

T:buc

Changing for the better, together



North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme

Programme Report

2017/18



Community Relations Council
Equity Diversity Interdependence



Northern Ireland
Executive

www.northernireland.gov.uk

Foreword

The purpose of this report is to tell you about the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP), and to give you some examples of what it has achieved in 2017/18.

The NBSGRP is a key good relations funding scheme delivered as part of the Executive's wider Together: Building a United Community Strategy.

The Strategy outlines a vision of a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. Links to further information on the Strategy can be found in the Key Facts section of this report.

The Programme is delivered by 11 contract holders and their partner organisations, with the key aim of improving relations between and within communities in North Belfast.

In 2017/18, nearly £700,000 was allocated to 54 good relations projects delivering in over 200 locations across all communities in North Belfast.

The NBSGRP is delivered in partnership with the Community Relations Council (CRC). The Executive Office is responsible for the strategic direction of the Programme, with CRC managing the administration and co-ordinating the evaluation of project outcomes over the course of the funding cycle.

This model of partnership working has been very successful. CRC staff bring their experience and expertise in administering and evaluating good relations funding schemes, and this has been evidenced in the positive outcomes achieved by the Programme in 2017/18. Each contract holder has a section within the report where you can find out more about the good relations programmes they are delivering, and the positive difference they are making to good relations in North Belfast

The Programme has a strong focus on outcomes – in each project it is possible to clearly identify what difference is being made and to see how relations have been improved. Each case study included in this report clearly shows how a project has had a positive impact, and quotes from participants give a personal perspective on how projects have made a difference to their lives.

If you would like to send us feedback on any aspect of this report or the Programme itself, or would like more details about anything you have read about, please contact the team using the contact information provided at the end of this report.

The contract holders delivering the NBSGRP are making a real difference to good relations in North Belfast and I would like to thank them for their hard work over the year – the positive outcomes achieved are a direct result of the efforts they have put in.

The promotion of good relations is a task for everyone – we all have a part to play and we can all make a contribution to the inclusive, welcoming and united community we all want to live in. I hope after reading this report you will want to know more about the Programme, the projects being delivered and how you can get involved.

Gavin King

Programme Manager
Peace IV & T:BUC Branch

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises were able to facilitate five key programmes through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme this year. These included an Intensive Mentoring programme for young people in Ardoyne and Shankill, a range of Open College Network qualifications for young people and practitioners in Youth Work, Mentoring and Community Relations, a diversity and good relations programme for 11-15yr olds between Ardoyne and Monkstown Boxing Club, study visits to examine best practice in community development in Dublin and Manchester, and dialogue forums on shared youth space. We delivered programmes directly with young people from Ardoyne, Greater Shankill, Monkstown and Cliftonville, along with youth and community practitioners from these areas and New Lodge, Ligoniel, Ballysillan, Lower Oldpark, and Glenbryn. There were more than 210 direct participants in our programmes and in excess of 100 more surveyed and consulted.

Our Monkstown Ardoyne Diversity and Empowerment (MADE) programme was designed around the TBUC priority of improving attitudes between young people from different community backgrounds.



It got into full swing from October 2017 to March 2018 and offered young people from these two areas opportunities to explore their own identity, and cultural and diversity issues, whilst developing new relationships and life-skills on the way. During the programme they participated in many workshops including with Disability Sport NI, Homeless Aware, The Urban Chef, NI Indian Community, and Small Worlds workshop run by Belfast friendship club. The training and workshop programme was interspersed with fun and activities including teambuilding, residentials, go-karting, social events, bowling and a big celebration event at the end of the year. All participants on the programme stated that they felt more confident on issues around good-relations, had a better understanding of diversity issues, and were more likely to get involved in good relations activities after participating in the MADE programme. One of the participants, Imogen, commented “I feel like it’s the right thing to do to promote diversity because its OK to be different and accept that people are different”. Another member of MADE, Jodie, said “With my own experience, I haven’t been included in everything that I would have liked to, and its important to me to get as many people involved (in these programmes) as possible”.

Contact:

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Belfast
BT14 7EJ

T: (028) 9074 1479



Case Study:

MADE Programme

Project Summary:

The Monkstown-Ardoyne Diversity Empowerment (MADE) Programme is aimed at linking young people with opportunities through the provision of Youth engagement and programming, training, good relations, youth provider support, community transport, regeneration initiatives, focusing on improving relations between and within communities in the Ardoyne and wider community of North Belfast.

Participants:

 **20+**
Young people took part and completed the programme

participants from both main communities 

How much did we do?

- 8** single identity workshops.
- 12** joint meetings of youth practitioners.
- 2** joint residentials.
- 13** joint facilitated training sessions.
- 4** reflection workshops.
- 1** joint social action project.
- 1** joint celebration event.

