



# Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release  
Immediate Release

## FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE RECEIVE FUNDING

The WHSCT's Health Promotion Department and WHSSB have presented £26,000 to Foyle Search and Rescue. The Foyle Search and Rescue Team have been in operation for 15 years providing a suicide prevention and rescue service along the River Foyle. During this time, they have prevented more than 1141 potential suicides and have been paged over 880 times. This funding will be used to purchase Emergency Response Kits and a new state-of-the-art communications and paging system. It will also be used to initiate an extensive volunteer recruitment drive.

Dr. Maura O'Neill, Head of Health Promotion Department, WHSCT said, "We are delighted to have provided this funding to contribute to this valuable rescue service. We are committed to ensuring that these services are better resourced in making a difference to the health and wellbeing of local people. It is anticipated that funding will continue to be available to further develop and enhance the service as well as other local community and voluntary groups".

Martin Wilson, Foyle Search and Rescue said, "This funding is absolutely fantastic for the life preservation work of our charity. Expanding volunteer membership is essential to our work to improve our communications and emergency response times. Our volunteers are at the heart of our charity; without them, we can't operate. This funding will enable us to begin a volunteer recruitment drive and to purchase Emergency Response Kits, which will provide our Emergency Response Team, on call 24/7, with the essential equipment needed to deal with a rescue or emergency. We will also be investing in a new communications system, which will greatly improve our response time to emergencies. This funding will make a great difference".

Ends....

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**Notes to Editor**

Picture (L to R)

Dr. Maura O'Neill, Head of Health Promotion WHSCT  
Martin Wilson Foyle Search and Rescue  
Dorothy Hutchinson Strategic Commissioning Lead for Children, Young  
People and Families, WHSSB.