

CRC Core Fund

Enabling Peacebuilding

Impact Profiles 2025-26



Introduction

Peacebuilding is built on relationships. Relationships between people, between communities and, crucially, between the organisations that have earned trust on the ground and the partners who can help them turn that trust into lasting change.

That is the real story of CRC Core Funding.

This year, the Community Relations Council invested £1.25 million in 28 organisations, supporting 67 posts and providing the organisational stability from which effective peacebuilding can grow. Together, those organisations worked across 517 locations and beneficiary groups, directly reaching more than 25,000 people and indirectly benefiting a further 44,000.

Those figures demonstrate impressive reach. Perhaps the most powerful measure of the Core Fund is what that initial investment enables others to do.

Our £1.25 million investment helped Core Funded organisations secure a further £6.39 million from other sources. Put simply, every £1 of CRC Core Funding helped unlock a further £5.10 for peacebuilding activity.

That is significant leverage. But financial leverage tells only part of the story.

Core Funding also creates relationship leverage.

It gives organisations the stability, people and capacity to build relationships over years rather than months; to develop credibility with communities; and to become trusted partners for government departments, councils, schools, universities, housing bodies, the police, sporting organisations, trusts and other funders.

Those relationships matter because peacebuilding cannot

“This work depends upon trust. And trust takes time.”

be delivered by any one organisation or sector acting alone.

Across Northern Ireland, our Core Funded organisations are bringing partners together to tackle sectarianism and racism; challenge paramilitary influence and intimidation; support communities experiencing change; create opportunities for young people; address difficult issues arising from our past; strengthen community capacity; and provide safe spaces in which difficult conversations can take place.

They are also responding to newer and evolving challenges, including hate crime, misinformation, violence against women and girls, social exclusion and the need to ensure that an increasingly diverse Northern Ireland is an inclusive one.

This work depends upon trust. And trust takes time.

Core Funding provides something that short-term project funding alone cannot: a stable organisational foundation. It helps retain skilled people, sustain networks, maintain community presence and preserve relationships between

funding programmes. That stability gives other funders and partners confidence to invest alongside CRC and enables organisations to respond when circumstances change or communities need support.

The result is a multiplier effect that extends far beyond CRC's original investment.

The stories in this report demonstrate what that looks like in practice. Behind every statistic is a relationship built, a partnership strengthened, a young person given an opportunity, a difficult conversation made possible or a community better equipped to address division.

For more than twenty years, CRC Core Funding has helped sustain this essential infrastructure for peacebuilding. Last year's report described Core Funding as the stable foundation from which organisations could build trust, respond to emerging needs and attract further investment. This year's evidence reinforces that message.

Core Funding does not simply fund peacebuilding activity. It creates the conditions in which peacebuilding can happen — and enables others to invest in it too.

I am proud to introduce this year's Making a Difference report and, on behalf of the Community Relations Council, thank our Core Funded organisations, their staff, volunteers, partners and communities for the extraordinary contribution they continue to make towards a more peaceful, shared and inclusive region.

Martin McDonald MBE, CRC Chair



Reach & Impact

The Community Relations Council's Core Funding Scheme supported 28 organisations. The scheme is dedicated to collaboration and aims at fostering innovative region-wide solutions that address peacebuilding and Good Relations.

69K

Core Funded groups delivered projects to 69,154 beneficiaries.

Delivering meaningful change for 25k direct & 44k indirect beneficiaries.

67

Total job posts supported through the Core Fund.

Core Fund directly created Good Relations posts dedicated to peacebuilding.

£6.4M

Additional funding secured by Core Funded Groups.

Core Funded Groups were able to leverage additional funding from other funders.

£1.25M

The Core Fund invested £1.25 million this year in peacebuilding organisations.



£5.10

Every £1 of CRC Core Funding helped to unlock a further £5.10 for peacebuilding activity.

Peacebuilding Networks

Peacebuilding does not happen in isolation. The issues facing communities are interconnected and the responses to them must be equally connected.

Across the CRC Core Funding network, relationships are therefore not simply a feature of the work — they are one of its most important outcomes.

Core Funded organisations occupy a distinctive position. They are rooted in communities, often with relationships built over many years, while also maintaining strong connections with government departments, councils, schools, housing organisations, policing, universities, health bodies, sporting organisations, funders and the wider voluntary and community sector. This enables them to act as important bridges between communities and the institutions that can support change.

The strength of this network is its reach. Different organisations bring different expertise, relationships and access. Some specialise in youth development and sport; others in trauma-informed practice and community capacity; others create spaces for dialogue around difficult issues; and others are helping communities respond positively to an increasingly diverse Northern Ireland. Together, these connections create a much broader peacebuilding infrastructure than any individual organisation could provide alone.

Partnership working also allows knowledge to travel.

What is learned through work with young people, interface communities, minority ethnic communities or those experiencing intimidation can be shared with policymakers, statutory agencies and other practitioners. Equally, organisations can bring specialist expertise, resources and opportunities from regional and national

“The strength of this network is its reach.”

partners back into communities. This two-way flow helps ensure that responses are informed by experience on the ground rather than developed at a distance.

These relationships become particularly important when circumstances change quickly. Community tensions, hate incidents, misinformation or emerging local concerns do not necessarily follow funding cycles. Established networks allow organisations and agencies to communicate, convene people, share intelligence appropriately and respond more quickly because the relationships and trust required to do so already exist.

Collaboration also extends the reach of investment. Core Funded organisations work with a remarkably diverse range of partners and funders, including government departments, district councils, PeacePlus (SEUPB & district councils), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the PSNI, Education Authority, housing bodies, universities, charitable foundations and community organisations. These relationships help organisations combine expertise and resources, develop new programmes and attract

additional investment into peacebuilding.

But perhaps their greatest value is harder to quantify; a trusted introduction. A telephone call when tensions emerge. A building willing to open its doors. Two organisations agreeing to work together for the first time. A statutory agency gaining access to voices it might otherwise struggle to hear. These are the connections from which longer-term change grows.

The Core Funding Scheme helps create the conditions in which those relationships can be built and sustained.

CRC's investment therefore reaches far beyond the organisations it funds directly. It strengthens a connected peacebuilding network—linking people, communities, practitioners, institutions and resources around a shared responsibility for building a more peaceful and inclusive Northern Ireland.

Jacqueline Irwin, CEO of CRC



Partnerships That Multiply Impact



Core Funded Groups



An Gaeláras Limited



Building bridges through Irish language and cultural inclusion.

Introduction

An Gaeláras utilises the Irish language as a powerful tool for peacebuilding, cultural inclusion, and community development. Through strategic planning and dedicated coordination, the organisation integrates with the local good relations sector to deliver accessible language resources, cross-community events, and exhibitions. The Droichead Project in An Gaeláras remains the only organisation in the Northwest providing accessible Irish language classes and cultural awareness programmes to non-traditional learners.

Overall Impact

 **£29,600**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **804 People Reached**
Engaged across Irish language classes, community engagement and good relations programming.

 **Strategic Partnership**
Advancing the Droichead project’s reach through a 3-year strategic partnership with DFAT to further the work in An Gaeláras Ltd.



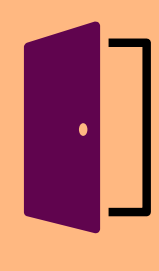
Working in Derry & Strabane.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives

 **Droichead Conversation Circles**
Irish language conversation circle at St Columb’s Park House continues to grow organically, drawing participants from across the wider city region to an inclusive, shared space.

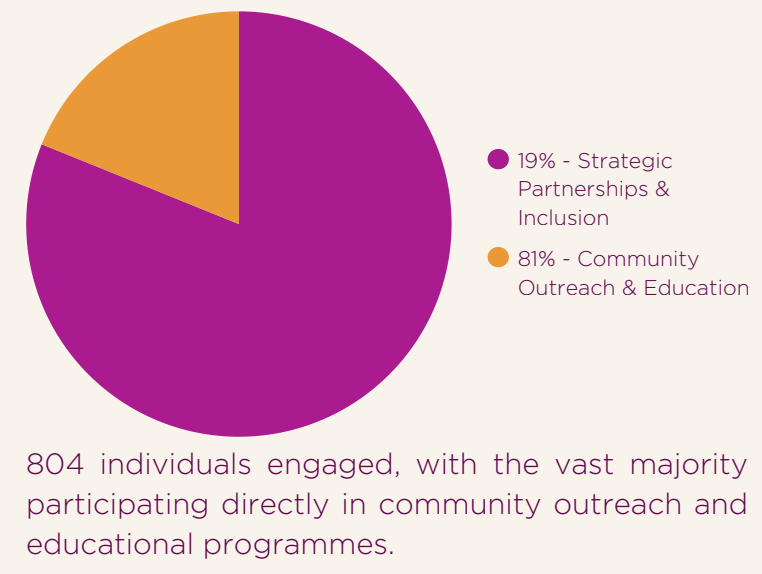
 **Unionist Community Programming**
Droichead delivered inclusive, cross-community activities, including Irish language taster sessions and céili dancing, specifically to engage Unionist communities. One learner (Unionist background) recently completed an Irish language Diploma at Ulster University.

 **Streets Alive Integration**
Supported the Triax-wide Gasyard Walled Féile as part of the steering group, hosting bilingual events to ensure a meaningful, welcoming presence for the Irish language.

 **Newcomer Intercultural Dialogue**
Partnered with the Better Together team to engage migrant communities, ensuring the local Irish language sector is actively supportive of new arrivals. Droichead played an active role in the co-development of a pioneering North-West Anti-Racism Charter.

“While the primary objective is to learn the Irish language, an added bonus has been discovering so much about Irish culture and history that I didn’t know before. It has made the experience even more rewarding.”
Droichead Clooney Hall Irish Language learner from a Unionist background

Community Outreach & Education



Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

-  **Challenge**
Overcoming traditional barriers to the Irish language in Unionist communities requires sustained, sensitive engagement, as well as the building of relationships and trust.
-  **Lesson**
Providing accessible, cross-community activities proves that cultural heritage can be an effective, unifying vehicle for good relations.

Featured Material

Droichead Exhibitions



Discover the Droichead mobile exhibitions exploring the history of the Irish language across public spaces.

Learn More

-  www.culturlann.org
-  +44 (0)28 7126 4132
-  eolas@culturlann.org
-  [culturlanndoire](https://www.facebook.com/culturlanndoire)

Belfast Interface Project (BIP)



Using technology and engagement to empower interface communities.

Introduction

The Belfast Interface Project (BIP) works to overcome the legacy of violence and sectarianism across the city's interface communities. By maintaining a trusted, independent presence, BIP supports local groups in navigating emerging issues. Through innovative digital tools, research, and on-the-ground advocacy, they empower residents to actively reimagine and design a shared, connected future.

Overall Impact

 **£15,200**

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

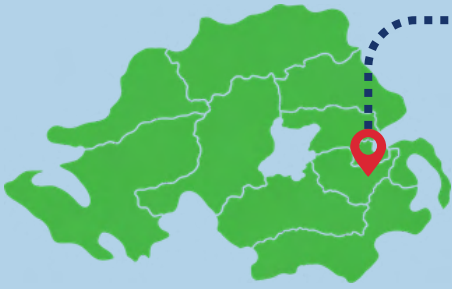
 **80 Young People Engaged**

Participated in programmes promoting shared futures and cross-community dialogue.

 **Citywide Interface Reach**

Preserved trusted relationships and operational infrastructure across Belfast's separated neighbourhoods.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Working in Belfast.



Key Projects & Initiatives



Sustaining Interface Infrastructure

Maintained crucial operational infrastructure across Belfast, ensuring rapid, trusted responses to emerging community tensions and safety issues.



Youth Shared Futures

Empowered young people from divided backgrounds to use digital tools to collaboratively design and plan shared spaces in their local interface areas.



Cross-Community Partnerships

Facilitated relationship-building between separated neighbourhoods, dialogue and co-operation between community and youth workers.



Capacity Building & Advocacy

Provided sustained support for local groups navigating short-term funding cycles and high-demand environments in interface communities.



Shared Future

80

80 young people from divided backgrounds engaged in cross-community digital placemaking to actively design a shared future across Belfast's interfaces.

Lessons Learned



Challenge

Persistent short-term funding cycles create uncertainty and risk destabilising trusted relationships in highly sensitive interface communities.



Lesson

Maintaining experienced core staff capacity is essential to navigating community tensions and securing long-term sustainability.

Future Plans

Belfast Interface Project aims to:

- Modernise digital systems and legacy website assets to better serve community networks.
- Continue to advocate for sustained investment in peacebuilding infrastructure across Belfast.
- Expand direct youth engagement programs across interface communities.

Learn More



belfastinterfaceproject.org



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Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge



Archiving the past to inspire a peaceful future.