What difference did we make?



felt more confident on issues around building good relations with other communities after the MADE programme.

felt like they had gained an understanding of equality and diversity and the surrounding issues after the MADE programme.



participants stated that they felt like they were more likely to get involved in good relations or community relations activities after the MADE programme.

How well did we do?

"I feel like it's the right thing to do to promote diversity because its OK to be different and accept that people are different". " Its important to me to get as many people involved (in these programmes) as possible".

Ashton Community Trust

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Ashton Community Trust delivers a programme of activity through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations programme that aims to improve relations between and within communities in the community of North Belfast. Over the last 8 years, the programme has grown significantly and now includes the North Belfast Lantern Festival, Summer Arts Academy, Winterfest Programme and Designs for the Future @ Fablab, all creative approaches to building good relations primarily with young people.

For this year's Summer Arts Academy, we were delighted to stage a production of the hit musical – Fame JR. 32 young people from across North Belfast (including Lower Shankill, Cliftonville, Rathcoole, Fortwilliam and New Lodge) participated in the programme. The rehearsals were held during the weeklong residential in Ballyhornan Scout Centre. The young people were immersed in a busy schedule of singing, acting and dancing in preparation for the Friday and Saturday night showcases in the Waterfront Studio.

Over 400 people attended the performances which showcased the talent of the young people. The young people really excelled this year and put on a fantastic show.



The North Belfast Lantern Festival is led by Ashton Community Trust and delivered by New Lodge Arts. Paul Roberts, CEO of Ashton Community Trust, said “The North Belfast Lantern Festival is in its eighth year having grown from strength to strength. It offers a fabulous opportunity for children, young people and families from right across North Belfast to come together and enjoy a spectacular programme of arts activities, outdoor cinema, performances, enchanted walks and fireworks. The Festival is a great example of the North Belfast Community Spirit and Ashton Community Trust is delighted to be leading on it supported by a steering group of various North Belfast based youth and community organisations.”



Contact:

Ashton Centre
5 Churchill Street
Belfast
BT15 2BP

T: (028) 9074 2255



Case Study:

North Belfast Lantern Parade

Project Summary:

The highlight of the annual programme is the North Belfast Lantern Festival returned in October with blockbuster Star Wars-themed event. The two-day festival, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the release of 'Star Wars: A New Hope', took place on Sunday October 29 to Monday 30th at Alexandra Park and boasted a wide range of fun-packed, family activities.

Participants:



4000+

People from across north Belfast over 2 days

33
community
groups



participants from both main traditions and other ethnic groups.



9
schools/
nurseries

What difference did we make?



in the number of participants who feel more willing to attend events in Alexandra Park

in the number of participants who feel more positive about people from different religious backgrounds



How well did we do?

"The Westland Community Group have participated in the Lantern parade since its inception and the feedback from participants and residents who have regularly attended is that it has been the highlight of the year in terms of community celebrations."

"Thank you so much for the opportunities you provided for both my boys, they truly had an amazing time and their experiences were second to none!"

"We believe that from a Good Relations perspective the Lantern Parade is one of the most inclusive and representative events in the country that enables participants to embrace the arts, community pride and consider the possibilities for the future of their area."

Ballysillan Community Forum

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Ballysillan Community Forum (BCF) has been involved in delivering Northern Ireland Executive funded programmes for 11 years, staff at the centre endeavour to work with everyone across North Belfast bringing development learning programmes to the community alongside other services.

In this funding period we have seen an increase in people hearing about programmes we deliver, we achieve this through working with all programme partners, community organisations, schools, churches and using social media outlets Facebook & Twitter.

All work we do at the centre is focused on a cross community basis and we also open doors to new people who have arrived to settle in Northern Ireland from other countries.

All programmes funded by the NI Executive Office have been successful and lots of positive feedback has been recorded. We have also learned over the years that the value to learning has no age barriers.

Here at BCF we value the financial assistance given by the funder and also the support NI Executive office staff give to the programmes we deliver.



**We are all at the
School of Life.**



- Albert Haslett
(Programme Participant)

Contact:

925-927 Crumlin Road
Belfast
BT14 8AB

T: (028) 9039 1272



Case Study:

Shared Cultural Learning Programme

Project Summary:

One programme we deliver has been designed for Senior Citizens and our eldest participant is 91yrs old.

This programme has had visits to Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland with site visits to historical venues / museums and in the winter months we have visits to the theatre and the cinema, participants have recorded very positive feedback on how inclusive and welcoming the project is including how great it is to include carers or family members to attend with anyone who needs assistance.

Participants:



77

Senior Citizens from across north Belfast

participants from both main traditions and other ethnic groups.



How much did we do?



5 workshops

12 educational trips/visits

1 celebration event

What difference did we make?



felt more comfortable socialising with people from another community background.

stated that they had overcome a fear of travelling into other areas.



agreed that more community programmes for the more senior of the community would be welcomed.

