

**Belfast**

**Unemployed**

**Resource Centre**

BURC

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- Set up in 1984 in response to economic strategies which led to a devastating impact on mining, engineering and light manufacturing.
- In 1984 the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions examined a range of initiatives, which might be taken to highlight the plight of the unemployed and to provide them with community support.
- In association with the Workers' Educational Association and the Belfast Law Centre, it established the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre.

# History

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- Provide a Centre which will promote the interests and benefits of the unemployed and other social and economically disadvantaged groups.
- Provide education, training, advice, representation and counselling to the unemployed,
- Provide information and campaign on the issues, problems and social benefits affecting the unemployed.
- Promote and conduct research into the causes of unemployment.
- To campaign against and expose the broader issue of poverty.

# Objectives

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- The Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre offers free independent quality advice and guidance. In the centre and on an outreach basis.
- Appeals enquiries: Social Security Appeals, Medical Appeals & Dispute Resolution (Grievance & Disciplinary Procedures)
- Access NI: Umbrella Organisation support employers to carry out Criminal Record Checks, during the recruitment process.

# **Welfare Advice**

**Funded by Belfast City Council**

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- Family support programme.
- Main beneficiaries are children under 12 years of age.
- Target groups: Families involved in the Justice system, Migrant Families and Families at risk.
- Programmes include - Personal development; employability skills; coping strategies; Breaking cycles of behaviours; Family focused activities; children's participation; Skills development; digital arts & fun activities.

# **Routes to Resilience**

**BURC & PlayBoard ( funded by Big Lottery)**

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The programme is intended to provide three significant benefits:

- Unlocking migrant capabilities
- as people develop language and communication skills that will enable them to contribute more to the local community where they live
- Saving costs to public services

**ESOL** - English as a Second or Other language

**Funders include BURC, DFC (Dept for Communities)**

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- Access Skills Ireland is a subsidiary company of the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre residing in Letterkenny. Currently delivering training programmes in all of the regions throughout Ireland.
- BURC is part of a network of 24 Trade Union and Education Centre's across the Island of Ireland, BURC is the only Centre from Northern Ireland.

# **Cross border services**

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- The John Hewitt Bar is was the first Social Enterprise Bar set up in Northern Ireland
- Competes as a business in the Cathedral quarter of Belfast.
- Profits go back to the centre to support projects.
- Supports arts locally, bands , commission free arts exhibitions and provides a free venue on a Wednesday evening for fundraising activities.

# John Hewitt

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- Represent the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the Partnership as part of the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre.

**CBPES**

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- Provide Sector specific English language classes.
  - Hospitals
  - Meat Factories
  - Hotels

**CBPES**

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- Online customer service training.
- Piloted 3 levels of English for Tourism courses.
- ICTU deliver workshops on worker's rights.
- Protecting exploited Agri workers in border areas.

**CBPES**

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- Questions?

- [Aisling.cartmill@burc.org](mailto:Aisling.cartmill@burc.org)

**BURC**  
**4-6 Donegall Street Place Belfast**  
**Tel; 028 9096 1111**  
**email:info@burc.co.uk**

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