

T:BUC Engagement Forum Newsletter March 2017



Changing for the better, together

The last T:BUC Engagement Forum took place on 20 September, 2016 in The Junction, Dungannon. We had a brilliant turnout again with lots of young people attending the event focussing on the T:BUC priority of Our Children and Young People. Junior Ministers Fearon and Ross opened the proceedings and emphasised that intergenerational dialogue is crucial as young people are the peace builders of our future.

The event included an update on T:BUC from the Forum's Chair, Dr. Mark Browne, followed by a number of presentations.



Dr. Dirk Schubotz, Director of ARK's Young Life and Times (YLT) survey gave a presentation which looked at young people's attitudes to community relations, cross-community contact and their sense of belonging.

Great examples of T:BUC at work, concentrating on children & young people came next.

Ciara and Courtney from the NEET Strategy Forum discussed their valuable involvement in the T:BUC Summer Camps co-design process. The NEET Strategy Forum works with young people to identify solutions to barriers and enables them to get their voice heard at a policy and programme design level.

After that, Tim O'Malley from Clanmil Housing outlined the commitment to promoting new shared neighbourhoods as opportunities for people to live in mixed areas. With T:BUC funding, Clanmil worked with Partisan Productions and children from three primary schools in South Belfast (Forge Integrated, Holy Rosary and Rosetta) to create a drama about diversity and change called 'A River Crossing'.

Two of the young children described their experience in 'A River Crossing' and how it helped them to learn about other religions and traditions.



The next presentation included Denise Wright who coordinates the Refugee and Asylum Forum and Ghaith Hanna, a young Syrian Refugee. Denise described the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Syria and how the UK government set up the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme in September 2015. Ghaith arrived in Northern Ireland along with other young people under that scheme in December 2015. Ghaith spoke of his relief to have a new home and how he looks forward to building his life here. He thanked everyone for welcoming the families.



Removal of Interface Barriers

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

Recently, a new gate was installed in Derry/Londonderry's walls to improve access for a Winter Market; this development has been very well received. Furthermore, the last of the security gates on the walls that aren't closed on a daily basis were removed before Christmas. These initiatives illustrate real progress in delivering the T:BUC priority of Our Safe Community.

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

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



Summer Camps

The 2016/17 Summer Camps Programme provided funding for 104 Camps with the last ones finishing just a few weeks ago. The Camps have been a resounding success and a fantastic fun-filled reunion event for all of the participants in the programme took place in the Eikon Centre on 4 March. You can see some images from it here.

Feedback from a series of engagement sessions with key participants and youth focus groups has been used to inform the design of the 2017/18 programme. The newly named 'T:BUC Camps Programme' is now open and will close on 19 April. For further information please check out the Funding news on page 7.



United Youth Programme

We are delighted to announce that the United Youth programme will be running again in 2017/18 and projects will be announced later this year.

Cross Community Youth Sports Programme

The programme aims to create the next generation of young leaders and is focusing on good relations, using sport and creative activity as delivery tools.



Following the 3-month pilot project in the Lower Falls/Greater Village areas in 2015, a further range of good relations interventions have been delivered there. The Programme is also expanding to Urban Villages with leaders being recruited in Colin and Eastside.

Currently, the programme is being delivered by the Department for Communities to around 150 young people in the Erne East area of Co. Fermanagh and will run until the end of March 2017. It is led by a steering group of 20 young people aged 16-25, the young people involved are known as 'United Champions'.

Recently, the 'United Champions' worked in partnership with a youth mentor and event manager to organise a Paralympics themed fundraising event at Willowbridge School. Willowbridge is a specialist school catering for children with a disability or special needs based in Drumlyon, Enniskillen. The event took place on Saturday 4 February, it was a fun family day and the United Champions raised money for a new school bus.



United Champions at the Willowbridge School event

David Leavy, captain of the Northern Ireland Cerebral Palsy soccer team took part in the event. He helped inspire some of the young people attending with the story of his journey to the Paralympics in Rio last year.

Julie Murphy, Principal of Willowbridge School was thrilled that the United Champions chose Willowbridge and she highlighted the important contribution that a new bus was going to make to the lives of the children.

The United Champions have demonstrated great dedication to the programme. Testament to its success is how the young people have said it has enhanced not only their confidence but their self-esteem too.