How well did we do?

“Cannot believe I have never entered such a beautiful building almost on my doorstep, loved every minute of this visit and a gorgeous sunny day too”

“Working with the older generation on shared community issues is vital – they play a vital role in educating and guiding the adults of tomorrow”

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

Good Relations Programme

Overview

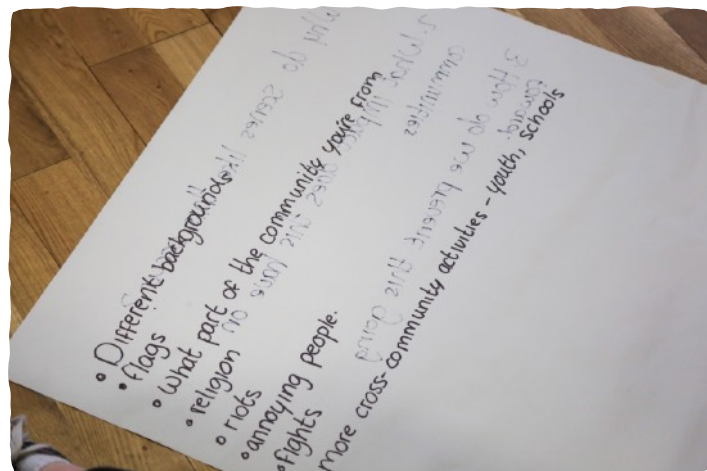
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum was set up in 1995 by a number of community groups working in the Cliftonville area of North Belfast to act as an umbrella body. It now works across the Cliftonville and Antrim Road areas of North Belfast.

Our Vision is for “a confident, thriving, diverse community”.

Our Mission is to “work for the social, economic and physical regeneration of the community and to create the conditions for the removal of the physical and mental barriers that divide us”.

Our Key Strategic Priorities are:

- Assets, Facilities and Community Enterprise
- Skills, education and employment
- Good Relations
- Youth Development
- Housing, Homelessness and the Environment
- Community Safety and Community Support



Participant Feedback:

“I thought Girdwood was only for Catholics until I went to the Youth Space to take part in the Girdwood United Youth TBUC programme. Now me and my friends go every Tuesday & Friday night” - **Young female from the Shankill area**

“My girlfriend only lives five minutes up the street from me but before Girdwood we would never have met because I’m a Catholic and she’s a Protestant” - **Young Male from Kinnaird (Antrim Road)**

“When we’re in the Girdwood Youth Space we don’t even think about anyone’s religion anymore. Some people are your friends and some aren’t but it’s got nothing to do with religion” - **Young Female from Cliftonville**

“I took part in the North Talks Too Local Interface project and was told I’d learn about other people’s culture but I also learnt loads of stuff about my own culture which I didn’t know” - **Young person from Lower Oldpark area**

“At the start I was always afraid when he went to Girdwood but when I see how the kids all mix together I just think – they could teach us adults a thing or two about reconciliation” - **parent of a young person who regularly attends the Girdwood Youth Space project**

Contact:

185 Cliftonpark Avenue
Belfast
BT14 6DT

T: (028) 9074 9147



Case Study:

Girdwood Youth Space



Participants:



20
young people
from across
north Belfast

participants from
both main
traditions and
other ethnic
groups.



How much did we do?

Participants took part in a series of employability workshops and were given 1-1 support by a career's advisor to help complete a job application form. From this many participants gained part time employment.

Through participation in the Girdwood Youth Space good relations programmes participants have made friendships beyond the Girdwood Hub. Friendships extend from the Shankill into the heart of Ardoyne and the Cliftonville. Participants attend clubs and the homes of their friends.

What difference did we make?



feel more comfortable meeting other young people from different community backgrounds.

feel more comfortable sharing space in Girdwood Community Hub.



How well did we do?

"I was always rioting at the interface. Through participating in the Girdwood Youth space programme, I made friendships with people from other communities and realised that breaking the law and wasting my time on destructive behaviour wasn't the answer. I now have friendship groups stretching from the Shankill to the heart of Ardoyne."

"This programme is vital – buildings are bricks and mortar, but opinions and behaviours can seem like they are set in stone as well. Its only through experiencing shared community through programmes like this that we can change buildings into truly shared spaces."

Greater Whitewell Community Surgery

Good Relations Programme

Overview

HCP Programme

This multi agency partnership brings together statutory bodies, PSNI, and community groups to address local issues across Belfast and Newtownabbey boundaries.

