



## The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme

The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme was established by the Community Relations Council (CRC), with the support of Government, to help local community/voluntary groups across the region.

This funding support aims to help develop and support their capacity to deliver positive community relations projects in their local communities aimed at tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity.

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<b>Organisation:</b>	Derg Valley Arts & Leisure
<b>Project Name:</b>	Tartan Festival
<b>Council Area:</b>	Derry City & Strabane District Council
<b>Grant Awarded:</b>	£1,000
<b>T:BUC Priority:</b>	Our Shared Community
<b>Delivery Method:</b>	Music, Arts and Culture

### Project Overview:

Derg Valley Arts & Leisure in conjunction with Killeter Church of Ireland and Killeter and District Development Trust hosted The Tartan Festival to showcase the depth and quality of music, language and dance that reflects the cross-community culture of Castledearg. This included Ulster Scots and Irish artists from both sides of the community coming together in a safe environment to perform traditional poetry and song, carefully choreographed performances of traditional dance, and traditional pipe and drum performances aimed at breaking down barriers and promoting positive community relations. The festival finished with a mass band parade to Killeter village as a symbolism of cross community collaboration and embracing cultural diversity.

### Project Impact:

- Delivered a showcase of the cross-community culture of Castledearg with over 90 performances of song, dance, poetry and music.
- Showcased collaborative working between cross-community groups of different cultures, faiths, and traditions.
- 90 people of different cultures, faiths, and traditions participated in the delivery of the Tartan Festival, with over 200 people indirectly involved.
- Post Festival research found that all participants demonstrated a positive attitude towards community relations as a result of the Festival.
- 100% of respondents indicated that the Tartan Festival promoted and directly improved the celebration of cultural diversity in the local community.
- The mass band performance to close the festival was positively received by all sections of the community strengthening cultural diversity and developing shared spaces.

*"The Tartan Festival was an opportunity for all sides of our community to come together to share wonderful traditions in a safe and inclusive environment. The festival fostered life-long friendships and demonstrated good relations as we shared our cultural diversity through music, dance and poetry. We are already working together to strengthen our collaborative approach as we plan for the future."*

Gordon Speer, Derg Valley Arts & Leisure Centre

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**For more information on The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme visit:** [www.community-relations.org.uk](http://www.community-relations.org.uk)