

# TECHIES IN RESIDENCE

## IN SHORT

'The Techies in Residence programme is about helping voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations creatively use digital technology to enhance their social impact.

Techies in Residence is about using technology to enhance the mission-facing work of organisations.'<sup>1</sup>

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**This project isn't really about technology, it's about innovation - bringing together smart, talented people from the tech sector and community sector to design and develop new ideas to tackle some really big problems.**

CONNOR DOHERTY, PROGRAMME MANAGER

## STORY



**Digital technology** is increasingly used to address **social issues**. An idea that was tested in practice is **The Techies in Residence programme** which brings together the respective expertise of digital technology experts and the VCSE sector to create, develop and implement new digital social innovations in Northern Ireland.'<sup>2</sup>

'Techies in Residence saw six local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector organisations be paired up with six tech professionals to come up with a tech solution to a social problem they had identified within their community. Specifically, this was not about digital skills development or building a new website – it was about using digital technology to affect social change.

For example, the Now Project's JAM Card, which previously was a plastic card that simply asked retailers and other service providers to give people with disabilities extra time when doing day to day interactions was digitised allowing for the collection of data leading to the eventual mapping of what shops and other places are best for disabled users. Following on from the Techies in Residence programme, this project received £50,000 in funding from the Big Lottery Fund to further develop their work and take the JAM Card to the next level.'<sup>3</sup>

'The Techies in Residence programme is an initiative of Social Innovation NI, managed by the Building Change Trust, which in turn has been funded by Big Lottery Fund and also Comic Relief.'<sup>2</sup>

## IN FOCUS



OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

GENERATING IDEAS

DEVELOPING & TESTING

IMPLEMENTING & FINANCING

GROWING & SCALING

CHANGING SYSTEMS

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1) <https://www.socialenterpriseni.org/news/9-january-2018/techies-in-residence-programme>

2) <http://www.techinres.com/>

3) <https://socialinnovationni.org/prototypes/>

Photo: <https://www.buildingchangetrust.org/social-innovation/news/Techies-in-Residence-Projects-Taking-it-to-the-Next-Level>