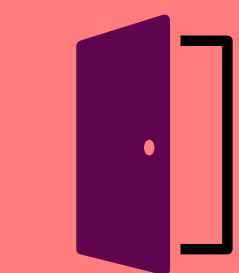
Introduction

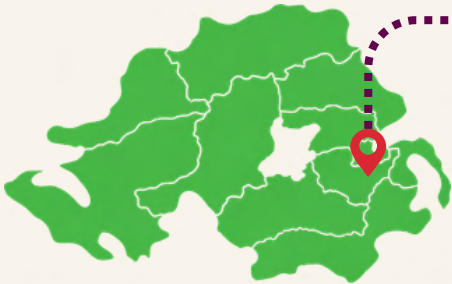
The Linen Hall is Belfast’s oldest library and a vital shared space. It houses a world-renowned Political Collection that explores Northern Ireland’s recent past. Through an inclusive outreach and education programme, the library brings together diverse communities for discussion panels, workshops, and co-produced exhibitions, utilising objective historical dialogue to help eradicate division and build mutual understanding.

Overall Impact

 **£49,600**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **569 People Engaged**
Participated in outreach, learning, and historical education programmes throughout the year.

 **127 Public Tour Attendees**
Explored the political collection through weekly public and community group tours.



Working in Belfast and regionally.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Community Archival Workshops
Hosted deep-dive workshops where Men’s and Cross-Community Women’s Groups explored primary archival material, challenging perceptions in a safe environment.



Corrymeela 60th Anniversary Exhibition
Supported the production and display of a major exhibition utilising the Corrymeela Community archive, heavily informed by direct community engagement and shared reflections.



Political Collection Public Tours
Delivered weekly public and community group tours of the political collection, ensuring objective and non-traditional perspectives on the region’s past reach a wider audience.

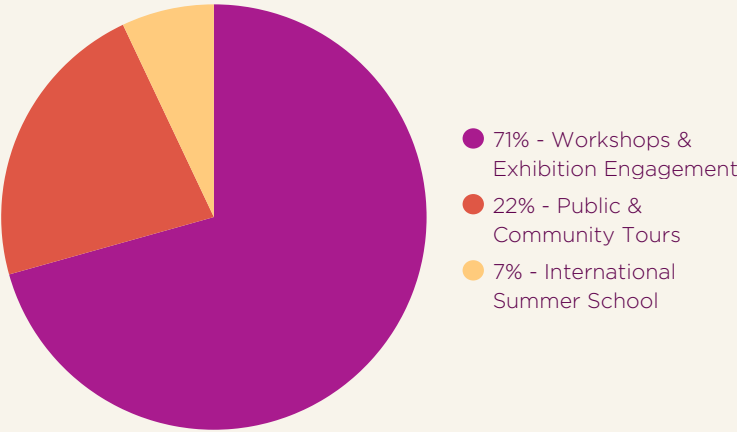


International Summer School Engagement
Facilitated specialised engagement sessions for 40 participants of the St Mary’s International Summer School, broadening the global understanding of NI’s peace process.

“It was a privilege to be part of such an important project, and I hope more grassroots community groups can benefit from similar projects in the future.”

Participant, Men’s Group and Cross-Community Women’s Group

Peacebuilding Archive



569 individuals were engaged this year, driven by intensive archival workshops and sustained public tour attendance.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

 **Challenge**
Ensuring complex, contested narratives of the Troubles are presented objectively requires meticulous planning and a highly neutral environment.

 **Lesson**
By providing a safe and respectful space for difficult conversations, participants are more willing to have their perceptions challenged.

Featured Material



Discover the 350,000+ items documenting the Troubles and the peace process.

Learn More

-  <https://linenhall.com>
-  +44 (0)28 9032 1707
-  info@linenhall.com
-  [@TheLinenHallLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/TheLinenHallLibrary)
-  [@thelinenhall](https://twitter.com/thelinenhall)

Belfast YMCA Limited



Empowering young people to build a shared, inclusive city.

Introduction

Belfast YMCA is dedicated to making life better for young people and their communities. Peacebuilding is core to their mission, delivering a wide range of in-school and community-based good relations projects. By providing safe spaces and structured dialogue, they equip youth with the leadership skills to tackle sectarianism, challenge misinformation, and foster active civic participation.

Overall Impact

 **£28,900**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **£190k Additional Funding**
Leveraged from 11 distinct funding bodies to expand peacebuilding and youth development reach.

 **6 Post-Primary Schools**
Participated in the Ubuntu programme, exploring identity, conflict, and sectarianism.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

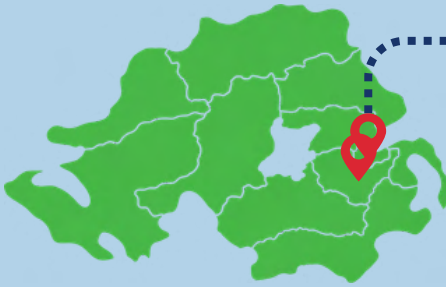
-  **Challenge**
The rapid spread of online misinformation poses a direct threat to community cohesion and young people's understanding of diversity.
-  **Lesson**
Developing rapid-response, targeted educational resources, like the new Fact Checking workshop, is highly effective in equipping youth to critically assess and challenge divisive narratives.

Future Plans

- Belfast YMCA aims to:
- Scale the Ubuntu project to reach more young people across segregated educational sectors.
 - Continue expanding youth-led civic education, building confidence for positive political engagement.
 - Deploy the new Anti-Hate Crime resource across all community club settings.

Learn More

-  www.belfastymca.org
-  +44 (0)28 9068 4660
-  hello@belfast-ymca.org
-  [@BelfastYM](https://www.facebook.com/BelfastYM)
-  [@belfastymca](https://www.instagram.com/belfastymca)



Working in Belfast, and Lisburn & Castlereagh.



Key Projects & Initiatives



Ubuntu: Community Dialogue in Schools
Delivered a progression of workshops on identity, conflict, and sectarianism across six post-primary schools, directly engaging 791 young people.



Anti-Hate Crime Resource
Developed a crucial new resource focused on "Fact Checking," specifically designed to combat the spread of misinformation regarding Good Relations issues following recent riots.



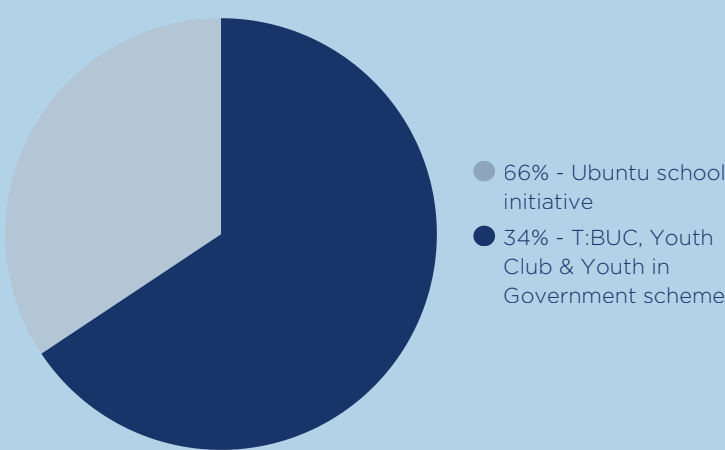
Cross-Community Youth Club
Maintained a weekly, safe shared space for 30 young people (aged 10-15) to build peer-to-peer relationships and progress through peacebuilding pathways.



Youth in Government
Empowered 30 young adults through a 5-month political education programme, featuring engagements with the US Consul General and debates at Parliament Buildings.



Young People Participation



1322 young people participated across YMCA programmes, with the Ubuntu schools initiative driving significant cross-community engagement.

Boys & Girls Clubs



Supporting youth practitioners to deliver best-practice peacebuilding.



Working in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Belfast, Mid-Ulster, and Antrim & Newtownabbey.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Boys & Girls Clubs works regionally to build the capacity of local youth organisations. They provide the expertise and resources necessary for membership clubs to deliver high-quality good relations and diversity work. By supporting practitioners and standardising training, they create resilient youth spaces that directly benefit children in navigating a complex, post-conflict society.

Overall Impact



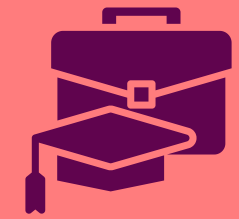
£43,800

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



215 Youth & Practitioners

Supported through capacity building, good relations delivery, and trauma-informed training.



77 Qualifications Awarded

Achieved by learners completing Diversity & Good Relations Open College Network (OCN) courses.

Key Projects & Initiatives



New Youth-Focused GR Resources

Hosted regional stakeholder events to provide eight local youth organisations with access to a newly created OCN Diversity & Good Relations resource.



Trauma Informed Awareness

Upskilled staff to become “Train the Trainers” for Trauma Informed Awareness (in partnership with SBNI), rolling out critical approaches across the club membership.



New Good Relations Delivery

Supported nine youth and community groups in completing Diversity & Good Relations OCNs, successfully awarding 77 learners with accredited qualifications.



Summer Scheme Peacebuilding

Supported Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council with summer scheme delivery, facilitating good relations activities that aided peacebuilding between diverse participants.

“

The training and the resources provided by BGC is so important to us considering the diverse demographic of our youth club. The structured activities and guidance on further exploratory activities and reflective questions has given my staff team the confidence to address ongoing challenges within the club.

”

Stewart Dobson, Leader-in-charge, Dungannon Youth Resource Centre

Good Relations Support

120

Supported six schemes to deliver good relations and peacebuilding activities to over 100 young people and 20 Council staff.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Rigid funding requirements regarding traditional community ratios can impede appropriate youth engagement, especially as race relations become a growing concern in local communities.



Lesson

By creating flexible, locally adapted resources, youth work can remain relevant and highly impactful.

Future Plans

Boys & Girls Clubs aims to:

- Roll out Trauma Informed Awareness training across the entire organisational membership.
- Continue advocating to funders for more flexible engagement metrics that reflect the modern diversity of Northern Ireland.
- Expand the delivery of accredited OCN Good Relations courses to new community partners.

Learn More



boysandgirlsclubs.net



+44 (0)28 9066 3321



post@boysandgirlsclubs.net



[boysandgirlsclubsni](https://facebook.com/boysandgirlsclubsni)

Community Relations in Schools



Equipping school communities to become catalysts for reconciliation.



Working in Belfast, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Derry City & Strabane, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Mid & East Antrim, and Mid-Ulster.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

CRIS works to inspire and equip school communities – pupils, parents, and staff – to build bridges and nurture trust across divides. By focusing on everyday peacebuilding and long-term systems change, CRIS empowers the education sector to address controversial issues confidently, fostering a shared, inclusive future for the next generation.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Moving Forward Together Research

Research partnership with Coventry University to deliver the Moving Forward Together research report (Feb 2026), strengthening the evidence base for school-based peacebuilding and collaboration.



NEST Partnership Expansion

The Newtownabbey Empowering Schools Together (NEST) partnership expanded its Shared Learning Networks with a focus on areas such as Early Years, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and ICT.

Overall Impact



£80,900

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



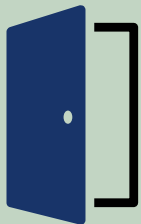
4000+ People Reached

Engaged beneficiaries across expansive schools and community programmes.



30 Businesses Engaged

Expanded private-sector involvement to support and sustain peacebuilding initiatives.



Everyday Peacebuilding in North Belfast

Expanded from 8 to 10 schools and rolled out new peace education programme for P1 children “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”.



Next Generation of Peacebuilders

Delivered workshops for 395 Stranmillis and St Mary’s teacher training students on addressing controversial issues in the classroom.



Collaborative Education

19

19 partner schools across Newtownabbey collaborated in the NEST partnership to share training and resources through SLNs.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Supporting emerging cross-community partnerships in volunteer-led settings is often delayed by capacity constraints and complex funding processes.



Lesson

Sustained capacity-building and realistic, flexible timelines are absolutely vital when supporting grassroots, cross-community partnerships.

Featured Material



Watch the video about the impact CRIS has made over the past 40 years delivering peace education in schools.

Learn More

- www.crisni.org
- +44 (0)79 2185 1601
- info@crisni.org
- [CRIS](https://www.facebook.com/CRIS)
- [@CRIS](https://www.youtube.com/CRIS)

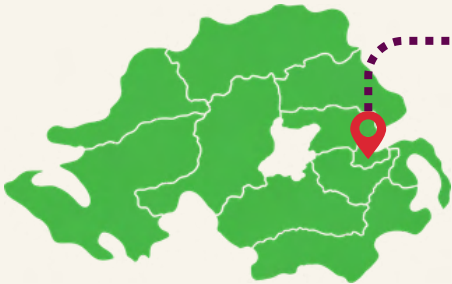


Donegall Pass Community Enterprises

Celebrating shared culture in Belfast.

Introduction

Donegall Pass Community Enterprises (DPCE) focuses on community development and good relations in South Belfast. By exploring shared heritage, historical significance, and creative arts, DPCE brings together residents from diverse backgrounds to build mutual understanding, foster neighbourhood pride, and create meaningful, cross-community relationships.



Working in Belfast (south).



Core Funded by CRC

Overall Impact



£28,300

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



48 Participants Engaged

Directly involved in intensive, cross-community creative arts and heritage programmes.



£18k Funding Secured

Leveraged from Belfast City Council and Urban Villages to expand local impact.

