

# Willowbank - EPIC project

(Empowerment Participation Influencing Citizenship)

## Impact Card

### The Project

Willowbank is a Day Care/Day Opportunities facility for adults with physical disabilities/sensory impairments aged between 18 and over. We are a rights-based service user focused organisation whose offices are based in Dungannon, and whose catchment area is all the Mid Ulster Council region. The organisation works in an empowering person-centred way to support people living with disabilities to gain maximum independence. We have delivered direct support services for people since 1989.

The EPIC project took place over a five-year period and was accessible to at least 50 individuals with disabilities (20 existing and 30 new users). The project had two main strands: "Get Up and Grow" (horticulture) and EPIC (upcycling), which involved the inclusion of the organization's Charity Shop and the upcycling of clothing.

- Get Up and Grow (horticulture) - Up to 25 participants were trained to work in the garden centre and be involved in all aspects of the growth cycle, from planting and propagating to preparing and selling a finished product. The initiative also introduced a new small-scale garden maintenance service, where younger people with learning difficulties would take part in the horticultural training. This then developed into a community service whereby participants undertook work in people's gardens for a fee.



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- EPIC (upcycling) - Up to 25 participants were trained to restore, refurbish, and repurpose furniture for sale. Furniture would be sourced from local charity shops and Mid Ulster District Council's Recycling depot. This strand also includes the upcycling of clothing.

### Social Impact (SROI)

We have used the Social Value Engine, an online tool accredited by Social Value International, which enabled us with independent support from Rose Regeneration to identify a monetary value to represent the social impact created through this project. For this analysis, the reporting period covered was from April 2019, up to March 2024.

### Impact in Numbers:

# £1,205,427 of social value achieved

**For every £1 invested, £5.62 of social and economic value is returned**

### Outcomes

- Reducing Social Isolation
- Improved Community Health
- Improved Mental Health
- People fully participating in their community
- Improved access to training opportunities
- Increased Volunteering Opportunities

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Good Health and Well-Being	£632,821.68
Quality Education	£42,209.50
Decent Work and Economic Growth	£30,946.56
<b>Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	<b>£484,750.63</b>
<b>Climate Action</b>	<b>£14,698.75</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,205,427.12</b>

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