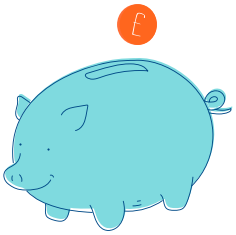
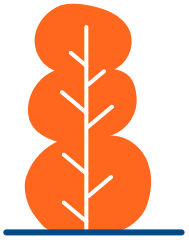
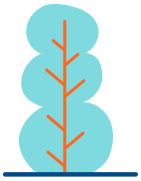
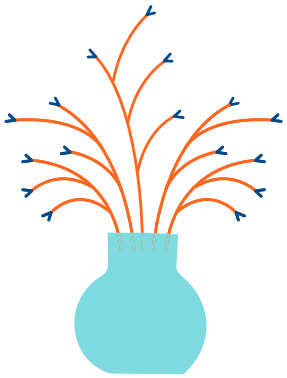
OUR HEALTHY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

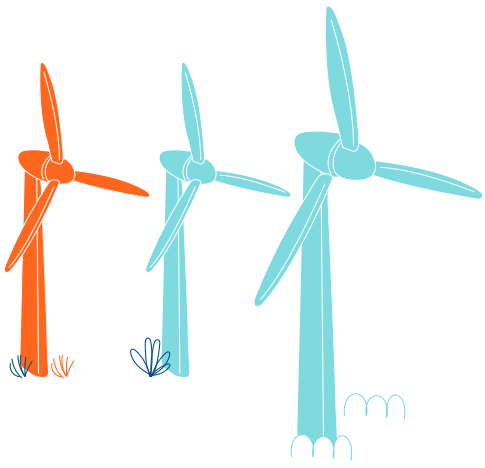
the workspace group











Workspace presents...

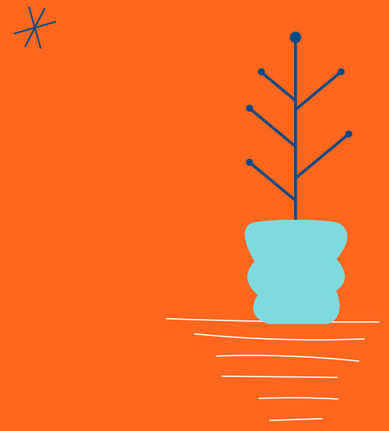
OUR HEALTHY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

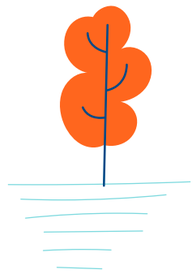
We're delighted to present our Annual Report for The Workspace Group for the year ending 31st March 2018.

As a Group, we're fully committed to the health and wellbeing of our companies, our teams, our customers and our communities. With that in mind, we're proud to use a 'healthy' theme to update you on our activities for 2017/18.

Workspace is a 'profit for purpose' organisation.

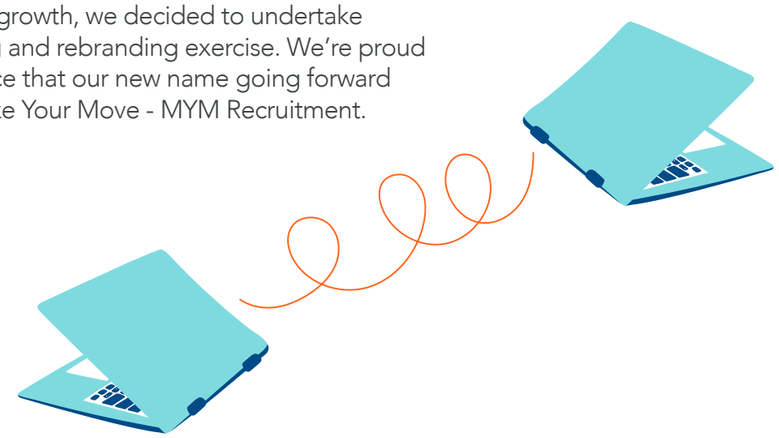
Our vision is 'A Prosperous, Dynamic, Healthy Draperstown Community'.