Key Projects & Initiatives



'Our Place' Heritage Programme

Partnered with Belfast South Community Resources and the Mornington Community Project to explore the shared historical experiences of the Donegall Pass, Sandy Row, and Ormeau Road areas.



Cross-Community Relationship Building

Maintained strong ties between Sandy Row and Donegall Pass women's groups while forging new relationships with the Mornington Community Project.



Creative Skills Development

Delivered extensive skills training in research, interviewing, printmaking, and street art, allowing participants to creatively document their community's history.



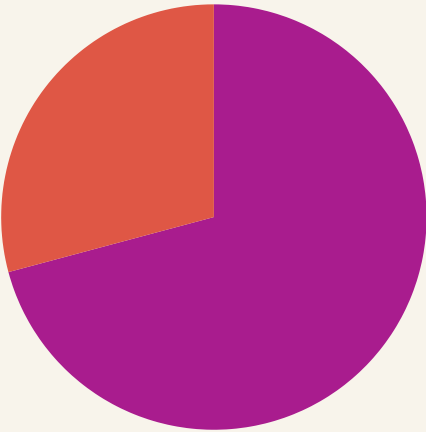
Archive & Research Training

Empowered women's groups with training from Queen's University Belfast and PRONI on collecting oral histories and utilising historical archive facilities.

“ I really enjoyed how the sessions with Katharine encouraged all of the women together to creatively explore place, belonging and what connects us all. ”

Workshop Participant

Shared Local Heritage



71% - PUL Community
29% - CRN Community

48 residents from both PUL and CRN backgrounds came together to celebrate their shared local heritage through the 'Our Place' project.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Unexpected changes in staffing structures can temporarily disrupt the continuity of community heritage programmes.



Lesson

Maintaining a dedicated, core-funded officer role is crucial for stabilising project delivery and ensuring cross-community relationships are preserved during transitions.

Future Plans

DPCE aims to:

- Expand the 'Our Place' creative project model to encompass a wider range of neighbourhoods.
- Continue partnering with academic institutions like QUB to empower residents with formal research and archiving skills.
- Host further shared showcase events to publicly celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the area.

Learn More



www.dpce.org.uk



+44 (0)28 9012 5873



info@dpce.org.uk



[donegallpassce](https://www.facebook.com/donegallpassce)

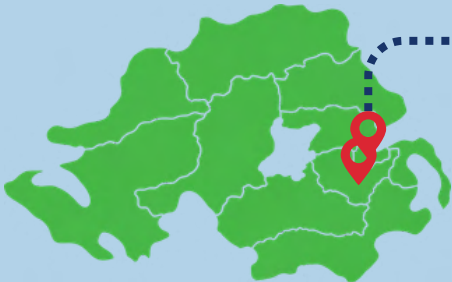


[donegallpass_ce](https://twitter.com/donegallpass_ce)

Falls Community Council



Facilitating dialogue to build a shared, equitable society.



Working in Belfast, and Lisburn & Castlereagh.



Introduction

Falls Community Council (FCC) is a dedicated force for peacebuilding and community development in Belfast. Using grassroots models, the organisation delivers vital programmes in conflict resolution, good relations, and community safety. FCC strategically convenes crucial public discussions on contested issues like culture, legacy, and peace walls. The group also provides tailored training to adults and young people on sectarianism and the peace process, empowering residents to become agents of positive change.

Overall Impact

 **£36,600**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **512 People Reached**
Engaged through public discussions, training courses, and cross-border youth residentials.

 **£65k Funding Secured**
Leveraged from The Executive Office to expand cross-community outreach and dialogue.

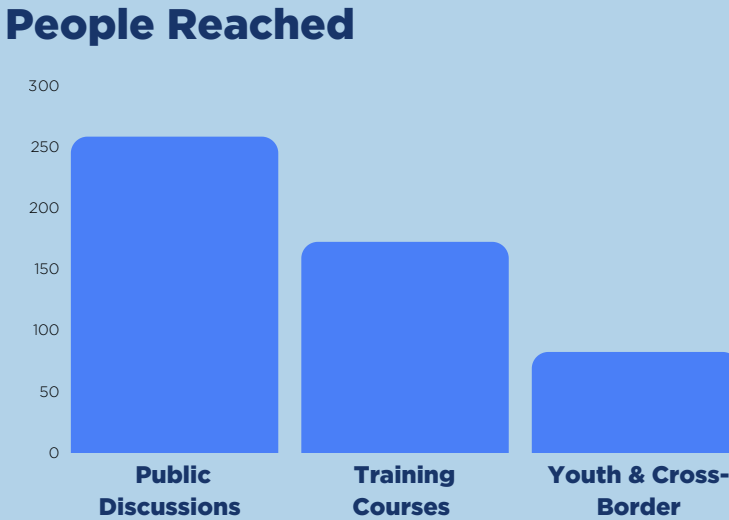
Key Projects & Initiatives

 **FCC Public Talks Series**
Hosted high-level public discussions exploring shared history, reconciliation, and contemporary challenges like bonfires and cultural respect. Speakers provided informed perspectives on the complexities of reconciliation and progressing it in practice.

 **Community Tension Monitoring**
The Community Engagement Project (CEP) is a critical cross-community platform for identifying and responding to emerging local tensions. Targeted engagement helped address racism, far-right activity, and mis-informations about migrant communities.

 **Breaking Borders Youth Training**
Brought together three youth groups for cross-border residential training with 30 participants, which focused on personal development and building healthy relationships. Involved partnerships with University of Galway and Ulster University.

 **Tailored Community Training**
Delivered training to 172 participants from diverse groups (such as Forthspring, Newhill Youth Club, Saints Youth & Resurgam Youth Initiative, Highfield Men's Shed, and Ulster Supported Employment Group) on youth culture and conflict transformation.



512 individuals were empowered this year, primarily driven by high-attendance public dialogue events.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

 **Challenge**
Engaging communities not previously connected to FCC is highly resource-intensive, requiring sustained trust-building that is vulnerable to sudden community tensions.

 **Lesson**
Outreach and engagement must be explicitly resourced as core delivery activities to sustain long-term, durable cross-community work.

Featured Material



Watch the video to find out more about Falls Community Council and their recent Cultural Awareness programme.

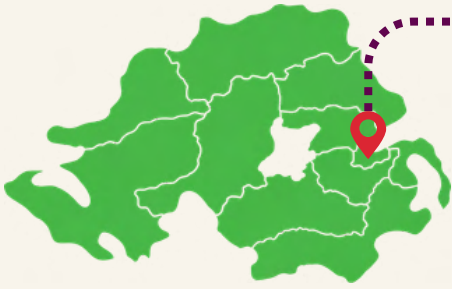
Learn More

-  <https://fallscouncil.com>
-  +44 (0)28 9020 2033
-  info@fallscouncil.com
-  [@FallsCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/FallsCommunityCouncil)
-  [@WestSafety](https://twitter.com/WestSafety)

Falls Women's Centre



Empowering grassroots women leaders to drive peacebuilding.



Working in Belfast.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Falls Women's Centre is a community development organisation dedicated to tackling structural inequality and empowering women. By providing holistic support and accredited good relations training, they enable women from all backgrounds to engage in political dialogue, combat gender-based violence, and actively shape a shared, diverse, and safe future.

Overall Impact



£32,600

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



120 Women Empowered

Directly engaged in cross-community relationship building and good relations training.



54 Qualifications Awarded

Gained by women completing courses in leadership, community development, and diversity.

Key Projects & Initiatives



New Partnership with Forthspring

Cemented connections with the Forthspring Inter-Community Group by delivering two accredited courses to their members, expanding cross-community reach.



Women, Peace and Security OCN

Developed and delivered a new accredited course increasing understanding of the roots of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and its community impact.



Shared Creativity Room

Opened a dedicated shared space in response to participant requests, fostering informal, intercultural relationship-building outside of structured classroom settings.



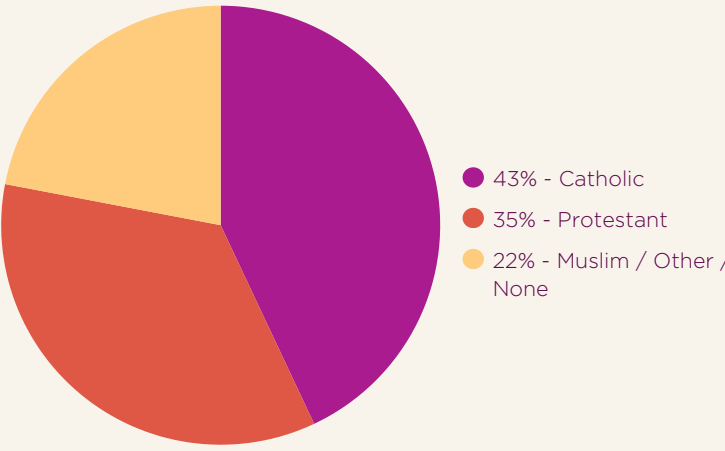
Advocating for Women's Health

Supported cross-community groups to participate in the NAUWU campaign for a NI Women's Health Strategy, including trips to Stormont to lobby for change.

“Taking part in courses with women from other centres shows me how far we've come on. I think the more we women can do together, the better. Talking about the political situation, changes ahead, no matter what happens we all need to be engaged.”

Participant, Shared History course & Women, Peace and Security course

First-time Attendance



The Centre successfully engaged a highly diverse cohort, with 60% of women participating in a Good Relations activity for the very first time.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Participants face multiple, compounding challenges, including conflict-related trauma and the rise in hate crime.



Lesson

Providing wrap-around, holistic support (including childcare and counselling) is proven to be the most effective way to engage grassroots women in difficult peacebuilding conversations.

Future Plans

FCC aims to:

- Expand the delivery of the OCN Level 2 Women, Peace and Security course to combat gender-based violence.
- Maximise the use of the new Shared Creativity Room to foster informal, intercultural dialogue.
- Continue working strategically with partner women's centres.

Learn More



fallswomenscentre.org



+44 (0)28 9032 7672



info@fallswomenscentre.org



[@TheFallsWomensCentre](https://www.facebook.com/TheFallsWomensCentre)

Holywell Trust



A collaborative, community-led approach to peace.



Working in Derry & Strabane.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Holywell Trust and The Junction receive joint Core funding support of £80k split equally between them. Working in close partnership with The Junction to create a more inclusive society in the North West, Holywell Trust focuses on high-level strategic planning and civic engagement. They provide essential shared spaces, facilitate critical dialogue on complex constitutional issues, and develop community leadership, actively influencing key decision-makers to drive long-term, systemic peacebuilding.

Overall Impact

 **£80,800**
CRC Core funding shared with The Junction.

 **16,000+ Beneficiaries**
Supported through expansive shared space usage and community networking.

 **£63k Funding Secured**
Leveraged by Holywell Trust from The National Lottery, NIO, and local councils.

Key Projects & Initiatives



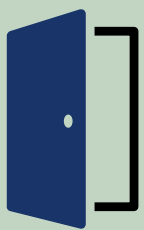
Future Relationship Conversations

Concluded a monumental 5-year project examining the constitutional question, culminating in a major conference and the launch of a comprehensive public opinion poll.



Leadership Collective

Supported 12 community leaders from diverse backgrounds through a year-long programme exploring strategic thinking, policy engagement, and inclusion.



Shared Space Provision

Facilitated 1,155 community meetings within the Holywell building, sustaining a vital, neutral hub for regional peacebuilding activity.



Forward Thinking Project

Delivered on behalf of the Derry & Strabane PeacePlus Partnership, engaging over 100 people and facilitating shared journeys to explore post-conflict transitions.



Shared Spaces

1150

1,155 community meetings were hosted in the Holywell shared space, facilitating engagement with an estimated 16,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

The cost of living crisis has increased operational pressures on providing affordable, shared community spaces, forcing some tenant organisations to downsize.



Lesson

Adapting the management of shared spaces and deepening strategic partnerships is essential to ensure peacebuilding hubs remain viable.

Featured Material



Read the comprehensive findings and public opinion polling from the 5-year project about Northern Ireland.

Learn More

-  www.holywelltrust.com
-  +44 (0)28 7126 1941
-  hello@hollywelltrust.com
-  [@HolywellTrust](https://www.facebook.com/HolywellTrust)
-  [Holywell LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/holywelltrust)

Irish FA Foundation



Using the power of football to tackle sectarianism and drive inclusion.

Introduction

The Irish FA Foundation leverages the universal appeal of football to maintain and sustain community engagement across Northern Ireland. By working with schools, clubs and community groups, they deliver responsive programmes addressing critical issues including good relations, refugee integration, violence against women and girls, and mental health to ensure a lasting positive legacy.

Overall Impact

£26,600

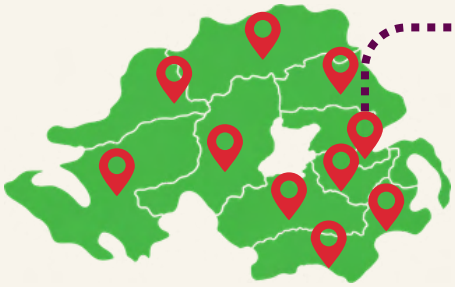
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

1,673 Participants

Reached vulnerable youth, refugees, and community leaders across multiple regional programmes.