This programme links to the T:BUC Key Aims:

1. Our Children and Young People
2. Our Shared Community
3. Our Safe Community and
4. Our Cultural Expression

Achieving Personal Potential (APP)

The APP is a shared cross community afterschool programme funded by the Executive Office, which offers not only educational support and social skills but also various recreational activities. The After-schools programme enables the children from different backgrounds to come together in a shared space to address any differences through the arts and shared history exercises. We have a total of 72 participants from diverse cultural backgrounds some of which have limited experience of peace building who learn more about other cultures and integrate into the social make up of North Belfast. We maintain an 80% participation with 55% CNR and 45% PUL, but always aiming to increase this number.



Post APP

Due to the feedback from parents and the young people who are past participants of the APP Programme, we have successfully set up an extension to the Programme for the youth who exceeded the age for the original APP. We have a total of 12 participants from diverse cultural backgrounds; 9 from the CNR community and 3 from the PUL community. We presently have 75% of our target group.

Summer Programme

This is a continuation of the APP Programme to maintain relationships built during term time; and out of term interaction between the App participants to further good relations. There has been an increase in numbers from 30 to 48 participants, an increase of 60%.

Collaborative APP

GWCS are now in collaboration with Mount Vernon to deliver the APP Programme on a wider scale with greater impacts and outcomes than would have been otherwise possible.

The Collaborative Programme brings participants from outside our community together giving them the opportunity to meet and gain a greater understanding and respect of each other's culture.

There are 20 participants; 75% (15) from the PUL community and 25% (5) from the CNR community.

Contact:

878 Shore Road
Belfast
BT36 7DQ

T: (028) 9085 9911



Case Study:

Achieving Personal Potential (APP) - Summer Programme

Project Summary:

The Summer Programme was initially set up to keep the ties formed within new friendships of the APP between the children from other cultural and religious backgrounds that had been made during the APP term time. The summer months can be extremely contentious as we live on a live interface so it was vital that these bonds remained intact.

GWCS set up diverse programmes for July and August. We had in-house crafts and arts sessions, and also took the groups on various trips outside their area. Examples of which included BBQ at Carnfunnock, museum visits, adventure days, water sports and team building exercises.

Participants:



48
young people

participants
from both
main
communities



60%

increase in the number of participants taking part in the programme.

What did we learn?

We soon realised the strength of the bonds created in the APP Programme when we had taken the children out of their area as they became very protective of each other when joined with outside groups. The group saw themselves as a 'We' not them and us.

What difference did we make?



have maintained great friendships over the summer period - feeling more comfortable engaging with people from a different area.

took part in all of the various workshops and sessions within the Summer APP Programme.



How well did we do?

"Cannot commend this project enough, the confidence in my child has soared. It has broke down so many barriers between the kids in this area."

"The trips are fun, and free!"

"We do lots of arts and crafts and get lots of food."

"Where my friends are."

Intercomm

Good Relations Programme

Overview

INTERCOMM was founded in 1995 as a direct response to grassroots community concerns about inter-community conflict and social deprivation. Delivering a portfolio of programmes under the T:BUC Strategy through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

We proactively work to combat the social, economic and political problems created by over 30 years of conflict and help construct a concrete and viable peace. We are a solution-focussed peace building organisation that has developed an organic peace building practice and model. What we have learned is that peace building must operate along three interdependent and connected strands:

1. INTERVENTION:

INTERCOMM has developed organisational integrity and credibility by working with communities in times of heightened tensions or as a response to emerging needs.

2. LEARNING:

INTERCOMM has sought to give communities and agencies the skills to manage and adjust to change.

3. STRATEGIC:

INTERCOMM has actively cultivated working relationships with politicians, lead departments, and local stakeholders to effect institutional capacity to embrace the demands and dynamics of the T:BUC Strategy through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.



The introduction of Outcome Based Accountability has given us a real opportunity to develop programmes that make a real difference to the lives of the people of North Belfast. We can plot how well we are achieving our outcomes by looking at the feedback from participants on our programmes, ensuring they are in line with the overall TBUC Strategy and recording the progress made in order to inform new and developing programmes and projects. By the end of this year's programme we will have engaged with over 600 people from the New Lodge, Shankill, Ligoniel, Woodvale, Ardoyne, Lower Oldpark, Shore Road and Limestone including Tigers Bay.

Our Main Outcomes for this year are as follows:

- Increasing the number of people who feel more comfortable socialising/ working with people from a different community background.
- Increasing the number of people who feel more comfortable in sharing spaces and services traditionally associated with people from another community background.
- Increasing the number of participants who feel they have a greater understanding and respect for other peoples culture.

Contact:

290-292 Antrim Road
Belfast
BT15 5AA

T: (028) 9035 2165



Case Study:

The Origins of the Poppy & Lilly

Project Summary:

Over the last nine months we have been actively promoting the T:BUC Strategy throughout the north of the city. We have engaged with young people, senior citizens, people from all community backgrounds, the PSNI, the Housing Executive, Belfast City Council and other contract holders funded through the NBSGRP.

