

THE AWARDS 2020

Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community

Institution name	Queen's University Belfast
Submission title or project name	Handy Helpers
Nominee/key personnel	Queen's University Belfast
URL	https://qubsu.org/VolunteerSU/Opportunities/HandyHelpers/
Submission	<p>Handy Helpers is a unique initiative which uses the principles of co-creation and genuine partnership in response to the current needs of the Belfast community.</p> <p>The initiative is based upon building trusted relationships with local residents, charities and university departments, and it allows lesser known resident/community groups the opportunity to realise projects which otherwise would not happen due to lack of manpower and material resources.</p> <p>Since its inception in 2018, 682 Queen's students have delivered 86 activities, dedicating 3000+ volunteer hours to the betterment of the area. Activities include community gardening, litter-picks, making essential packs for homeless individuals, preparing and serving lunch to the elderly, sorting and upcycling donations, etc.</p> <p>The initiative has also been the driving force behind the recent regeneration of a number of severely neglected alleyways and turning them into vibrant social spaces for students and residents to enjoy together, significantly improving social cohesion in the area.</p>