15 Schools & 21 Clubs

Participated in targeted peacebuilding and sports engagement programmes.



Working throughout the region.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Football versus Sectarianism

Delivered the "Respect campaign" to 240 participants across 12 schools and community settings, tackling bad behaviour and encouraging positive community relations through sport.



Fresh Start Through Sport

Led a major sporting bodies partnership (including Ulster Rugby, Belfast Giants, and Ulster GAA) to deliver programmes steering young people away from criminality and paramilitarism.



Refugee Engagement Programme

Worked with refugee centres and newcomer minority groups to engage 271 participants, fostering inclusion and breaking down barriers for newly arrived families.



Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Engaged 312 participants across male football clubs and schools to increase awareness of gender-based violence and directly address inappropriate behaviours.

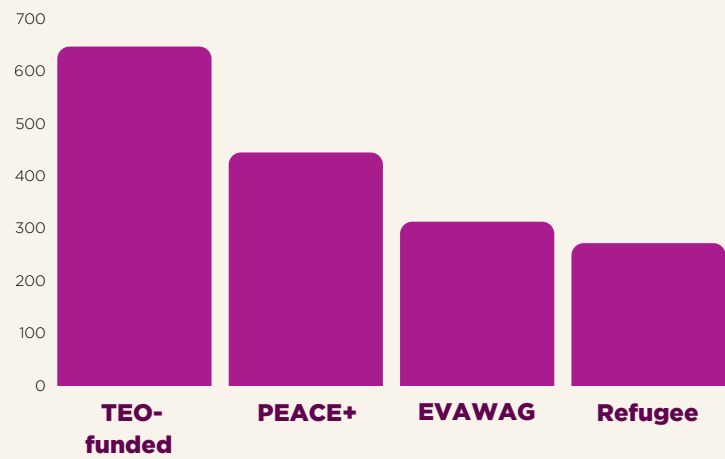
“

The programme gave me the confidence and skills to get involved. It helped me feel part of the community.

”

Emmanuel Aluko, participant

Diverse Outreach



1,673 individuals engaged in the Foundation's diverse outreach, driven by major TEO and PEACE+ funded initiatives.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

Secured funding of £115k for Sport4Peace, £189k for Fresh Start Through Sport, and £97k for EVAWG initiatives.

CRC Core funding £26,600

Lessons Learned



Challenge

There is increasing demand across all programmes, placing capacity pressures on staff to sustain engagement in high-need areas.



Lesson

Embedding evaluation and continual learning into programme delivery is essential to maintain momentum and maximise long-term impact as projects transition into multi-year phases.

Future Plans

IFA Foundation aims to:

- Expand "Ahead of the Game" and PEACE+ programmes during their second year of delivery.
- Deepen partnerships with statutory bodies to use football to upskill vulnerable participants.
- Continue embedding anti-sectarianism and gender-based violence awareness into core football coaching curriculums.

Learn More

- www.irishfa.com
- +44 (0)28 9066 9458
- [northernirelandnationalteam](https://www.facebook.com/northernirelandnationalteam)
- [IrishFA](https://twitter.com/IrishFA)
- [donegallpass_ce](https://www.youtube.com/donegallpass_ce)

Irish School of Ecumenics



Building peace and reconciliation through faith-based dialogue.



Causeway Coast & Glens, Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid-Antrim, Mid-Ulster, Newry, Mourne & Down, and regionally.



Introduction

The Irish School of Ecumenics provides vital support for the development and sustainability of Inter-Churches Fora working on Good Relations across local communities. Through mentoring, strategic planning, and the facilitation of safe spaces, the organisation empowers faith leaders and community members to address sectarianism, explore shared history, and play constructive roles in an increasingly divided society.

Overall Impact



£30,000

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



725 People Reached

Engaged 425 direct participants and 300 indirect beneficiaries across local Fora and conferences.



8 Inter-Church Fora

Peacebuilding networks: Ballycastle, Ballymena, Causeway Churches Forum, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Omagh, and Newry.

Key Projects & Initiatives



CONNECT Conferences

Hosted major regional conferences exploring complex themes such as “1925 The Boundary Commission And The Border,” and “Living Faith Today: Faith, Hope and Love for a Liberated World.”



6th Form Good Relations Conferences

Delivered “Beyond Division: Your Blueprint for Connection, Purpose, and Peace,” an exploration of the role of digital tools in modern society.



Shared History & Placenames

Supported local Fora, such as Newry, in exploring complex shared history and Irish language placenames to deepen mutual understanding.

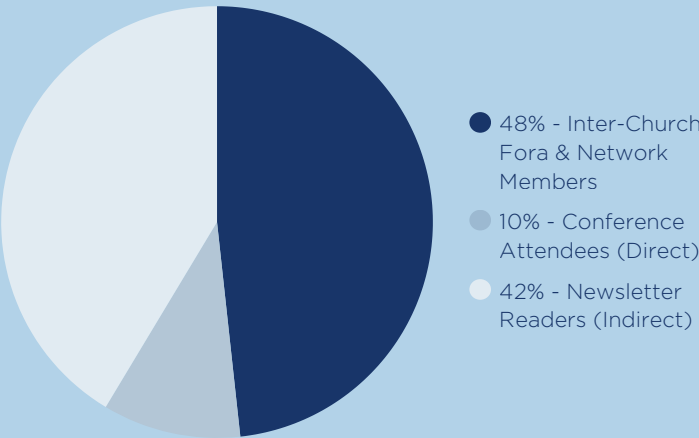


Addressing Local Social Needs

Empowered local Fora to collaboratively tackle pressing community issues, including human trafficking, food poverty (Ballycastle Foodbank), and loneliness.



Local Fora Meetings



Over 700 individuals were engaged through sustained local Fora meetings, youth conferences, and wider network communications.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Working with churches reveals that there are still significant levels of sectarianism and prejudice that must be addressed, particularly as societal division increases.



Lesson

Providing safe, structured spaces for dialogue helps develop the critical thinking skills needed, especially for younger people.

Featured Material



Find out more about the Irish School of Ecumenics through their Church Fora newsletter.

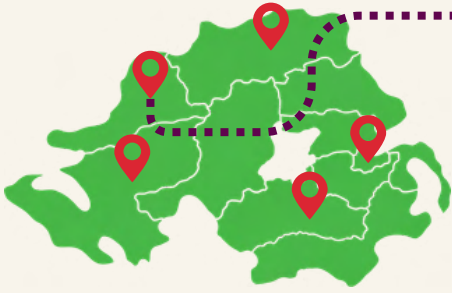
Learn More

-  www.tcd.ie/ise
-  +353 1 896 4771
-  isedir@tcd.ie
-  [@Irish-School-of-Ecumenics](https://www.facebook.com/Irish-School-of-Ecumenics)
-  [@tcddublin](https://twitter.com/tcddublin)

Londonderry Bands Forum



Using music and culture to build bridges and community connections.



Working in Armagh, Banbridge
Craigavon, Belfast, Causeway Coast
& Glens, Derry & Strabane, and
Fermanagh & Omagh.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF) delivers a sustained, strategic programme of work across community relations, cultural expression, and community safety. By moving beyond short-term activity, LBF acts as a credible bridge between the PUL community, policymakers, and statutory agencies, proactively addressing emerging issues like mental health and sectarianism while prominently promoting inclusive cultural heritage.

Overall Impact

 **£50,100**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **1,650 People Reached**
Engaged through youth workshops, regional showcases, and community safety initiatives.

 **£40k Funding Secured**
Leveraged to support heritage exhibitions and innovative Augmented Reality projects.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Connecting Creativity via Augmented Reality

Secured funding from Future Screens NI and Ulster University to develop innovative, first-of-its-kind Augmented Reality (AR) experiences exploring band culture.



Education & Schools Engagement

Maintained ongoing discussions and workshops with integrated settings like Oakgrove Integrated Primary School to break down barriers and explore band culture inclusively.



Bands Mental Health Strategy

Developed a structured, phased approach to addressing mental health within bands, providing safe, accessible support pathways for members and the wider community.



Heritage & Cultural Preservation

Promoted and preserved the rich heritage of the marching band tradition through exhibitions, educational resources and innovative digital storytelling. Delivered the first Blue Plaque recognising a member of the marching band community.

“

Working with the Londonderry Bands Forum has given our pupils the opportunity to explore an important part of local cultural heritage in a safe, engaging and inclusive way. Their workshops encouraged curiosity, respect and meaningful discussion, helping to break down misconceptions and build greater understanding.

”

Teacher, Oakgrove Integrated Primary School

Augmented Reality



Secured £20k from Ulster University to pioneer an Augmented Reality experiences exploring Protestant, Unionist, and Loyalist cultural identity.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Sensitivity around cultural expression linked to bands creates barriers to access, particularly within some schools and public spaces.



Lesson

Overcoming these barriers requires sustained relationship-building and development of inclusive resources, such as the “Bandie” book, to promote broader understanding.

Featured Material



Watch Brian Dougherty MBE talk about winning the Exceptional Achievement Award in peacebuilding.

Learn More

- +44 (0)28 7126 5869
- info@londonderrybandsforum.com
- [Londonderry Bands Forum](https://www.londonderrybandsforum.com)

Nerve Centre



Driving cultural inclusion through digital creativity and heritage.



Delivering regionally, including current projects in Derry City & Strabane, Ards & North Down, and Belfast.



Introduction

Nerve Centre utilises digital technologies, music and moving image curation to bring together participants from across communities. CRC funding specifically supports a Good Relations Communications Manager who amplifies the organisation's impact, ensuring that a strong good relations ethos is visibly embedded across all their innovative, cross-community creative programming.

Overall Impact

£39,000
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

325 People Reached
Engaged directly in intensive digital, musical, and heritage projects.

£388k Funding Secured
Leveraged from sources including Northern Ireland Screen, OFCOM, and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Key Projects & Initiatives



The Create: Youth Digital & Music Project

Utilising PEACEPLUS funding to connect young people (aged 14-18) from communities across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, using music and digital technologies to explore issues of culture and identity.



Northern Ireland NOW

Innovative contemporary collecting project delivered in partnership with Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive, aimed at increasing representation in the archive through moving image curation.



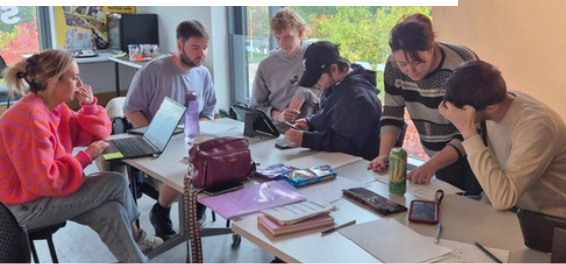
Bringing Life to our Historical Heritage

Delivering a cross-community digital heritage programme across Ards and North Down Borough Council, using museum collections to uncover the shared history of the area through its built and landscape heritage.

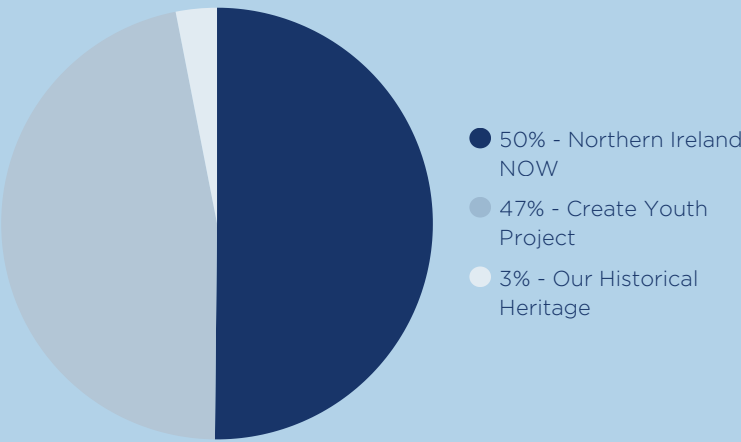


Critical Thinking & Media Literacy

Secured a major OFCOM tender to deliver critical thinking programmes, equipping participants to navigate complex societal narratives and misinformation.



Creative Cross-Community



325 participants have participated in cross-community creative programmes to date, led by the Northern Ireland Now project.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Young people are increasingly more interested in exploring who they are now and their future prospects, rather than issues of the past.



Lesson

Good relations programming must adapt to use contemporary mediums, such as digital technologies, to support and make culture and identity more relevant to the next generation.

Featured Material



Watch the Outpouring video for the immersive project co-created with young people from across Belfast.

Learn More

- nervecentre.org
- +(44) 028 7126 0562
- info@nervecentre.org
- nervecentre.org
- Nerve Centre

North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)



A global leader in using the arts for peacebuilding and social change.

Introduction

The Playhouse is a vibrant cultural hub that uses the arts to facilitate powerful, often difficult conversations at the heart of positive social change. CRC funding enables The Playhouse to coordinate bespoke workshops, build strong grassroots relationships, and develop trauma-informed approaches to explore the legacy of conflict, sectarianism, and social inclusion through high-quality theatre.