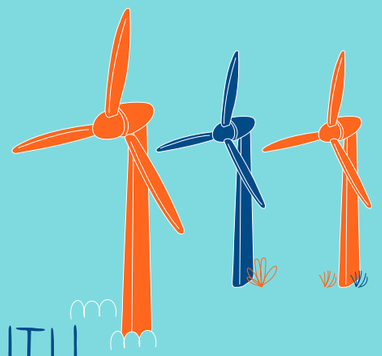




A HEALTHY ORGANISATION OVERALL

- We delivered a healthy surplus. This ensures that our organisation remains financially sound and allows us to invest surpluses into our community.
- As part of our campaign to ensure that fresh thinking and young blood come into the Group, we succeeded in increasing the number of our members to 213.
- Our Board took time out to do a strategic review and confirm the overall future direction of the Group.
- We set up a number of new subcommittees (Finance, Local Impact and Risk & Governance) to ensure we are governing the company effectively.
- Our new Workspace Intranet went live and has proven to be a real success with the team. In the first year it had 101,734 usages.
- On review of the success of our recruitment agency, Network Recruitment, and in looking ahead to its continued growth, we decided to undertake a renaming and rebranding exercise. We're proud to announce that our new name going forward will be Make Your Move - MYM Recruitment.





A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

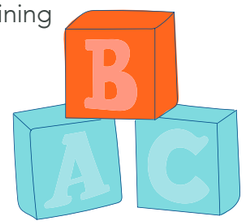
- Through our Workspace Community Fund, we've continued to invest financially in our community. The fund has now paid out more than £100,000.
- We continue to subvent the costs of our Workspace Recreation Centre to keep the local community fit and healthy. In the last year, the centre had 28,574 usages.
- Our carers' group continued to meet monthly to ensure they get some much-needed time out from their caring roles.
- We've helped thousands of people not just reduce their fuel spend, but also make their homes healthier places to live by improving the insulation in 1,304 homes.
- We successfully lobbied the two local wind farm operators, Brookfield Renewables and REG/Blackrock, to commit £100,000 community funding per annum (index linked) for the next 25 years, for the benefit of the local area.
- We've continued our efforts to bring the Derrynoid Centre back into use.

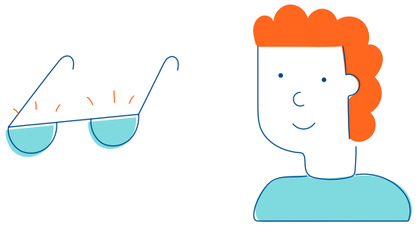
  A community audit produced more than 700 responses, with over 200 people attending an open day. We've also secured more than £500,000 of capital funding for the proposed Community Hub. We're hopefully getting there, but there's still a lot more to do!

- Businesses providing jobs for local people ensures the prosperity of our area. To help local businesses thrive and grow, we're continuing to seek a site in Draperstown with a size of approximately 7 acres, which would allow for the expansion of our existing industrial estate.
- To help support other local community organisations, we continued to provide rent-free accommodation to a range of local groups including: Ballinascreen Men's Shed, Glasgowbury, St Colm's High School, Cornstore Youth Club, St Vincent de Paul and STEPS Mental Health. This free space equates to some £42,000 of in kind contribution.
- During the year we reviewed what the total investment we have made in our community equals to since we commenced operations in 1985. Looking at our impact totally in terms of cash along with in kind, the figure is more than £2.5 million (and counting!).
- To keep the festive spirit strong, Workspace has taken on the role of putting up the festive lights and Christmas tree.

