

Together: Building a United Community Strategy

The 'Together: Building a United Community' (T:BUC) Strategy was published on 23 May 2013.

The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

- our children and young people
- our safe community
- our shared community
- our cultural expression

T:BUC Engagement Forum

The T:BUC Engagement Forum was established in 2016 to update the voluntary & community sector on progress with implementation of T:BUC, identify good practice, discuss implementation issues and make practical and innovative recommendations for improved delivery.



Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality & Good Relations in The Executive Office is Chair of the Forum with The Community Relations Council (CRC) providing secretariat.

The Forum has met three times - March 2016, September 2016 and June 2017 with the next meeting taking place in September 2017. The Forum has proved to be very popular with between 150 – 180 people in attendance at each one.

Feedback from attendees is crucial in ensuring meetings are useful and meet the objectives of the forum. We welcome any comments you have on the events and these can be provided on the feedback form contained in the delegates pack or provided directly to CRC.

HEADLINE ACTIONS

Peace IV / United Youth

The PEACE IV United Youth programme is now known as 'Peace 4 Youth' with Co-operation Ireland selected as the Quality and Impact Body and will work with practitioners to help maximize the quality and impact of the programme. The application stage of the scheme ended in early 2017 with the assessment process for delivery organisations now at an advanced stage. Letters of offer to successful projects are likely to issue in late September 2017 with projects going live from October. Phase 1 of the programme will conclude in Autumn 2018 with Phase 2 expected to run sequentially until the end of 2021.

TEOs oversee delivery of a number of key elements within the PEACE IV Programme including the **"Building Positive Relations at the Regional Level"** programme which has just seen the award of €13.79 million worth of funding for 14 projects designed to help people live, learn and socialise with each other free from



prejudice and hate. The total amount under the Regional element of Peace IV is €16.4m.

T:BUC Camps – 2017/18



120 T:BUC Camps are currently underway and the Executive Office and the Education Authority (who administer the programme) are engaged in an extensive programme of visits to the Camps. Despite the mixed weather the young people are enjoying their experience and forming new friendships.

An independent evaluation of the 2016/17 Programme is expected soon and will be considered for future camps.

The Executive Office are currently considering revising the current format of the Reunion event to make it more meaningful and accessible for the participants. It is proposed to be held in March 2018.



Shared Neighbourhoods

Five developments have now been completed providing a total of 320 new homes in the following areas:

- Ballynafoy Close, Belfast
- Global Crescent, Belfast
- Manse Court, Crossgar
- Felden in Newtownabbey
- Burnvale Crescent, Burn Road in Cookstown



Burnvale Crescent, Cookstown

A further five schemes are currently underway

- Dromore Street, Banbridge
- Main Street, Dundrum
- Market Road, Ballymena
- Antrim Road, Ballynahinch
- Embankment, Ballynafeigh, Belfast

Housing Group continues to liaise with the NI Housing Executive to identify additional schemes for inclusion in the programme.

Cross Community Youth Sports Programme

A tender process is underway to award contracts to key delivery partners for the next stage of the programme in Colin, Eastside and Erne East. Tenders have been awarded to recruit young leaders and participants in Colin and Eastside and to deliver taster sessions while the procurement process is underway for delivery of the main programme.

The Erne East team has delivered two reunion events. A joint urban/rural discussion event was also held with young leaders to seek their views on ongoing development of the programme.

Work is ongoing within each of the existing projects to deliver the next phase with the aim of awarding contracts in September 2017.



Removal of Interface Barriers

The Department of Justice (DoJ) leads the T:BUC headline action for the removal of interface barriers by 2023.

The number of structures has been reduced from 59 to 50 with sections of six other structures removed.

The Interface Programme Board was established in February 2016 and has been meeting regularly. The Interface Programme Team has recruited Strand Managers who are engaging with communities in interface areas of North, West and East Belfast as well as Portadown, Lurgan and Derry/Londonderry. Action plans for cluster areas are being progressed and will be shared with local community representatives for consideration.



You can now find Interface Programme information on Twitter (DoJ_Interfaces) and Facebook (@DoJInterfaces). Follow these for regular updates and information. If you would like to join the mailing list, please send an email with the subject line 'ADD ME' to interfaces@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk.

Shared Campuses Programme

Two of the three projects selected under the First Call to the Shared Education Campuses Programme - Ballycastle and Limavady - are now at design and construction phase and work on the business case for the third project in Moy is nearing completion.

Business cases for the two projects selected to proceed from the Second Call (Brookeborough and Duneane and Money Nick) are under development and site searches/investigations for the new campuses are underway. We hope to be in a position to provide an update on projects selected to proceed in planning from the Third Call in the near future.

Urban Villages

In 2016/17 the Urban Villages Initiative supported 100 community-led projects with a total investment of £1.6 million.



In the current financial year to date, 11 community led revenue projects have been funded across the 5 Urban Villages areas with a total investment of around £110k.

Projects supported so far include a wide range of community festivals and events, an anti-poverty project and projects aimed at promoting wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

In total, 49 projects have been earmarked for funding across the 5 Urban Village areas in 2017/18, between them sharing a total of up to £1m of funding.

83 new capital proposals were submitted in July 2017 and are currently under assessment – these are likely to result in circa 60 additional projects that will utilise a potential Urban Villages capital budget of £45m.



District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP)

The key aim of the DCGRP is to improve relations between and within Council areas and support local solutions to local good relations issues. It is funded jointly by TEO and local Councils.

An example of this local focus and the positive good relations outcomes it can deliver can be seen in a case study of good relations provision from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council:

REFUGEE AWARENESS AND ARABIC CULTURE PROGRAMME

On 22 June 2017 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council hosted an 'Arabic Cultural Awareness Small Worlds Café' event at the Bridge Community Centre, Lisburn.