Overall Impact



£37,000

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



19,700 People Reached

Engaged 2,700 direct participants and 17,000 indirect audience members.



€700k Funding Secured

Leveraged massive multi-year investments from PEACEPLUS & DFA.



Working in Derry & Strabane, and Belfast.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



That's Powerful

Expanded the legacy of peacebuilding work to tackle modern divisions, including classism, racism, and female rights, hosting 14 community groups in targeted workshops.



BRIDGE: Stepping Up, Standing Out

Engaged young people in youth-led creative programmes exploring sectarianism, paramilitarism, and child rights, using the arts to divert participants from anti-social behaviour.



Train of Thought

Facilitated cross-community youth exchanges resulting in a co-created video exploring community relations through the participants' own emotional experiences.



Social Justice Theatre Productions

Staged powerful, critically acclaimed productions (such as Paddy: The Life and Times of Paddy Armstrong) exploring the legacy of the Troubles.

“ Being part of Through Our Eyes has been one of the best experiences I've ever had. It gave me the confidence to express myself honestly and creatively and seeing my work exhibited at The Playhouse made me feel proud and respected. ”

Participant, Through Our Eyes programme

Crucial Civic Conversations

17k

17,785 audience members attended high-quality theatre productions that sparked crucial civic conversations on social justice and reconciliation.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Practical barriers, particularly limited access to affordable transport, can prevent consistent participation in shared neutral spaces.



Lesson

To reduce barriers, future arts-based peacebuilding should adopt a mobile, hyper-local approach, taking creative facilitators and resources directly into communities.

Featured Material



Watch the youth-created video exploring community relations, emotions, and environments across divides.

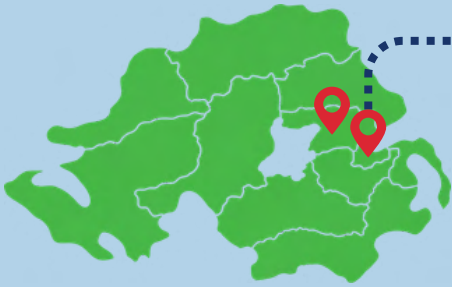
Learn More

- www.derryplayhouse.co.uk
- +44 (0)28 7126 8027
- info@derryplayhouse.com
- [@playhousederry](https://www.facebook.com/playhousederry)
- [playhousederry](https://www.instagram.com/playhousederry)

Partisan Productions



Creating shared, socially engaged theatre.



Working in Belfast, and Antrim & Newtownabbey.



Introduction

Partisan Productions is an award-winning theatre and film company dedicated to social justice and the creation of a shared, equitable future. By developing integrated programmes of research, training, and public performance, Partisan uses the creative arts to address complex social issues, such as racial tension, rumour, and resilience, allowing communities to explore the challenges of a divided society through forum theatre.

Overall Impact

 **£33,100**

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **500 People Reached**

Engaged directly in research, script development, and small-scale forum theatre events.

 **355 Youth & Community**

Engaged in shared events to explore the complex challenges of their professional roles.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Shared3? Project

Conducted 25 research and script development sessions with resident and immigrant groups across South Belfast, exploring housing-related racial tension and culminating in 4 public presentations.



The Nine Hats and More

Engaged 355 community and youth workers across Belfast through small-scale forum theatre, building resilience and shared practice for those working in divided societies.



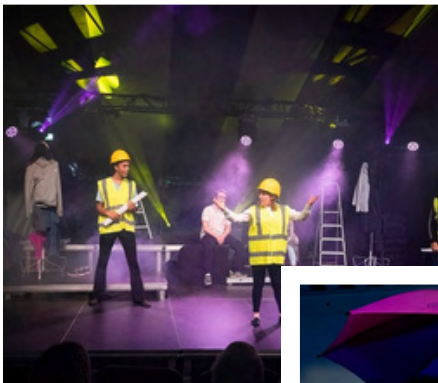
Weird Belfast Musical

Developed a high-quality musical production in inner-east Belfast to explore and communicate the role that rumour, mythology, and “hyperstition” play in forming and dividing communities.

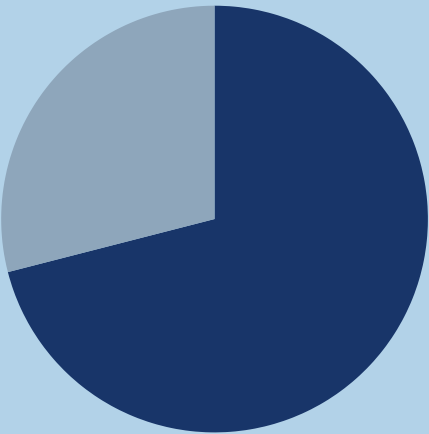


International Peace Boat

Invited to demonstrate their unique forum theatre approach with international participants and local facilitators aboard the Peace Boat during its visit to Belfast.



Building Shared Practice



- 71% - Community & Youth Workers (The Nine Hats)
- 29% - Research & Script Participants (Shared3?)

500 individuals participated in intensive theatrical research and forum theatre, empowering over 350 community workers to build shared practice.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

The escalation of housing-related racial tension requires immediate, sensitive community discourse.



Lesson

Socially engaged theatre proves highly effective in shifting the focus of tension, allowing residents and immigrant groups to explore complex community issues.

Featured Material



Discover how Partisan is using musical theatre to explore rumour and mythology in divided communities.

Learn More

- +44 (0)28 9031 0900
- partisanproductions@hotmail.com
- [@partisanproductions](https://www.facebook.com/partisanproductions)
- [@partisanNI](https://www.twitter.com/partisanNI)

PeacePlayers International - Northern Ireland



Building bridges through sport.



Working in Antrim & Newtownabbey, Ards & North Down, Belfast, Fermanagh & Omagh, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Mid & East Antrim, Mid-Ulster, and Newry, Mourne & Down.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

PeacePlayers uses sport to unite, educate and inspire young people from divided communities. CRC core funding supports essential staff engaged in developing relationships with schools and community centres. By leveraging the inherent lessons of teamwork on the basketball court, PeacePlayers creates safe spaces for young people to connect, challenging sectarianism and empowering the next generation of peacebuilders.

Overall Impact

 **£57,000**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **1,887 Young People**
Engaged through school twinnings, bridging divides programmes, and cross-border leadership training.

 **26 School Twinnings**
Facilitating over 300 contact hours across 55 diverse classrooms.

Key Projects & Initiatives

 **School Twinning Programme**
Completed 26 twinnings engaging 1,401 young people across Catholic, Protestant, and diverse backgrounds, fostering integration through over 300 hours of shared sport.

 **Flagship Shared Events**
Hosted four major cross-community events, including the Interface Games and the Jingle Ball, attended by high-level political figures such as the Deputy First Minister.

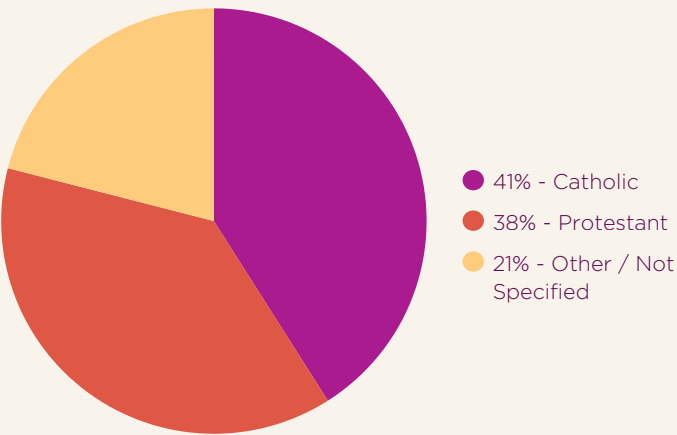
 **Bridging Divides Programmes**
Delivered nine targeted programmes across seven council areas, engaging 266 young people in intensive, cross-community sessions delivering over 240 contact hours.

 **Cross-Border Leadership Training**
Recruited and trained 15 young leaders (aged 16-18) from past programmes to become Good Relations Through Sport Coaches, undertaking formal leadership development.

 It's pretty amazing that something we do here in Northern Ireland could help PeacePlayers in the US, Middle East or South Africa, and that we can learn from what young people there are doing too. We live in really different places, but we're all using basketball to bring people together.

Participant

School Twinnings Programme



The School Twinning programme successfully engaged 1,401 young people, achieving a highly balanced cross-community demographic.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

-  **Challenge**
Ensuring the archives, which cover complex and contested narratives of the Troubles, were presented in an objective and inclusive manner.
-  **Lesson**
Dedicated CRC core funding enabled essential staff time for deep archival research, planning, and coordination.

Future Plans

- PeacePlayers aims to:
- Launch “Corporate Investors in Peace” campaign, encouraging businesses to support peacebuilding.
 - Develop the Sport for Development Coalition alongside Active Communities Network and Sport Changes Life.
 - Expand SLAP (Sports, Arts and Leadership Programme) across Ards and North Down using newly secured PeacePlus funding.

Learn More

-  peaceplayers.org
-  +44 (0)28 9066 7416
-  northernireland@peaceplayers.org
-  [@peaceplayersni](https://www.facebook.com/peaceplayersni)
-  [@peaceplayersni](https://twitter.com/peaceplayersni)

R City Youth CIC



Elevating youth engagement and leadership.



Working in Belfast (North & West).



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

R City Youth operates out of North and West Belfast, engaging young people primarily from the Ardoyne, Shankill, and Falls/Divis communities. CRC funding enables their Good Relations Co-ordinator to oversee year-long, cross-community youth programmes. By focusing on consistent weekly engagement, R City elevates the standards of local youth work, tackling interface issues and empowering a new generation of resilient leaders.

Overall Impact

 **£27,300**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **1,579 Beneficiaries**
Engaged 642 direct participants, and 937 indirect beneficiaries through public events & community outreach.

 **100 Young Leaders**
Enrolled in advanced, accredited Foróige Leadership for Life qualifications.

Key Projects & Initiatives



First & Positive Steps (Ages 12-13)

Engaged 90 young people from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds in year-long programmes exploring team building, identity, self-care, and community diversity.



Accredited Leadership Programmes

Facilitated Foróige Leadership for Life qualifications (accredited by Queen's University) for 100 young people across North and West Belfast.



Belfast 2 Blanco (B2B)

Prepared 19 cross-community participants for an immersive international educational trip, focusing on global peacebuilding and broadening cultural horizons.

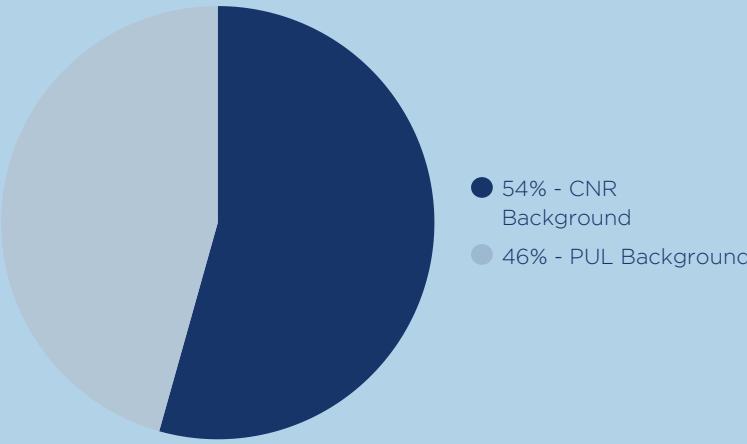


SHE: Empowering Young Women

Engaged 30 young women from diverse backgrounds in a dedicated programme exploring feminism, justice for women, and female empowerment. Annual event takes place in Mandela Hall on International Women's Day.



Reaching Hearts and Minds



344 young people were directly engaged through nightly cross-community youth provision.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Young people face immense pressure from ongoing interface issues, online bullying, and decreased self-esteem driven by exam stress.



Lesson

Year-long engagement and programme consistency provides support and targeted intervention to keep young people motivated and resilient against community tensions.

Featured Material



This video captures facilitated tours and workshops within Queen's University, and future projects.

Learn More

-  www.rcitybelfast.com
-  info@rcitybelfast.com
-  [RCityBelfast](https://www.facebook.com/RCityBelfast)
-  [rcitybelfast](https://twitter.com/rcitybelfast)
-  [rcitybelfast](https://www.instagram.com/rcitybelfast)

Rural Community Network



A regional voice empowering rural communities to tackle division.

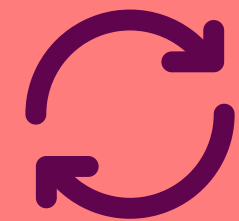
Introduction

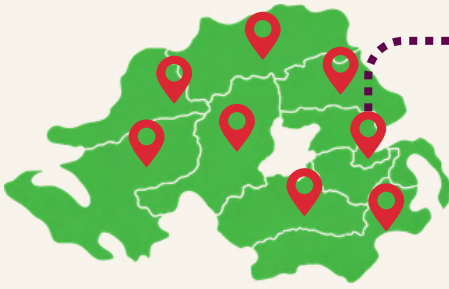
The Rural Community Network (RCN) champions the needs of rural communities across Northern Ireland. By taking a community development approach, RCN connects good relations practitioners and empowers local groups to tackle social exclusion, paramilitary control, and sectarianism. They provide vital training and responsive, independent facilitation to ensure peacebuilding efforts reach the most isolated areas.