HEALTHY CUSTOMERS

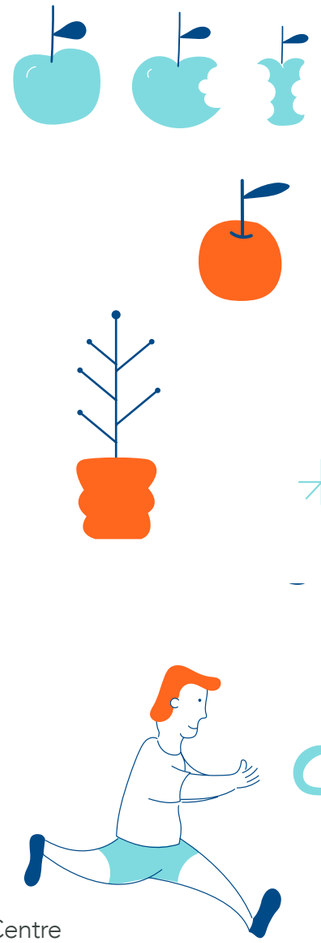
- We've improved the lives of 1,285 of our employability customers by helping them into employment.
- Improving a customer's ability to get a job or progress within their role is equally important for mental health. During the year we helped 1,519 customers gain employment qualifications and 262 to move onto further training/education.
- Our recently refurbished After School Club saw demand reach its highest to date. This service now takes care of up to 40 primary school children each day. Providing this safe, healthy care environment allows their parents to undertake full time employment.
- Through cost savings from fuel efficiencies and the saving of over 6,700 tonnes of carbon, our waste heat recovery business ThermTech has helped customers' financial health to dramatically improve.
- A sure sign of the business health of our customers is that our 50 tenants employ a combined total of 183 staff and occupy more than 95% of our units.
- We want to ensure that our tenants stay competitive and so we're commencing a major project that will see our broadband connectivity become one of the strongest in the country. We're aiming to do this by providing a broadband connection that can carry speeds of up to one gigabit per second in our business parks.
- Through our recruitment company, Network Recruitment, we continue to provide much needed temporary and permanent staff. This service ensures that companies throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have no gaps in their teams, which helps them achieve greater business success. During the year we had 3,962 job seeker registrations and we filled 91 permanent and 4,503 temporary roles.
- For more than 30 years, we've been proud to ensure that anyone starting (or wanting to start) a business, gets great advice and support. During the past year, we helped 78 small businesses start up in the local area.
- In the past year we also nurtured 24 social enterprises in Mid Ulster, by helping them in their efforts to either set up or grow.
- To ensure local businesses keep learning, we offered seven free 'Just the Business' workshops. These were attended by 203 local entrepreneurs and covered skills such as photography and design as well as topics like how to use Facebook, LinkedIn and various other social media marketing tools to boost their businesses.
- We continued to deliver a top class service to our customers as confirmed by us achieving three top gradings in separate Education and Training Inspectorate audits.

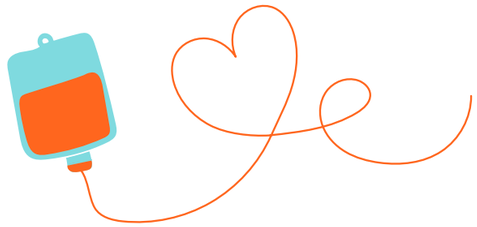




A HEALTHY TEAM

- A range of health and wellbeing initiatives are provided to our 185 staff including:
  - mental health awareness training and support
  - health and wellbeing information in our 14 offices
  - fresh fruit in all our offices
  - annual health checks
  - an extra 15 minutes at lunch time twice weekly so that employees can take a nice walk
  - free eye tests
  - time out during working hours to donate blood
  - stress management and relaxation workshops
  - mindfulness workshops
  - half price use of the leisure facilities at our Recreation Centre
- During the year, 65 colleagues took part in our Workspace parkruns across eight locations.
- Our approach to the health and wellbeing of our team received recognition when we won the Inspire Workplace Wellbeing Award. In addition we were the first ever social enterprise (and second company overall) in Northern Ireland to gain the prestigious 'Investors in People Health & Wellbeing Award'.
- We firmly believe that our people work best when they are happy in their roles. Staff satisfaction levels continue to improve with an average satisfaction level of more than 8/10 being scored in this year's survey. This confirms that our people are engaged and performing strongly.





COMPANY INFORMATION

FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 2018

Board of Directors

Chairman
Mr Laurence O'Kane

Non-Executive Directors
Mrs Sammantha McCloskey
Mr Damian Heron
Mr Willie McKeown
Mr Graham Mawhinney
Mr Patsy McShane
Mrs Catherine McCoy
Mr Diarmuid O'Kane
Councillor Brian McGuigan

Chief Executive
Mr Brian Murray

Company Secretary
Mr Robin Gawne

Registered Office
The Business Centre
Draperstown
BT45 7AG

Registration Number
N.I. 18240

Bankers

First Trust Bank
The Diamond, 2 Rainey Street
Magherafelt, BT45 5AG

Bank of Ireland
11 Market Street
Magherafelt, BT45 6EE

Ulster Community Investment Trust
Linenhall House
13 – 19 Linenhall Street
Belfast, BT2 8AA

Auditors
ASM (M) Ltd
Diamond Centre
Magherafelt
BT45 6ED

Solicitors
Tughans
Marlborough House
30 Victoria Street
Belfast
BT1 3GS

PASSIONATE ABOUT BUSINESS, DELIVERING TO OUR COMMUNITY.

the workspace group

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Draperstown, BT45 7AG

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Lo-Call: 0845 362 0747 (UK)
1890 928 556 (ROI)

www.theworkspacegroup.org

workspace community fund
network personnel Together Towards Employment
ThermTech Waste Heat Recovery Systems
workspace recreation centre
homeseal
workspace after school club
workspace enterprises ltd.
MYM recruitment