This cross community event looked at the origins of the Poppy and the Lilly. To help explore the symbolism history and promote understanding. We engaged Joe Austin and Philip Orr who are regarded as experts in this field.

Participants:



45

people from across north Belfast

participants from both main traditions and other ethnic groups.



How much did we do?

9
months of community engagement



What difference did we make?



said they feel more comfortable socialising/working with people from a different community background

said they feel more comfortable in sharing spaces and services traditionally associated with people from a different community background



said they now have a greater understanding and respect for other peoples culture.

How well did we do?

“With more events like this people can learn to respect each other’s war dead on each side”

“My Grandfather was a staunch republican and he always bought 3 Poppy’s every year for the 3 friends he lost during World War 2”

“I couldn’t believe that the Poppy isn’t viewed as a political symbol.”

North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme Key Facts

Coverage: The Programme operates across all communities within North Belfast.

Delivery:



The North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme is delivered as part of the Executive's wider Together: Building a United Community strategy. You can find out more about the strategy at:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy>

North Belfast


Ballysillan
Community Forum


Ligoneil Improvement
Association


Cliftonville Comm
Regeneration Fo


Upper Ardoyne
Community Partnership


Ardoyne Youth
Enterprises

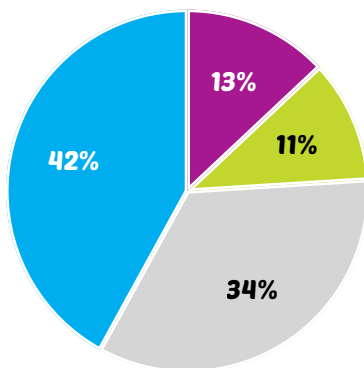

Vine Centre






Shankill
Womens'
Centre

Asht

West
Belfast

T:BUC Theme Percentage Breakdown of Projects:



-  Children & Young People
-  Shared Community
-  Cultural Expression
-  Safe Community

Outcomes Focus:

The Programme has a strong focus on the outcomes of delivery. Every funded project has one or more defined and measurable good relations outcomes linked to the wider strategic aims of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.





Aims:

The aims of the Programme are to improve relations between and within communities across North Belfast and to promote local solutions to local good relations issues.



Funding:

The Programme is funded by The Executive Office. In 2017/18 nearly £700,000 was allocated to the Programme and enabled the delivery of over 50 good relations interventions across the four key themes of the T:BUC Strategy:

- Children & Young People
- Shared Community
- Safe Community
- Cultural Expression



Partnership Delivery:

The NBSGRP is delivered in partnership with the Community Relations Council (CRC). The Executive Office is responsible for the strategic direction of the Programme, with CRC managing the administration and co-ordinating the evaluation of project outcomes over the course of the funding cycle.



South
elfast

East
Belfast

Ligoniel Improvement Association

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIA) is a community based organisation whose aim, when formed in 1974, was to “initiate, facilitate and resource community participation in the improvement of the Ligoniel area”.

LIA recognise that the inequalities and disadvantages affecting Ligoniel at all levels are not only a legacy of the Troubles, but the result of a community that has survived on the periphery of Belfast. The organisation has witnessed many changes to the area including the redevelopment of the village, changes in the residential structures, withdrawal and closure of a number of long term employers, the establishment and subsequent termination of a number of training and employment schemes.

It has been instrumental in developing the Wolfhill Centre, one of the main community re-source facilities in the area. The foresight of the Chairperson Professor Tom Lovett saw the need to preserve Ligoniel’s rich environment history and led to a Ligoniel Neighbourhood Village Partnership, pre-dating any Government regeneration initiative in Northern Ireland by over 4 years.



Education and building capacity of residents to engage in issues directly impacting on the area has also been a key priority for LIA over the years and has resulted in the establishment of a training facility and ongoing initiatives to improve academic attainment for young people.

Ligoniel Improvement Association prides itself on delivering services and projects throughout the community focusing on community development, youth work, community relations , community safety and environmental preservation. In 2017 we have developed several programmes that encompasses all of the above whilst ensuring we have met every one of the T:BUC policies.



Contact:

Wolfhill Centre
148 Ligoniel Road
Belfast
BT14 8DJ

T: (028) 9039 1225



Case Study:

Women in Society

Project Summary:

This programme empowers women to look at what unifies them within our society rather than what divides.

Having participants from all over north Belfast has been enlightening as every session is full of discussion and passion regarding the appreciation of their communities. The group were fortunate enough to be taken on an educational trip to Westminster where they have the opportunity to visit Parliament, sit in on trials and even meet members from the House of Lords.

Participants:



60

women from across north Belfast

participants from both main traditions and other ethnic groups.