Overall Impact

 **£65,800**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **695 People Reached**
Engaged 525 direct participants and 170 indirect beneficiaries across rural Northern Ireland.

 **£328k Funding Secured**
Leveraged from DfC, DAERA, and the Peace Plus programme to expand rural community development.



Working regionally across rural Northern Ireland.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Beyond Belfast Forum

Connected good relations practitioners across rural NI, facilitating high-level consultations on ending paramilitarism with independent experts.



Community Development Diplomas

Delivered accredited Diplomas in Community Development across Newry, Strabane, and Newtownards, successfully recruiting 62 participants, including targeted outreach to single-identity PUL areas.



Responsive Support for Rural Groups

Provided immediate, independent facilitation and governance support to rural communities facing issues such as loss of funding, succession planning and paramilitary influence.



Trauma Informed Practice Delivery

Upskilled RCN staff to roll out a new “Training for Trainers” programme, delivering 4 Trauma Informed Awareness courses to rural practitioners.

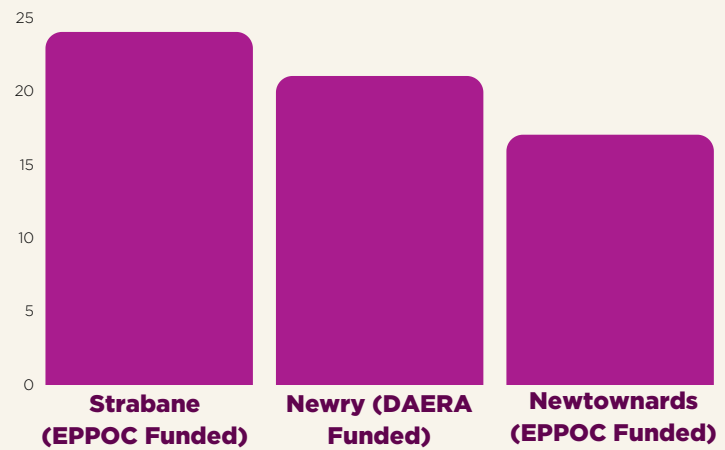
“

My course learning is something I will carry with me into my community development role in my community. While the course was challenging at time, it provided me with an opportunity to stand banc and reflect on the work I do each day.

”

DCDP Student

Community Development



62 rural practitioners were recruited to undertake accredited Community Development Diplomas to strengthen local peacebuilding capacity.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Rural communities often face intense, localised issues relating to racism, violence, and paramilitary control without the immediate support structures available in urban centres.



Lesson

Providing an independent, trusted facilitator and establishing responsive regional networks (like ‘Beyond Belfast’) is vital.

Future Plans

Rural Community Network aims to:

- Deploy the Anti-Intimidation Toolkit in partnership with The Junction, BCRC, and Radius Housing.
- Recruit a project worker for the Intercultural Integration Project, funded by SEUPB.
- Continue working closely with the Department of Justice to support community-led actions against paramilitarism.

Learn More



www.ruralcommunitynet.work.org



+44 (0)28 8676 6670



info@ruralcommunitynet.work.org



[RuralCommunityNetworkNI](https://www.facebook.com/RuralCommunityNetworkNI)

Springboard Opportunities



Empowering youth to bridge divides and champion diversity.



Working in Belfast, Causeway Coast & Glens, and Derry~Londonderry.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Springboard designs and delivers innovative, needs-led programmes that equip young people to overcome barriers, build positive relationships across divides, and develop respect for diversity. CRC funding enables targeted interventions for youth aged 16-25 in areas of disadvantage, particularly those vulnerable to polarisation, paramilitary influence, and criminality.

Overall Impact

£41,300

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

1,460 Young People

Engaged directly across immersive good relations and employability programmes.

£2.5M+ Funding Secured

Leveraged across 12 major funding streams including SEUPB, IFI, and TEO.

Key Projects & Initiatives



ACCEPT Programme

Strengthened community cohesion and capacity of 120+ young people and community practitioners through cultural competence and transformational leadership training.



Wall2Wall

A youth-led project that brought together young people from both sides of Belfast’s Cupar Way peace line. Through workshops and an international study visit to Cyprus, participants built mutual understanding and delivered an event attended by 1100+ people.



Fusion+ Schools Project

Delivered over 50 intensive workshops on identity and culture, empowering 62 students across Belfast and the North West to lead local social action projects.



Journeys Initiative

Supported 914 young people who experience disadvantage and live in divided communities in Belfast, Greater Limavady and L/Derry, with 95% reporting a more positive attitude toward different communities at project end.

Youth Engagement

1460

Springboard delivered crucial, targeted support through life skills, community cohesion and peacebuilding projects to 1,460 beneficiaries.



Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

The ongoing and pervasive influence of the Troubles in the lives of young people who live in economically and socially deprived communities.



Lesson

Sustained, intensive cross-community contact proved that young people can become active contributors to building a shared, united and more cohesive society.

Featured Material



Find out about how interface communities shared stories of division and hope from Cupar Way to Cyprus.

Learn More

- springboard-oppo.org
- +44 (0)28 9031 5111
- general@springboard-oppo.org
- [@springboardoppo](https://www.facebook.com/springboardoppo)
- [@springboardoppo](https://twitter.com/springboardoppo)

St. Columb's Park House



A neutral hub for people, place, and peacebuilding.

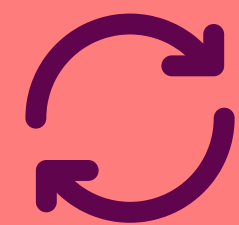
Introduction

St. Columb's Park House serves as a vital neutral venue and peacebuilding hub in the North West. CRC funding enables their team to provide active managerial support directly at the interface between the Tullyally and Currynierin communities. Through participatory budgeting, shared environmental projects, and youth leadership, they empower residents to dismantle barriers and build collaborative, resilient neighbourhoods.

Overall Impact

 **£49,500**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **3,142 People Reached**
Engaged massive numbers through community connection projects and interface mediation.

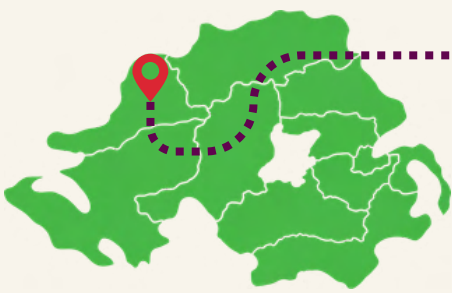
 **£1.2M+ Funding Secured**
Leveraged massive multi-year grants from The National Lottery, PEACE PLUS, and the Rank Foundation.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

-  **Challenge**
Sustaining relationship-building at the interface is impacted when lone community workers face public intimidation from local paramilitaries.
-  **Lesson**
A neutral, overarching broker like St. Columb's Park House can provide a safe meeting venue and maintain the vital networking required when local interface progress is threatened.



Working in Derry & Strabane.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Dare 2 Dream Participatory Budgeting

Secured PEACE PLUS funding to connect Currynierin and Tullyally residents, engaging 267 locals to collaboratively fund and deliver 40 shared project ideas.



The BLOOM Project

Utilised shared green space to promote local community relations, engaging over 2,700 participants in environmental connection projects totalling 5,400 hours.



Future Leaders Cross-Border Project

Brought together 30 young people across communities and borders to develop leadership skills, with all participants achieving their Bronze Award qualifications.



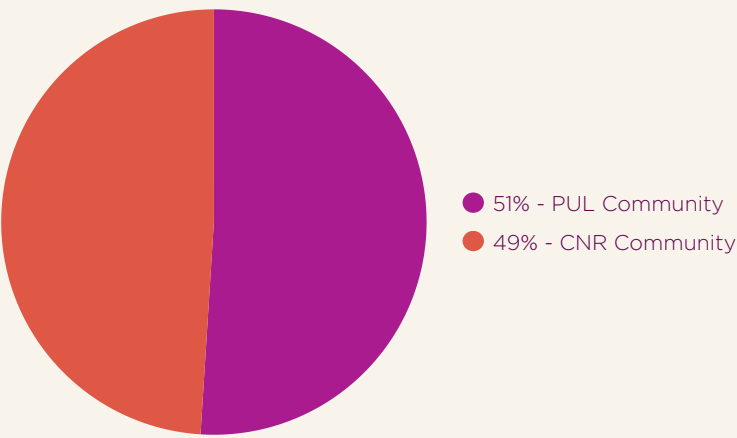
Peace Impact Programme (IFI)

Established a shared staff member across the Tullyally and Currynierin communities to support lone community workers and address cross-community tensions.

 I thought I was coming to hear other people's stories, but I ended up chatting about my own. The conversations reminded me that our memories, experiences have more in common than I ever imagined. Was an amazing programme and look forward to the next. 

Participant, Echoes of Us programme

Dare 2 Dream Programme



The Dare 2 Dream participatory budgeting model successfully engaged 267 residents across a highly balanced, cross-community demographic.

Featured Material



Read about the peacebuilding and community engagement delivered by St Columb's Park House.

Learn More

-  stcolumbsparkhouse.org
-  +44 (0)28 7134 3080
-  info@stcolumbsparkhouse.org
-  [@stcolumbsparkhouse](https://www.facebook.com/stcolumbsparkhouse)

The Churches Trust



Standing together with those in need.



Working in Derry & Strabane.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

The Churches Trust plans, delivers and sustains a wide range of faith-based good relations programmes. By taking a strategic, trauma-informed approach, the Trust supports early intervention and addresses deep-seated issues like poverty, mental health and the legacy of conflict, building strong cross-community relationships based on social justice.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Interfaith & Interchurch Education

Engaged over 500 participants across schools, youth groups, and adult forums to explore shared history, identity, and interfaith dialogue.



Developing Women in the Community

Delivered a trauma-informed programme supporting women to heal from conflict legacy, securing agreements to continue delivery to March 2027.

Overall Impact



£48,800

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



2,977 People Reached

Engaged 977 direct participants and 2,000 (estimated) indirect beneficiaries.



£413k Funding Secured

Leveraged across 15 distinct funding streams including PEACEPLUS and DfC.



Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

Awareness-raising workshops were delivered as part of a trauma-informed programme to directly challenge attitudes and support the prevention of violence against women and girls (EVAWG) across communities.

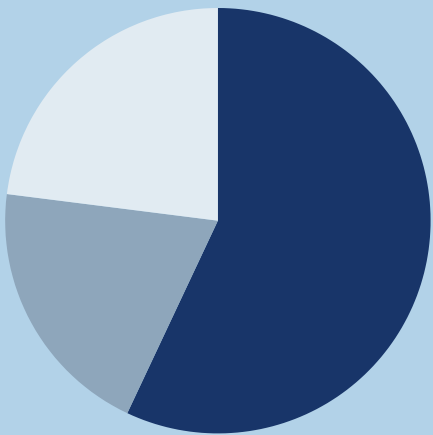


Choose to Change

Partnered with the Northern Ireland Office to deliver targeted early intervention work with young people at risk of engaging in sectarian activity or the criminal justice system.



Interfaith and Interchurch



● 57% - Catholic
● 20% - Protestant
● 23% - Other / Prefer not to say

Interfaith programmes helped to successfully foster high engagement across Catholic, Protestant, and minority communities.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

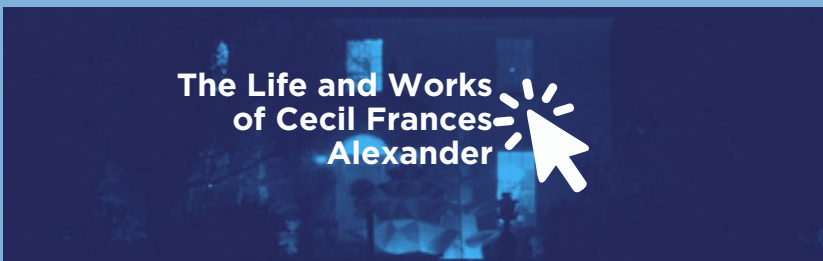
The legacy of the Troubles continues to shape intergenerational trauma, which is further compounded by rising right-wing attitudes and toxic forms of male violence.



Lesson

Integrating trauma-informed models (like 'TrACE to Transform') into all good relations work is essential to sustain long-term transformation.

Featured Material



Watch the video showcasing the Trust's work on the Cecil Frances Alexander project.

Learn More

- thechurchestrust.org.uk
- +44 (0)28 7131 1322
- info@thechurchestrust.org.uk
- [@TheChurchesTrust](https://www.facebook.com/TheChurchesTrust)
- [Churches Trust](https://www.youtube.com/ChurchesTrust)

The Corrymeela Community



Promoting reconciliation through dialogue, reflection, and community.