This event, funded by the District Council Good Relations Programme, was part of the Community Services Good Relations Programme and Community Facilities Direct Programme, working in partnership with South Belfast Round Table, Bryson House and the Northern Ireland Muslim Family Association.



Participants and organisers of the LCC event

Sixty five participants and fourteen facilitators and table hosts attended the event. Participants came from a range of organisations including statutory, community and voluntary groups. Feedback from participants was very positive:

- 90% of participants felt satisfied with the quality and relevance of the sessions,
- 91% of participants felt they had an increased understanding and respect for people of other cultures living locally.

A Small Worlds workshop, hosted by members of Belfast Friendship Club, provided a safe meeting space for participants to encounter people from different backgrounds and parts of the world to hear their life stories. The Mayor, Councillor Tim Morrow, welcomed the participants to the event, sharing his enthusiasm for their participation and interest saying:

“It is a great pleasure to be here today and to learn more about the plight of the Syrian Refugees and the Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme. Events like today certainly put their hardships into context and help us to somewhat understand what they are going through. It is inspirational how the community have come together to welcome those who have arrived in our City and I have high aspirations that we will continue as a Council area and Country as a whole, to continue to make everyone feel welcome.”



Participants and organisers of the LCC event

North Belfast Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP)

The North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP) is a good relations funding programme managed by The Executive Office (TEO) and administered by the Community Relations Council (CRC). The key objective of the NBSGRP is to improve relations between and within communities in the North Belfast area.

An example of a NBSGRP funded programme is “Traditions & Transitions”, managed by Intercomm, a peace building agency established in 1995 involved in the promotion of Good Relations locally and regionally. The event was held in St Mary’s College, Falls Road as part of the Feile an Phobail in August 2017.

During the event there was a short film presentation, followed by a discussion with an expert panel from the community and voluntary sector. The audience included members from the loyalist Whiterock Flute Band, and members from various bands within the nationalist community. The aim of the project is to better communicate some of the cultures and practices associated with both communities, dispelling myths, promoting understanding and challenging negative depictions.



A survey was conducted to assess the attitudinal change of members of the bands involved and the audience at the event:

- 95% of those surveyed felt more comfortable utilising a space associated with another community, and
- 100% of those surveyed felt they had a greater understanding of the cultural background of another community after the event.

Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF)



2016/17 Central Good Relations Programme – Ardoyne Youth Club: RCity Programme

The aim of the Central Good Relations Fund is to support productive, time-bound projects which contribute to the achievement of the Executive's strategic objectives relating to good relations.

The programme is underway and 91 groups across Northern Ireland are currently receiving funding of approximately £3 million.

Since funding was awarded in May, TEO officials have been meeting with each of the successful groups to agree programme activities and outputs to be delivered, costs associated with each programme, and most importantly, T:BUC outcomes to be achieved.

- 2/3rds of the groups are expected to deliver **Our Children and Young People** outcomes;
- Over half of the groups will deliver **Our Cultural** outcomes and
- over 1/3 of the groups will deliver **Our Shared Community** or **Our Safe Community** outcomes

We are also hopeful of issuing a second tranche of CGR Funding this month. It is likely to be a small amount of funding, however we will keep the scheme open for applications received to date so that, in the event of additional funding becoming available in year, further grants can be made.

Racial Equality Update



- The Racial Equality sub-group was established in September 2017
- Racial Equality Champions have now been appointed in departments and met with the Racial Equality Subgroup in July 2017.
- Vast majority of Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) Letters of offer have issued.

Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition

The First Minister and deputy First Minister announced the membership of the Commission on 20 June 2016. It is jointly chaired by Dr Dominic Bryan and Neville Armstrong. The Commission has met on fifteen occasions to date, with a further meeting scheduled for September 2017.

The Commission has completed an extensive period of stakeholder engagement sessions and public meetings across the community which ran from November 2016 – May 2017. The Commission has also received written submissions via the FICT website.

The Commission is examining specific issues emerging from its engagement and is scheduled to report by December 2017.

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2017 takes place from 18th – 24th September 2017. The theme this year is *Safe Space, Shared Place*. This ties in with the T:BUC priorities of Our Shared Community and Our Safe Community although the events cover a whole range of T:BUC activities. It will coincide again with International Day of Peace on 21st September.

Over 160 events are taking place with every Council area taking part and this year sees a range of interesting and exciting events.

This week provides a platform for organisations and groups from the community and voluntary sectors, arts, culture, sport, education and the wider public sector to showcase innovative approaches to good relations and building a united and shared community through sport, drama, film, food, arts, culture, music, debate, talks and tours.

The programme of events is coordinated by CRC in conjunction with the Executive Office and Department for Communities.

For more information as to what is taking place in your area please download the Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2017 brochure via the CRC website.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR GRANT AID FROM THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme (CR/CD Scheme) is currently open to applications for 2017/18 period. Programmes can be supported up to the 31st March 2018 however **the deadline for the submission of applications is Fri 1st December @ 5pm.**

The CR/CD small grant scheme is aimed at increasing opportunities for people from differing traditions to develop relationships of trust and understanding and the confidence to address issues of difference between them. Grants of up to £10,000 are available per application to this scheme however most grant applications awards would fall between £2- £5k.

Applications can be downloaded from the CRC website.

CRC Core Funding Programme

The Core Scheme provides support for organisations which are considered of strategic importance in promoting community relations work across Northern Ireland. The scheme presently contributes towards salary and organisational running costs.

Application forms and guidelines for the 2018/19 scheme will be available from the CRC website from the week beginning 25th Sept 2017. The anticipated closing date for applications will be the 24th November 2017 however please check the CRC web-site after the 25th September for full details of the 2018/19 programme.