How much did we do?:

10+
Workshops/
Talks/
Educational
Visits



What difference did we make?



gained a greater understanding of societal structures as well as having developed new friendships.

in the understanding of Cohesion, diversity, fairness, inclusion, integration, interdependence, respect, rights, sharing, and tolerance.



of participants engaged in activities that celebrate cultural diversity.



of participants wish to further their education into the political system.

How well did we do?

"I had no idea about politics, it all confused me until I started coming to group and learning about democracy and how we can make changes in our community. I'm more involved now in volunteering for community events and have really enjoyed getting to know people from outside Ligoniel"

Loughview Community Action Partnership

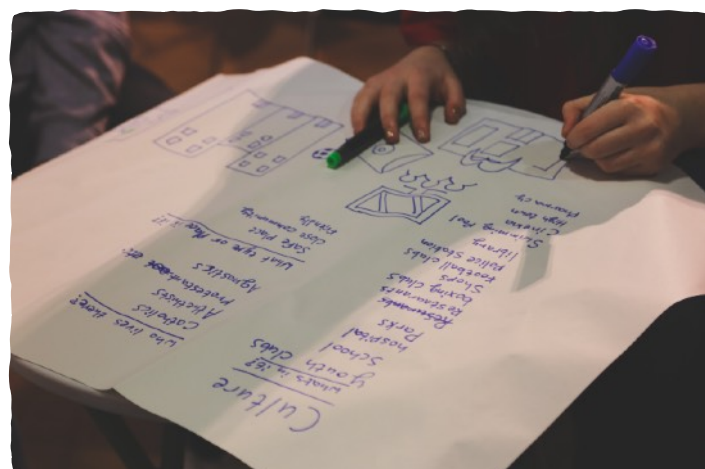
Good Relations Programme

Overview

Loughview Community Action Partnership's (LCAP) role is to add value to the activity undertaken by groups in local neighbourhoods and to work with organisations to ensure the continued development of a resourced community sector in the LCAP area that is recognised, valued and effective. We seek to support successful community development, encourage reflective practice and promote cooperation and locally based solutions.

It is widely recognised within LCAP that the building of relationships requires communities to create new lines of contact and develop meaningful engagement with one another. LCAP believes that divisions exist within and between communities and therefore argue the need to work on intra and inter community relationships. LCAP also recognises the importance of the work to tackle the history of suspicion, mistrust and even hatred that exists within communities. LCAP will endeavour to address these problems within its own neighbourhoods over which it has influence:

- Build on existing good relations work with the two main traditions and the New Communities;



- Appreciation and respect of "Difference" within a North Belfast context;
- Work towards creating confident, proud and Knowledgeable Neighbourhoods; and
- Work towards creating safer and stable Neighbourhoods.

Commissioned research suggests the need for work to be concentrated on a number of issues and in particular geographical areas are high on our agenda! We believe that quality of delivery and capacity building is important. We do this by using Action Learning. This allows the participants to plan, design and deliver projects and learn from the process and record the learning.

It also allows us to focus on community development to create the skills and cohesion within communities which builds confidence to work on inter-community issues by using Good Relation's methods. The work is focused, Children & Young People, Shared Community, Safer Neighbourhoods and Cultural Expression. All of this work is carried out by LCAP using the methods above. The work we carry out is recognised by The Executive Office's key priorities within the T:BUC Strategy document.

Contact:

166-180 Mountvernion Park
Belfast
BT15 4BJ



Case Study:

Men's Forum

Project Summary:

The programme was to prepare people to engage with the other community, and challenged people to look at things from the opposite point of view. It looked at the following:

- Preparing to engage
- Opposing Narratives
- Diversity and tolerance
- Shared history
- Preparing for dialogue and
- Exploring commonalities between communities.

Participants:



90
men in total from
across North Belfast

participants
from both main
community
backgrounds



How much did we do?



3 courses

1 project designed

What difference did we make?



in participants
who want to
make their
area more
safe and
welcoming to
others.

in participants
who want to
make a
positive
difference to
good relations
in North
Belfast.



How well did we do?

"The programme was excellent, I enjoyed it and it made me feel more able to go out and make a difference."

"For future programmes we now know the landscape, what people are doing, and how we can sustain improved relations into the future."

Shankill Women's Centre

Good Relations Programme

Overview

The new Academic year (September 17-18) has begun with two new pilot projects being available to participants of SWC. 50 persons registered for Classroom Assistant L3 and we had to offer places on an interview basis after an initial induction day (18 places were available). The course offers the participant the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification with hands on experience as a placement in a school is an essential part of the learning. Having the chance to avail of this course gives the individual a chance to acquire knowledge while building the skills needed to help them gain employment. Local education providers welcome this participation, as it builds social capacity and a sense of ownership of the future generation's educational needs.