They organised a celebration event on 24 March 2017 to showcase all of their work in a performance in the Shared Centre, Enniskillen. You can follow activity on the 'Uniting Erne East' Facebook page; give them a like and keep up to date with their work and events!

Shared Neighbourhoods



Community Mural at Ballynafoy Close, Ravenhill Road

Great progress is being made on the Shared Neighbourhoods scheme.

So far, four developments have been completed - Ballynafoy Close and Global Crescent in Belfast; Manse Court, Crossgar in Saintfield; and Burnvale Crescent, Burn Road in Cookstown. A further six schemes are currently underway - Felden, Newtownabbey; Dromore Street, Banbridge; Main Street, Dundrum; Market Road, Ballymena; Antrim Road, Ballynahinch and Embankment, Ballynafeigh, Belfast.

Urban Villages



Blythefield Primary School garden opening in November 2016



The Urban Villages team launched Strategic Frameworks for each Urban Village area in September. The three inter-connected aims of the programme are: 1) to build community capacity, 2) to foster positive community identities, and, 3) to improve the physical environment. The team is working in partnership with a range of stakeholders to deliver a variety of exciting capital and revenue projects this year.

They recently held a number of engagement events in each area. These events reflected on what has been delivered to date and also provided an opportunity to shape the types of projects and activities to be supported in 2017/18 and beyond.



Shared Campuses Programme

There have been three calls to the Shared Education Campuses programme so far. Under the first and second calls, five projects were identified.

Economic appraisals for Limavady and Ballycastle have been approved and the procurement of design teams should be finalised in the coming months.



A great example of partnership working already taking place is with Duneane and Moneynick Partners in Learning, who were selected from the second call. They have developed a shared logo, created as the result of a competition. They invited pupils from both schools to design something that reflected the joint activities of their Partnership. They use it on all communication including the shared parents' updates, shared newsletter and shared Facebook page as well as at joint public events.



Joint Fun Sports Day



Shared Classes take place weekly

A third call for Shared Campus proposals opened on 20 September 2016 and closed on 27 January 2017. Information sessions were held in Omagh & Belfast for interested schools. Eight applications have been received involving more than thirty schools. Successful projects are expected to be announced in May 2017.

District Councils Good Relations Programme

The aim of the District Council Good Relations Programme is to improve good relations between and within Council areas and to promote local solutions to local good relations issues.

Shared Learning Forum events are held quarterly and the last one took place in the Braid, Ballymena on 23 January 2017. The events are an opportunity for Council Good Relations Officers responsible for programme design and delivery to meet up, discuss progress, and share examples of best practice in the projects they are involved in.

Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture & Tradition (FICT)

The FICT Commission was established last year; it has 15 Members (7 political nominees & 8 independent members). It has held a number of stakeholder engagement meetings over the last few months and will be producing a final report to the First & Deputy First Minister in December.

Funding News



T:BUC Camps

The Executive Office in partnership with the Education Authority is running another T:BUC Camps Programme across Northern Ireland in 2017/18. The Education Authority is acting as Programme Manager. The closing date for receipt of all applications is Wednesday, 19 April at 2pm.

A number of Information Workshops have been arranged to provide advice and guidance to organisations who are considering applying for funding. These are taking place in various locations from 20 March until 4 April.

Visit <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/tbuc-camps-programme-2017-18> for further information.



Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme

The Community Relations Council's 'Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme' (CR/CD Scheme) will be re-opening to new applications on the 1 April 2017.

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

It is a rolling programme and applications can be made on an on-going basis up to the 1 December 2017. The programme supports activities that will take place from 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018.

For more information including guidance notes and application forms, please visit the CRC website: www.nicrc.org.uk.



T:BUC Key Priorities

1. Our children and young people;
2. Our shared community;
3. Our safe community; and
4. Our cultural expression.

T:BUC Headline Actions

1. Establishing ten new shared education campuses;
2. Getting 10,000 young people, not in education, employment or training, a place on the new United Youth volunteering programme;
3. Establishing ten new shared housing schemes;
4. Developing four urban village schemes;
5. Developing a significant programme of cross-community sporting events;
6. Removing interface barriers by 2023; and
7. Pilot 100 shared summer schools by 2015.



Next Meeting

The next T:BUC Engagement Forum will take place on Thursday, 15 June in Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast. The theme of June's forum is 'Our Shared Community'. We look forward to welcoming you at the event.

For further information on or to contribute ideas for the T:BUC Engagement Forum please contact the Community Relations Council on 028 9022 7500.