Introduction

Corrymeela is a community of reconciliation that nurtures relationships of trust and brave spaces where people can engage difficult histories, imagine shared futures, and sustain peace. Working across Northern Ireland and beyond, Corrymeela brings together people from diverse traditions, faiths, beliefs and identities to strengthen reconciliation through dialogue, learning, and shared experience.

Overall Impact



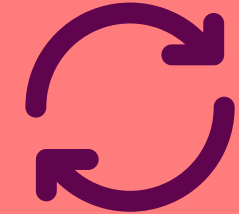
£63,100

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



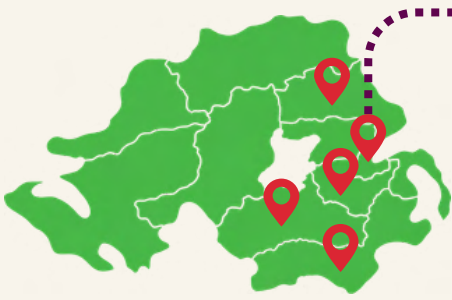
3,292 People Reached

Engaged 1,292 direct participants and 2,000 indirect beneficiaries across regional programmes.



£297k Funding Secured

Leveraged from the DFA and major charitable trusts to extend the scale of Corrymeela’s impact.



Working regionally across Northern Ireland, alongside UK-wide, international and cross-border partnerships.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Day of Reflection

Engaged 300+ people through the annual Service and Borderlands event, strengthening relationships across communities and contributing to public reflection and remembrance.



Borderlands

Convened monthly public conversations engaging over 300 participants annually, creating brave spaces to explore complex social issues and strengthening relationships across communities.



Political Leaders Think Tank

Facilitated regular off-the-record dialogue involving established and emerging political leaders from across the region and beyond, strengthening relationships and trusted channels of communication with and led by Artawonder.



Education & Facing History

Engaged 442 young people, educators and student teachers through schools, universities and professional learning, building critical thinking, dialogue and peacebuilding skills.

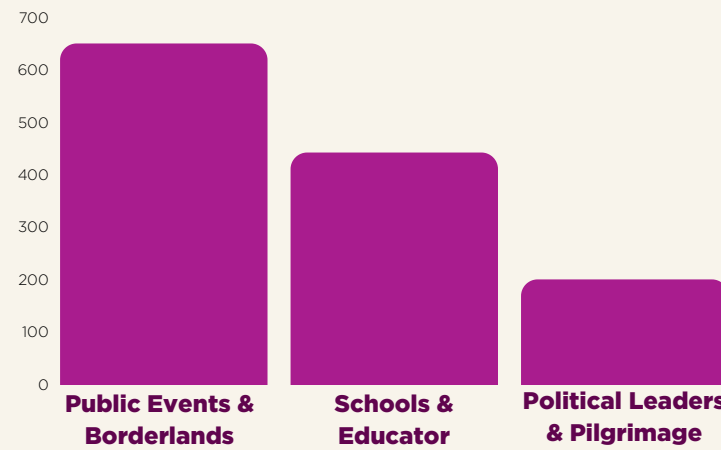
“

Those of us who sat around the table in '98, are still meeting, including the anti-agreement party who came on board at St Andrew’s, the leaders, retired now from each party...a group of elders. We talk about the current problem and how we can help to resolve it.

”

Monica McWilliams

Public Reflection & Dialogue



Direct engagement was led by highly attended public reflection events and intensive dialogue sessions.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

- 

Challenge

Creating trusted, neutral spaces where people from different backgrounds can engage openly is becoming increasingly challenging.
- 

Lesson

Peacebuilding is sustained through long-term investment in relationships of trust and brave spaces where people can engage difficult issues with honesty, respect and hope.

Featured Material



Listen to full-length conversations exploring public theology, reconciliation, and the legacy of the conflict.

Learn More

-  www.corrymeela.org
-  +44 (0)28 2076 2626
-  welcome@corrymeela.org
-  [@Corrymeela](https://www.facebook.com/Corrymeela)
-  [Corrymeela](https://www.linkedin.com/company/corrymeela)

The Junction



Empowering communities through peace-focused education.



Working in Derry & Strabane.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

The Junction and Holywell Trust receive joint Core funding support of £80k split equally between them. Working collaboratively with Holywell Trust to amplify peacebuilding in the North West, The Junction specialises in community learning programmes. By focusing on peace-building education, addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG), and supporting the wellbeing of practitioners, they empower local people to become effective, resilient agents of positive change.

Overall Impact



£80,800

CRC Core funding shared with Holywell Trust.



41 Participatory Events

Hosted to co-design community resources and facilitate peace-focused learning.



£34k Funding Secured

Leveraged by The Junction to fund targeted community education and VAWG initiatives.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Addressing Violence Against Women & Girls

Co-designed and delivered a major new training programme to address the normalisation of gender-based violence, which included 25 participatory events and the rollout of the "Re-Imagining Relationships" dialogue programme.



Practitioner Wellbeing & Peace

Developed a wellbeing and peace enquiry programme to support a cross-community group of 6 Peer Leaders and 10 key workers to improve trauma-informed practice.



Anti-Intimidation Toolkit

The dissemination process for the Anti-Intimidation Toolkit included delivering a workshop as part of the Rural Community Network / Beyond Belfast practitioner forum "From the Ground Up."



Gender Justice Seminars

Hosted the "Valuing Women's Voices" conference at Waterside Shared Village and concluded a Gender Justice Seminar Series with a performance event and Q&A.



Addressing Violence

119

119 participants gained new confidence around recognising forms of gender-based violence, and a deeper understanding of the need to break the silences shaped by the political conflict.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Increased pressure for peacebuilding resources makes it difficult to sustain dedicated community education initiatives.



Lesson

Utilising an Associate Facilitator Model allows the organisation to remain agile, expanding its reach and delivering high-quality learning without overburdening core staff.

Featured Material



Watch the series based on tackling issues around gender-based violence within the region.

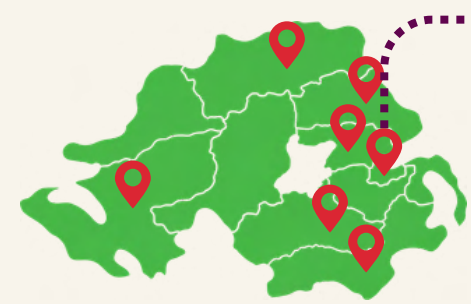
Learn More

- thejunction-ni.org
- +44 (0)28 7136 1942
- info@thejunction-ni.org
- [@TheJunctionNI](https://www.facebook.com/TheJunctionNI)
- [The Junction LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thejunctionni)

TIDES Training



Facilitating, mediation, good relations, and capacity building.



Working in Newry, Mourne & Down, Fermanagh & Omagh, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Belfast, Mid & East Antrim, and Causeway Coast & Glens.



Core Funded by CRC

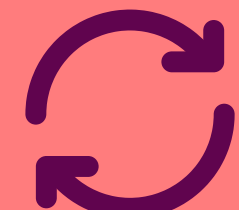
Introduction

TIDES Training & Consultancy is an established leader in conflict resolution and capacity building. TIDES facilitate strong, flexible relationships to create deeper understanding to support people to live well together. By delivering accredited training and vital community mediation, TIDES helps communities prevent escalation and responds to contentious cultural issues, address hate crime, and establish sustainable restorative practices.

Overall Impact

 **£67,100**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **2,881 People Reached**
Engaged 1,731 direct participants and 1,150 indirect beneficiaries across the region.

 **£60k Funding Secured**
Leveraged largely from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA&T).

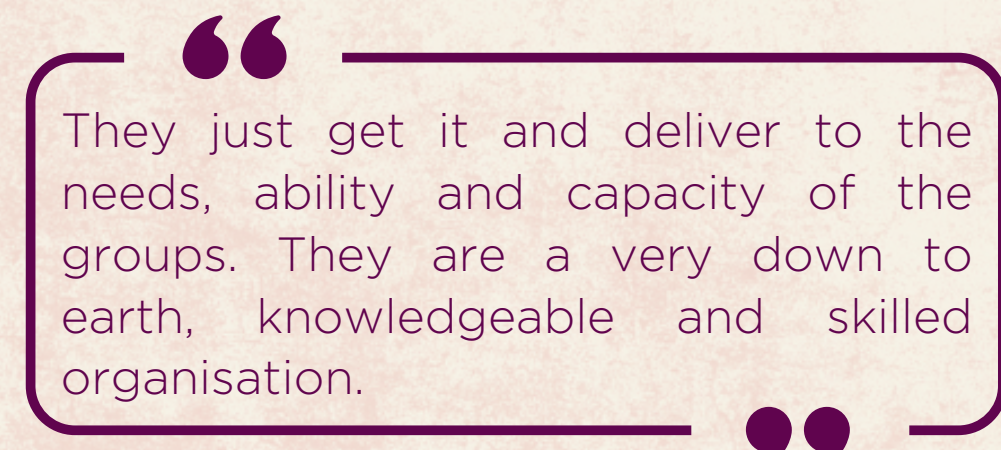
Key Projects & Initiatives

 **Restorative Practice**
Alongside developing a regional partnership with the Education Authority (EA) to deliver restorative practice training and support to schools and colleges, TIDES has developed an OCN accredited Restorative Parenting and Communities course.

 **Bonfire Builder Engagement**
Provided ongoing support to bonfire builders, local communities, and statutory agencies across the ABC and Antrim & Newtownabbey council areas to build constructive, safe relationships.

 **Men’s Sheds Partnership**
Facilitated a cross-community engagement programme exploring contentious cultural issues, resulting in participants achieving an OCN Level II qualification. The programme strengthened cross community engagement and has led to new relationships.

 **Antrim Tensions Response**
Supported local residents, groups & statutory agencies in Antrim to address race relations and sectarian tensions, helping prevent further incidents through active mediation.

 “They just get it and deliver to the needs, ability and capacity of the groups. They are a very down to earth, knowledgeable and skilled organisation.”

Participant

Community Learners

 **71**
71 community learners successfully achieved accredited Open College Network (OCN) qualifications in subjects including Hate Crime, Mediation, and Civic Leadership.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned

-  **Challenge**
IFI funding cuts, global conflicts, and online misinformation have significantly heightened local anxiety, fear, and socio-economic pressure.
-  **Lesson**
Maintaining trusted relationships is the critical foundation that allows TIDES to step in and effectively mediate during sudden, unpredictable periods of community tension. Relationships are key.

Future Plans

- TIDES Training aims to:
- Expand the delivery of regional restorative practice training across more educational networks and to the wider community that they are in, building relations beyond the school community.
 - Build relationships, networks and programmes to address isolated communities facing severe pressures by using mediative support.

Learn More

-  <https://tidedevelopment.org>
-  +44 (0)28 9075 1686
-  info@tidedevelopment.org
-  [@tidedevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/tidedevelopment)
-  [@tidedevelopment](https://twitter.com/tidedevelopment)

Trademark Belfast



Combating prejudice and inequality through trade union action.



Working in Belfast, Derry & Strabane, and regionally.



Introduction

Trademark is an independent, trade union linked social justice and anti-sectarian organisation. By using a unique blend of mediation, education and research, they tackle prejudice, racism and inequality. Rooted in both the trade union movement and local communities, Trademark champions cooperative business models and Community Wealth Building to promote lasting social justice.

Overall Impact

 **£57,500**
Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.

 **889 People Reached**
Engaged directly through anti-racism political schools and cooperative development workshops.

 **£82k Funding Secured**
Leveraged from CFNI and the Department for the Economy (DfE).

Key Projects & Initiatives



Anti-Racism Trade Union Training

Delivered intensive political schools and anti-racism workshops to trade union representatives across the ICTU, TUC, RMT, and FBU to combat the far-right.



Youth Worker Capacity Building

Conducted training with statutory and community youth workers (via the Education Authority and CFNI) to understand and respond to far-right narratives influencing young people.



Community Wealth Building (CWB)

Consolidated the North-West CWB Partnership of 30+ community organisations, successfully integrating cooperative models into mainstream economic development.

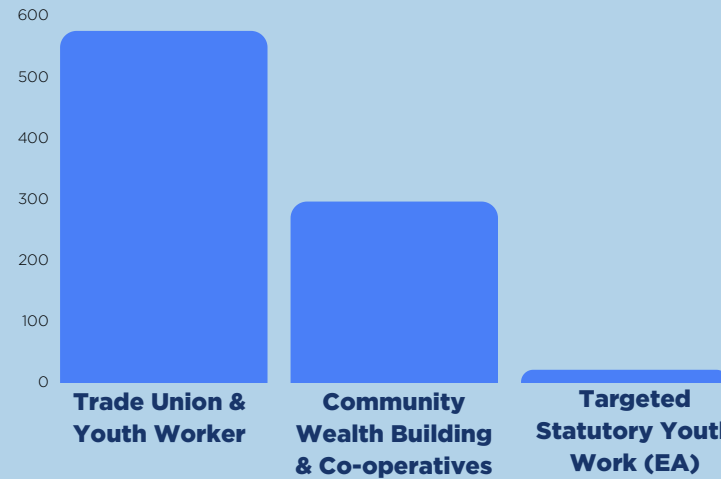


Developing Community Cooperatives

Partnered with Co-operative Alternatives and DfE to pilot cooperative enterprise development in Belfast, Fermanagh, Derry, and Newry as a tool for peace and social cohesion.



