



# Barcelona Study Trip

October 2015



**Belfast**  
City Council

# What I would like to cover

- Barcelona Context
- Challenges in Barcelona
- Barcelona Social Inclusion Plan
- Fuel Poverty
- Food Poverty
- Lessons for Belfast



# Barcelona Profile

- Second most populated city in Spain with 1.6 million
- Seat of the Catalan government
- **4<sup>th</sup> most economically powerful city in the EU (2008)**
- 4<sup>th</sup> best city for business in Europe in 2009
- 14th most livable city in the world
- Since 2011 a leading smart city in Europe



# The Governance in Barcelona

- **41** Councillors
- First time female Mayor
- **10** Administrative Districts
- **5** main services– ecology and health, rights of citizens, security, economy and resources and housing
- Some of the powers are shared with Catalan government through establishment of **Consortia** (4) such as Social Services Consortia



# What are the Barcelona equality challenges?

**18.3% live in poverty  
– 292,000 people**

# What are the Barcelona equality challenges?

- **City of contrasts. 18.3% live in poverty – 292,000 people**  
28 % said they had difficulties making ends meet.
- **Life expectancy** – 85.9 for women and 79.3 for men. Highest difference between districts is 4.8 years.
- **Unemployment**– 18%, Spain is 21%, but youth unemployment for 16-19 is 56% and 40.7% for 20-24.
- **Ageing population** – 20.8 aged 65 and over
- **People with disabilities** – 118,004
- **Ethnic minorities** – 279,724. Ciutat vella has 41.6 % foreign nationals

# Barcelona Social Inclusion Plan

Barcelona Social Inclusion Plan for  
2012-2015

- The second plan
- Established the **Citizen's Agreement** with 606 organisations signed up
- Budget of €400 million
- Joint working and shared resources



Ajuntament de  
Barcelona



# Fuel Poverty

## Issues

- The condition of housing is poor
- Energy prices are high
- Community and Voluntary/NGO sector role

## Approaches

- Energy Ambassadors
- Fuel Poverty Group
- Energy Agents
- Renewable energy
- Strong Council support



# Food poverty

## Issues

- 20,000 free school meal grants
- 38,292 food bank user households

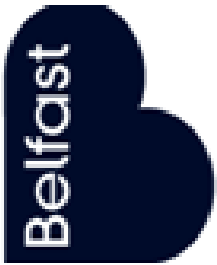
## Approaches

- Free School Meals
- Solidarity Card
- Emergency Fund
- Social Canteens
- Food Bank
- 500 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations distributing food



## Lessons for Belfast

- **Barcelona is a bigger city with bigger problems**
- **A lot of investment to help people in poverty**
- **Council exploring more neighbourhood initiatives**
- **Sharing data and resources**
- **Linking with schools and universities**
- **Integrated approach to tackling poverty**
- **Good practical actions**
- **Value of community and voluntary sector**



# Thank you

15 February 2016



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City Council