

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

At Ubuntu, we support groups across Northern Ireland to welcome, include, and empower families seeking sanctuary through tailored project development, training, and the sharing of best practice.

Whether you're starting something new or strengthening what you already offer, we'll work alongside you to build programmes or enhance practice that promotes connection, wellbeing, and skill-building in your community. By exchanging ideas and best practice, we can learn from each other and keep growing together!

What we offer:

Programme Development Support - We can help you design and deliver initiatives tailored to the needs of your community, from first ideas to full programmes.

Training - We can deliver flexible, practical training and reflective sessions on myth busting, cultural consciousness and using our guides and tools effectively.

Parenting Programmes - We provide **bespoke parenting support** co-designed with families seeking sanctuary.

Our programmes include **Family Threads** (group support) and **Early Threads** (1:1 support), both focused on strengthening attachment following migration trauma.

We also offer **workshops for parents** on topics such as safeguarding in NI, outdoor play, and managing screen time.

Some of our guides include:

Growing Together Guide - supporting social and emotional development through play.

Cultural Kitchen Guide - using food, culture, and shared experiences to promote integration and wellbeing



Scan to find out more and get involved or search 'Ubuntu NI' online



Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos.216250 and SC037605 26496km26

THE UBUNTU PROJECT



Ubuntu is an ancient word which appears in several African languages. Roughly translating to "I am because we are" at its core it recognises that each person's identity and well-being are shaped by our relationships with others.

BARNARDO'S

THE UBUNTU PROJECT

Who we are

The 'Ubuntu' philosophy recognises that we all impact one another and calls us to consciously ensure that impact is positive. It values community, interconnectedness, and shared humanity, promoting compassion, respect, and mutual support.

Barnardo's Ubuntu Project, funded by The National Lottery UK Fund, operates across Hertfordshire, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. We support communities by connecting voluntary and statutory organisations that support **children, young people, and families seeking sanctuary** in the UK. We use this term as we support regardless of the path taken to seek protection including those seeking refuge and those claiming asylum.

YOUTH VOICE NETWORK

Amplifying the voices of young people seeking sanctuary through a rights-based approach rooted in the Lundy Model of Participation.

We are guided by five core principles that shape everything we do:

CONNECTION

COMPASSION

CONFIDENCE BUILDING

CHALLENGING

CHANGE MAKING

Our Youth Voice Network welcomes young people aged 12-19 from across Northern Ireland who have arrived seeking sanctuary. We provide travel reimbursement to help ensure everyone can access our programmes. As our established members progress through the Network, those aged 18+ can become Young Leaders, empowering them to guide and inspire the next generation.

The Network creates opportunities for young people to engage directly with key stakeholders, influencing policy, research, and decision-making to ensure their voices are truly seen, heard, and valued.

The Ubuntu Youth Voice Network is a collaborative platform where young people share their experiences, highlight the challenges they face, and work together to propose and drive solutions that create meaningful change.

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos.216250 and SC037605 26496km26

PRACTITIONERS NETWORK

The **Ubuntu Practitioners Network** is a growing community committed to supporting not only children and young people seeking sanctuary, but also the wider communities in which they live.

A core part of the Ubuntu model is the creation of a multi agency regional network where professionals come together to share intelligence, strengthen practice, and build joint solutions that respond to real needs on the ground. Together, we knit together expertise, align goals, and advocate for a better, more connected system.

What the network can offer Practitioners

PEER SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

The network is a safe, supportive space to share challenges, ideas, and examples of good practice while helping reduce practitioner isolation and burnout.

A WAY TO DEVELOP BETTER SYSTEMS AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES

We work collectively to strengthen services, build confidence, and promote consistent, high quality support for sanctuary seeking children and young people.

A SPACE TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Amplify the voices of children and families by influencing policy, guiding local and regional action plans, and shaping government strategy.

Members gain access to:

- Peer circles.
- Online resource hub.
- Community services catalogue.
- One-to-one peer mentoring.
- Annual Ubuntu NI conference.