The second new pilot was a joint venture between SWC and Falls Women's Centre. Both groups had individuals gaining Counselling Skills L2 in the previous Academic year, who wished to progress onto L3. The course is made up from both community groups. Again this proved very popular; the course allows the participants an opportunity to enter into third level education on receiving their qualification.



Again this is a win win situation; many of the participants are now offering their newly acquired skills-set on a voluntary basis back to their community organisations. Counselling skill L2 has attracted a full class while Sage L1 is fully subscribed with 99% attendance; again this is recognised by future employers and is an added bonus on ones C.V.

Construction Skills Register (CSR) was run in November 2017 with 35 participants registering their interest. Due to lack of space and for health and safety reasons we could only offer 18 places. 60 % of attendees gained full time employment with the first week after the course finished.

Contact:

151-157 Shankill Road
Belfast
BT13 1FD

T: (028) 9024 0642



Case Study:

Cross Community Classes

Project Summary:

This year from April 2017 to November 2017 we have provided the women with a choice of Creative Sewing, Hand painting Ceramics, Crafting with Beads and Crochet. By providing 36 weeks of each activity we ensure that the women remain engaged with the centre for the academic school year so while children/grandchildren are at school the women have the opportunity to participate in a class to build their confidence, self-esteem and social skills reducing their feeling of social isolation.

The majority of these women would be socially isolated due to poor mental health, living with a chronic health condition inhibiting their ability to find appropriate employment. Or they have retired losing their social circle, have been providing care for a relative or spouse or have been bereaved.

Participants:



137

total women enrolled in classes.

participants from both main communities



How much did we do?

36
Weeks of shared community classes



What difference did we make?



completed the course, with participants from both main community backgrounds.

felt more comfortable socialising with people from another community background.



How well did we do?

"If it wasn't for the friends I've made at the centre I would be totally isolated"

"I'm from west Belfast and my friend told me to come to the centre to see if I could join the crochet class, but I wasn't sure. I've never been on the Shankill and it took me a long time to get the courage to come here. I've been coming to the centre for a few months now and I've made some good friends in the crochet class."

"I've just recently been bereaved so coming to the Women's Centre it has given me a sense of belonging so I am very pleased to come to the centre every week."

Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership receives financial support from The Executive Office to deliver a bespoke program of Leader through Sport. The program consists of Level 1 Coaching Skills and UEFA B Coaching Skills, both courses are delivered by quality coaches of Irish Football Association based at the National Stadium.

Furthermore the UACP don't stop there, they deliver a package of good relations projects to enhance the football coaching. These projects will include being in a classroom environment where participants from both sections of the community will come together and learn basic skills and awareness in 1st Aid in Football, Racism in Football context and Mental Health awareness.

Above and beyond these awareness courses the UACP are mindful that young people and their parents from Northern Ireland are passionate about the Scottish connections within football, whether it be Glasgow Rangers FC or Celtic FC. Many years ago, when these two sides would meet in an Old Firm game it would cause mayhem across Belfast city, thankfully those activities are days gone by and left in the past because of the good relation work being supported across Belfast by The Executive Office.



UACP brings together two junior football teams and their parents of different religious backgrounds from North Belfast and takes them to Scotland on a study visit to both Rangers and Celtic Football Clubs where they will learn of the history of each club.

A Cross Border connection - for many years now UACP have hosted football connections with Finglas Celtic FC from Dublin and Ballysillan Swifts Academy from North Belfast. UACP would take 33 people from Ballysillan Swift (U10s and their parents) across the border to Finglas Celtic FC in Dublin. We also facilitate and host Finglas Celtic FC up to Northern Ireland for our Year End Tournament of which they join 6 other junior football teams from across North Belfast.

Last but not least, the UACP deliver the most important element of football, Referees Courses. (I kid you not!) We deliver an accredited Referees Course and also a Respect the Referee Course. Up to 20 participants will partake in the Accredited Referees Course and will learn of the Laws of the Game and once qualified will referee games - god help them!

Contact:

Jolly Roger Complex
85 Alliance Park
BT14 7JE

T: (028) 9071 0400



Case Study:

Leadership Through Sport - UEFA Coaching Skills

Project Summary:

This program is a natural progression for those that participate and pass in the Basic Football Coaching Level 1 program. This is a highly sought after program, with a 95% (19/20) pass rate from Level 1 and only 16 spaces for this program it is only obvious that it is going to be oversubscribed. Over the last number of years the need has risen to 15% increase in the number of requests for a place.

Participants:



16

young people from across North Belfast

participants from both main community backgrounds



How much did we do?



16 young people enrolled in a fully accredited UEFA B Coaching Skills Programme

What difference did we make?



in participants who felt comfortable having a debate with others from a different community background.

in participants who had a positive attitudinal change towards cross community participation.



How well did we do?

"I had never participated in or experienced cross community work before I became involved in this programme."