Training Reach



Trademark delivered engagement focused on intensive anti-racism training.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Racism and far-right narratives are increasingly infiltrating working-class communities and influencing disengaged young people.



Lesson

Equipping trusted community figures, such as trade union representatives and statutory youth workers, with anti-racism education is an effective way to build collective resistance.

Future Plans

Trademark Belfast aims to:

- Deliver the newly secured Regional Co-operative Development Programme for 2026/27, establishing new cooperatives in segregated areas.
- Continue expanding anti-racism education.
- Publish major DfE research detailing the potential for cooperative economic growth in post-conflict societies.

Learn More

-  trademarkbelfast.com
-  +44 (0)28 9033 1053
-  sean@trademarkbelfast.com
-  [Trademark](https://www.facebook.com/Trademark)
-  [@TrademarkBF](https://twitter.com/TrademarkBF)

Ulster GAA



Using sport to foster shared community spaces and inclusion.

Introduction

Ulster GAA recognises its vital role in civic society by promoting good relations and peacebuilding through sport. Partnering with government and community stakeholders, Ulster GAA uses the power of Gaelic games to drive community engagement, challenge cultural perceptions, and create welcoming, shared spaces for people from all backgrounds.

Overall Impact



£47,400

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



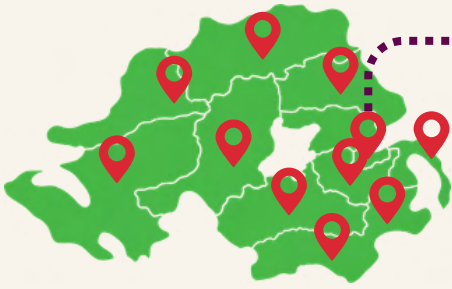
1,295 People Reached

Engaged across non-traditional schools, cross-community youth clubs, and statutory outreach.



9 Schools Engaged

Brought together for the flagship Cúchulainn Initiative cross-community tournament.



Working regionally.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Cúchulainn Initiative

Delivered an 8-week peacebuilding programme bringing together 299 young people from nine different schools for joint Gaelic games coaching and a shared tournament.



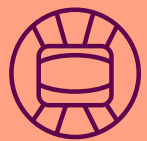
Schools Engagement Programme

Provided a values-based coaching programme to 281 pupils across six non-traditional GAA schools (including Integrated and Controlled sectors), mentoring teachers to continue delivery.



Getting to Know the GAA

Delivered targeted outreach talks to non-traditional audiences to promote understanding of the organisation's diversity ethos, including engaging 419 new PSNI recruits.



GAAME of Three Halves

Hosted cross-community coaching sessions at local GAA clubs, bringing 165 pupils from different community primary schools together to eliminate perceived barriers.

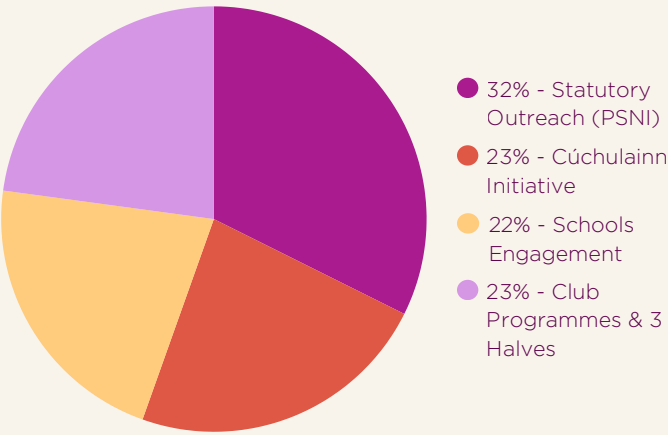
“

We were delighted to host local primary schools at Dromara GAA club for a fantastic community learning opportunity where children from the wider Dromara area were able to mix freely and take part in different sports in a safe, fun environment. Initiatives like this can really help enhance community relations.

”

Declan McCann (Dromara GAA club representative), Game of Three Halves event

Cross-Community Outreach



Engagement was highly diverse, driven by intensive outreach to PSNI recruits and extensive cross-community school tournaments.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Lessons Learned



Challenge

Engaging with schools in the Controlled sector requires overcoming historical perceptions and hesitancy regarding Gaelic games.



Lesson

Delivering values-based coaching and proactive 'Getting to Know the GAA' outreach talks successfully dismantles cultural barriers and builds essential trust.

Future Plans

Ulster GAA aims to:

- Expand the “Getting to Know the GAA” presentations across wider statutory and non-traditional audiences.
- Increase the number of Controlled sector schools participating in values-based coaching programmes.
- Continue using local GAA clubs as neutral, shared spaces for cross-community youth engagement.

Learn More

- <https://ulster.gaa.ie>
- +44 (0)28 3752 1900
- info.ulster@gaa.ie
- [@ulstergaa](https://www.facebook.com/ulstergaa)
- [@UlsterGAA](https://twitter.com/UlsterGAA)

Youth Initiatives NI



Equipping young people to lead in peace and inclusion.

Introduction

Youth Initiatives empowers young people in divided communities to become catalysts for change. Through extensive regional youth hubs, the organisation focuses on embedding good relations principles into all aspects of their work. They equip youth and staff with the skills to reject sectarianism, embrace diversity, and respond constructively to community tensions.

Overall Impact



£33,100

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



835 Young People

Engaged in weekly programmes across eight regional Youth Community Hubs.



100+ Volunteers Trained

Equipped with intensive leadership and cross-community good relations training.



Working in Belfast, Newry, Mourne & Down, Derry & Strabane, and Lisburn & Castlereagh.



Core Funded by CRC

Key Projects & Initiatives



Regional Youth Hub Provision

Engaged 835 young people in weekly, sustained programmes of activity across hubs in Banbridge, Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Downpatrick, and Lisburn.



Anti-Racism Training & Resources

Developed bespoke anti-racism training for staff and rolled out the highly successful "GR Game of Life" resource for use in wider community conferences.



Training the Next Generation

Delivered intensive 3-day leadership and good relations training to 100 volunteers, preparing them to facilitate cross-community youth engagement.



Diverse Youth Partnerships

Strengthened partnerships with Diverse Youth NI through the Crosslinks project, deploying staff to work directly with BAME participants on shared programmes.



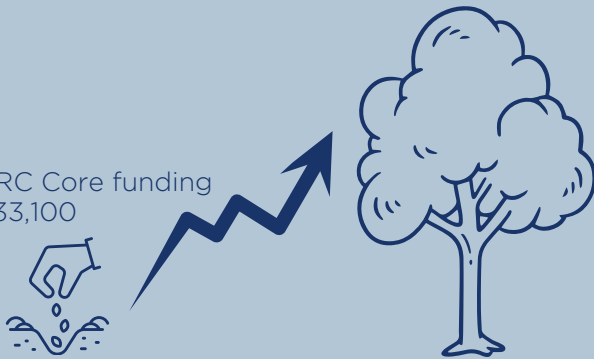
Bringing People Together

100%

100% of participants reported that the projects successfully brought people together from different backgrounds.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding
£33,100



Provided time to consult stakeholders, respond to racist incidents, and secure vital funding streams for the Crosslinks and Peace Plus projects.

Lessons Learned



Challenge

Engaging young people from PUL backgrounds in East Belfast and Derry/Londonderry into cross-community projects has proven increasingly difficult this year.



Lesson

Developing interactive recruitment tools, like the newly developed "GR Game of Life" resource,, helps engage young people on their own terms.

Future Plans

Youth Initiatives aims to:

- Implement new targeted strategies to recruit harder-to-reach young people into GR projects.
- Expand the rollout of bespoke anti-racism workshops to external organisations.
- Deepen outreach activities by partnering with integrated schools and local churches to enhance delivery in regional areas.

Learn More



www.youthinitiativesni.com



+44 (0)28 9030 1174



office@youthinitiatives.com



[@youthinitiatives](https://www.facebook.com/youthinitiatives)

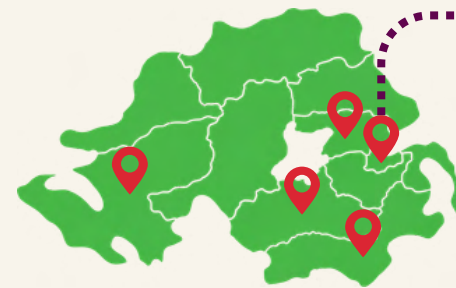


[@YINI_91](https://twitter.com/YINI_91)

Youth Link



Empowering the faith sector and youth to drive reconciliation.



Working in Belfast, Fermanagh and Omagh, Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, and Antrim & Newtownabbey.



Core Funded by CRC

Introduction

Youth Link is an inter-church organisation committed to building a more inclusive society. By equipping churches, youth workers, and young people with accredited training and non-formal learning opportunities, Youth Link ensures the faith sector remains connected to wider community relations conversations, actively promoting respect across cultural and religious divides.

Overall Impact



£50,100

Investment from Community Relations Council Core Funding Scheme.



426 People Reached

Engaged youth, community workers, and clergy across accredited peacebuilding programmes.



£254k Funding Secured

Leveraged from diverse sources including the Education Authority, TEO, and the Dormant Assets Fund.

Key Projects & Initiatives



Equipping the Next Generation

Delivered seven Good Relations programmes to young people across schools and youth organisations, alongside accredited Level 2 Conflict Resolution training for adults.



Beyond the Walls Toolkit

Developed and tested new peacebuilding materials through community-of-practice seminars during Good Relations Week, engaging 94 youth workers and informing the new Kairos: A Time for Peace resource.



Building Walls Breaking Walls (BWBW)

Facilitated an international peace education initiative exploring identity, division, and reconciliation through local and global exchanges.



Rethinking Community Relations Research

Partnered with Contemporary Christianity and Clonard to conduct robust research capturing young people's perspectives on modern peacebuilding.

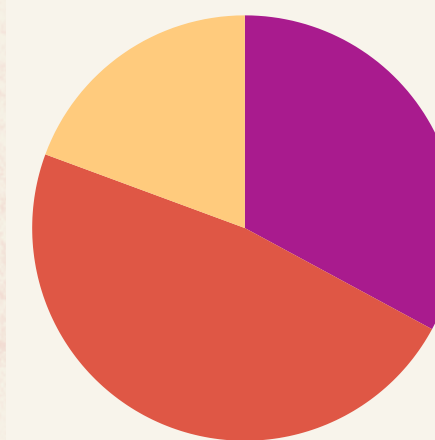


This programme brought together young people from Portadown, Larne, West Belfast, Sudan and Kurdistan. It helped me understand different perspectives and see how our generation can build a more united and peaceful Northern Ireland.



Anna, 19, Belfast, participant

Good Relations Training



33% - PUL community
48% - CRN community
19% - Other / Undisclosed

Accredited and non-accredited Good Relations training for youth workers, teachers, clergy and young people was delivered to 222 participants.

Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding
£50,100



Secured £254k in additional grants: Irish American Partnership, DFA, Reconciliation Fund & Shared Island Civic Fund.

Lessons Learned



Challenge

Rising community tensions and harmful racial attitudes among children as young as 10 highlight the urgent need for peacebuilding.



Lesson

Embedding good relations across all youth programmes, with sustained investment in church capacity, is vital to address harmful racial attitudes early and ease community tensions.

Featured Material



Read about what contemporary peacebuilding looks like in this resource that engaged 104 young people.

Learn More



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Core Fund Groups

Impact Profiles 2025

Find out more about last year's Core Funded groups.

Our previous Core Fund Impact Profile document provides details of the wide range of work that groups supported through the CRC Core Funding Scheme have undertaken during 2024-25.



Scan the QR code to read the Impact Profiles.

Conclusion

The stories in this report demonstrate a simple but powerful truth: Core Funding multiplies impact.

CRC invested £1.25 million in 28 organisations. That investment helped unlock a further £6.39 million for peacebuilding — £5.10 for every £1 invested.

But its greatest return cannot be measured in pounds alone.

Core Funding sustains the people, expertise, credibility and community presence that make partnership possible. It allows organisations to build relationships with communities and connect those communities with government, councils, funders, schools, housing providers, police, universities, sporting bodies and others who share a commitment to a more peaceful society.

Those relationships are themselves an asset.

They allow organisations to respond quickly when tensions emerge, reach people whom statutory services may struggle to engage, bring different interests around the same table and turn additional investment into meaningful activity on the ground.

That is why Core Funding should be understood not simply as funding for individual organisations, but as investment in Northern Ireland's peacebuilding infrastructure.

The return is financial, organisational and, most importantly, human.

£1 becomes £5.10 of investment. But the relationships it enables can be worth considerably more.

That is the difference Core Funding makes.

Martin McDonald MBE, CRC Chair



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