

News Release: 25 October 2017

## Hearing Link launches new project in Northern Ireland

The UK charity Hearing Link has announced a new initiative in Northern Ireland that will connect and support people living with hearing loss in their own communities.

*Connect Hear NI* will officially launch with two celebration events next month. They will take place from 10.30am-2.30pm on:

- **8<sup>th</sup> November** – Belfast Castle, Antrim Road, Belfast
- **9<sup>th</sup> November** – Killyhevlin Hotel, Dublin Road, Enniskillen

The five-year initiative aims to help more people reconnect with their families and communities while embracing experiences that they are commonly excluded from.

The project will be led and shaped by volunteers, with experience of hearing loss themselves, who will guide the activities that complement existing support and help to address current gaps.

There are three key themes to the project which is funded by The Big Lottery Fund:

- **Start Hear** – to address the needs of those newly diagnosed with hearing loss or those affected longer term who would benefit from additional support
- **Meet Hear** – encouraging people to come together with peers to share experiences and consider ways of improving access to all aspects of social and community life
- **Learn Hear** – offering training and educational opportunities both in relation to managing hearing loss and helping people engage in meaningful education and employment

Sarah Lynch, *Connect Hear NI* Project Manager, said: “We are delighted to launch our five-year project, funded by The Big Lottery Fund, with these two celebration events in Belfast and Enniskillen.

“*Connect Hear NI* will offer support to many more people living with the challenges of their hearing in Northern Ireland right from the start of their hearing loss journey. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about how our project can support them are welcome to attend either of our celebration events.”

The events are free to attend and refreshments and lunch will be provided.

You can register your interest in attending by emailing [northernireland@hearinglink.org](mailto:northernireland@hearinglink.org) or calling 07950 371095 for more information.

Hearing Link is a UK charity which provides information and support for people with hearing loss, their families and friends.

For more information about Hearing Link activities in Northern Ireland visit:  
<https://www.hearinglink.org/connect/hearing-link-northern-ireland/>.

**-Ends-**

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## Notes to Editors

### About Hearing Link

Hearing Link is a UK charity for people who have developed any level of hearing loss and their family and friends. It provides information and support and puts them in contact with others who have similar experiences. It aims to give people the knowledge, skills, confidence and contacts so they can more easily manage the practical and emotional challenges that hearing loss brings. It works across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information, visit <http://www.hearinglink.org>

Hearing Link is a trading name of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (number 1964878) and registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 293358) and in Scotland (number SC040486).

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