"It was great to talk to participants about life in an area I had never been to."

Vine Centre

Good Relations Programme

Overview

The Vine Centre was established in 1970 and delivers welfare rights, pastoral care, family support services, employment and training programmes and seniors citizen clubs. In 2004 the Vine Centre opened the Bulrush Day Nursery, a social economy project providing easily accessible and affordable childcare for local people and a safe, stimulating environment for the children in our care. The Vine Centre is a member of North Belfast Advice Partnership. The partnership was formed in 2003 when a number of independent advice services within North Belfast decided to work collaboratively to address a fragmented approach to advice delivery in North Belfast. This is a cross community partnership working together to ensure the people of North Belfast have access to high quality, free, independent advice and information. The advisors work across the five main centres and 16 outreach locations providing help and assistance with welfare rights issues, debt and housing.

In the past year we have assisted 6512 clients with 36422 enquiries and claim back £8,844,234.00 in benefits and grants. The partnership plays an active role in supporting the North Belfast community, through our contribution to good relations work, volunteer programme, family support programmes, health and wellbeing programmes and neighbourhood renewal area plans.



The following organisations formed the North Belfast Advice Partnership:

- Ligoniel Improvement Association
- Ballysillan Community Forum
- Ardoyne Association
- Tar Isteach
- The Vine Centre



Contact:

193 Crumlin Rad
Belfast
BT14 6FN

T: (028) 9035 1020



Case Study:

Welfare Reform Programme

Project Summary:

The programme provides participants with an overview of Universal Credit and how they need to prepare for the new digital welfare system. The workshop highlights the importance of being prepared for the new benefit and the changeover process. We discuss lessons learned from GB roll out of Universal Credit and look at the impact it has on communities in GB.

A key aspect of preparation is the awareness of services and support within and between communities. Participants leave the workshop well informed of the services, facilities and support available to them in North Belfast, many participants prior to the workshop have no idea of the range of services available across North Belfast.

Participants



438
total programme participants

participants from both main traditions and other ethnic groups.



How much did we do?

51
total Welfare Reform Workshops delivered



What difference did we make?



in participants who felt more comfortable attending NBAP centres in areas associated with participants from other community backgrounds

in participants gaining a greater understanding of the culture of other community backgrounds.



How well did we do?

“These sessions should be rolled out across all communities as together we need to prepare for change and support each other.”

“These workshops should be more regular and frequent, this is great way of bringing people together to discuss real issues that impact on communities.”

“Excellent workshop and concerned for community and the implementation of the changes and impact on everyone.”

2017/18 North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme Overview

Key Facts & Figures



21,000+
Participants

54
Good Relations
Programmes

Impacting over **200** different areas across
the **12** community organisations within
North Belfast.



Programmes by T:BUC Theme:



23
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations
between
Children &
Young People



7
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations
through
Cultural
Expression.



6
programmes
focusing on
promoting a
safe
environment
for all.



19
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations for
a shared
community.

Working in Partnership:



The on-going partnership between the Community Relations Council (CRC) and The Executive Office (TEO) with respect to the management of the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP) has worked well over the past number of years utilizing the expertise and experience of both organisations.

Through the working relationships that CRC has developed with the contract holders we have been able to support programmes through both our small grant and our core funding schemes in addition to the NBSGRP. It would be our hope that this strategic funding approach will continue to develop in partnership with TEO to maximise both impact and value.

During the 2017/18 period CRC staff have witnessed first-hand the impressive range of programmes that have been delivered including after-schools programmes, political awareness workshops, detached youth work outreach, shared history projects and intensive mentoring interventions. All of these projects have been building on measurable outcomes and this report clearly highlights the many successes that have been achieved.

CRC recognises the vital peace building role that each of the contract holders has made and we will continue to look for ways in which we can maximise their contribution to the wider community relations sector through the various engagement opportunities that will arise during 2018/19.

Building on the work of 2017/18 CRC is again looking forward to partnering with contract holders and The Executive Office in building fruitful, long term relationships that build peace and which promote a shared vision for a shared future.

Looking ahead:

Thank you for taking the time to read this report on the 2017/18 North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme. I hope it has given you some impression of the breadth and depth of good relations provision the Programme is funding, and the positive difference it is making to good relations between and within communities in North Belfast.

The Programme is continuing in 2018/19, if you would like more information on any aspect of the Programme please contact the North Belfast Team using the contact details provided.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of a member of the North Belfast Good Relations team, Joe McGouran, who sadly passed away this year. Joe brought a huge amount of knowledge, understanding and commitment to his role, and his enthusiasm had a positive effect on everyone involved with the Programme. He will be sadly missed.

T:buc
Changing for the better, together

North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme



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Community Relations Council
Equity Diversity Interdependence



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Programme Report 2017/18
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