ Open access to community groups, networks and key individuals
- ▶ Open doors and create avenues for community based conversations

# Benefits of Collaborating with the community

- ▶ Teachers, parents and community working together has overall benefits for young people - significant correlation on school success
- ▶ Much of a young persons life happens outside school, what happens before a school day and after a school day can affect a young persons progression through the education system
- ▶ Community involvement and community engagement has short term and long term benefit - focusing on community involvement for your school or youth club should something you think about.
- ▶ The responsibility of raising well educated and civic minded young people cannot just rest on the formal education sector - 3<sup>rd</sup> sector also needs to look up and out

# How RCN have supported the formal and informal education sector?

- ▶ **IEF** - young voices programme - four dedicated workshops to develop a report used at Stormont to push the integrated sector
- ▶ **Clanmill housing and shared housing scheme** - class room based conversation on sharing
- ▶ **Waste no time project** - schools based programme examining democracy and active citizenship
- ▶ **Youth action** - key institutions workshop on a cross community basis
- ▶ **React** - just us education programme exploring legacy issues
- ▶ **Fermanagh and Omagh District council** - schools history shared education programme - conferences and events, poppy and Easter lily
- ▶ **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme** - 2 schools - OCN Level 2 Getting to Know Institutions

# What can you think about?

- ▶ Promote volunteering with your school, club - connect to the wider community - what are the social issues you could support?
- ▶ Connect with charities, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and other community groups in your local area
- ▶ Find out what expertise is there - what can I tap into?
- ▶ Invite local leaders into the school to talk about careers - Edgarstown Residents Association
- ▶ Engage them in the curriculum, see where they fit in - GCSE and A level work

## Questions to think about?

- ▶ What are the barriers facing the education sector and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector from actively engaging with each other?
- ▶ How can we engage more with each other?
  - ▶ How can we work better together to shape the future for young people and society?