

Together: Building a United Community Strategy

The 'Together: Building a United Community' (T:BUC) Strategy was published on 23 May 2013. The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

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

T:BUC Engagement Forum

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

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



We are now into the third year that the Forum has been running and it has proven to be very popular with attendance of over 150 people at each one.

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

2017/18 Engagement Forums

September 2017 - Our Safe Community

Over 150 people, including the Head of the Civil Service, David Sterling, attended the September event in the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim, with the topic of 'Our Safe Community'. David emphasised his commitment and that of the NICS to furthering good relations in Northern Ireland, which is the key objective of the Together Building a United Community strategy.



A key note speaker was Johnny Byrne from Ulster University and attendees were given updates on the Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan and the work being undertaken on building capacity in communities in transition. A number of practitioners also spoke about the work of their organisations and how it makes a contribution to the creation of a safe community.

March 2018 - Our Children & Young People

On the March 13th the triannual T:BUC engagement forum took a different form as the event was planned, organised and delivered by a group of Young People from across Northern Ireland – a day designed by young people for young people.

The forum took place in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown and was attended by over 200 young people from schools and community groups across the province, as well as staff from the Executive Office, the Education Authority and the Community Relations Council.



T:buc Update

Changing for the better, together

The project group that organised the day was made up of a selection of young people from across Northern Ireland and were assisted in their planning by the Education Authority and TEO. They worked hard to put together the day's events, deciding on everything including the venue, content and guest speakers, as well as developing an information video to communicate the T:BUC strategy to the rest of their peers.



The project group also developed the workshops that were attended by all the young people on the day, which were based around the T:BUC key priorities. They then facilitated these workshops and enabled attendees to give their views on how various issues such as social media and shared education affect them and also how the T:BUC Strategy has or could make a difference in their lives. The workshops were fun and interactive and everyone was keen to get involved in the various activities and discussions.



The event closed with a music session by Thomas Tettey Annang from Releasing Rhythms with everyone taking part in a collective percussion and drum session.



EU Peace IV Programme

Peace IV projects are currently underway with local authority action plans approved and fourteen regional projects approved, with an additional five under consideration. The programmes are now starting to deliver their projects. Youth Action one of the regional groups launched their 'Youth Network for Peace' project at its Youth Participative Democracy Hub in Belfast on 1 May.

'Youth Network for Peace' is a youth-led regional project which will involve 10,000 young people connecting in a range of participative social action projects on a cross-community and cross-border basis.

The project is overseen by a 25 member Youth Steering Body led by the NI Youth Forum. Youth Steering Body member Odhrán Feeley (NI Youth Forum) commented: *"I got involved in the Youth Network for Peace as I felt like it could help improve my social and team work skills. I feel already, I have made new friends, and strengthened bonds with people I already knew. I am excited about being a member of the steering group and having a lead role."* Alex Cleland (Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster) also welcomed the opportunity *"to meet new people by pushing myself out of my comfort zone. Also, to understand more about different communities and their perspectives on different topics"*



Core to this dynamic Youth Network for Peace will be an online radio station and social media channel which will be run by young people. This channel – named Radio YNP (Youth Network for Peace) - will have unique and informative content each week that will highlight young people's issues and aspirations.

Local broadcaster and board member of YouthAction NI Pamela Ballantine endorsed the launch of the Youth Network for Peace and YNP radio saying: *"So many broadcasters have been doing programmes for young people, but to have young people creating and establishing their own programmes around their own issues and from their own perspective is more empowering and meaningful."* Pamela further noted the talent among young people in Northern Ireland and the border counties commenting: *"the team approach behind Radio YNP will help nurture skills in production, lighting, sound engineering, direction, camera work and auto-cue. Having a diversity of young people will support minority groups to have their voice heard in a developing multi-cultural and inclusive society."*

T:BUC Camps Programme



115 T:BUC Camps involving around 4000 young people aged 11 to 19 were delivered across Northern Ireland in 2017/18. The Programme was very successful and young people took part in lots of fun, varied and challenging activities, learned about others cultures and traditions and made new friends from different communities in Northern Ireland. A full evaluation of the Programme is expected in June 2018.

The assessment process for the 2018/19 TBUC Camps Programme has recently been completed and Camps should be up and running from June 2018 onwards.



To bring the 2017/18 T:BUC Camps Programme to a close four regional T:BUC Camps in the Community events were held in February 2018, bringing together young people from different Camps for fun activities, to build on the friendships they made at Camp and to give back to local communities through a variety of social action projects.

The social action projects included community clean ups, maintenance work at a children's nursery school and helping out at a homeless charity. Events were held in Belfast, Fermanagh and Killyleagh. Alas snow meant the events in Newcastle/ Newry and the Causeway Coast had to be postponed, but a great time was had by all!



Central Good Relations Fund

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

In 2017/18, the CGRF Programme funded 108 good relations projects across Northern Ireland and involved approximately 40,000 participants. The diverse range of projects delivered included activities such as sports, arts, crafts, music, training programmes resulting in the attainment of recognised qualifications, community and social events and cultural visits, to name but a few.

Quotes from some participants who took part in 17/18 projects:

There should be more opportunities not only to create events but to have the opportunity to work with different people groups from our own area, allowing us to have an impact on the local area



This project has helped me gain confidence and skills in communication, and meeting people from different cultures has helped me have a more positive outlook”.



17/18 Central Good Relations Fund - Rainbow Child, Winter Festivals Programme

This project has been good to actually see what changes could be made in our area

This programme has allowed children from a wide range of backgrounds to develop real and lasting friendships with each other. It has also given them the chance to learn and show real leadership qualities which is promising for the future



It is good for children to learn about, and learn from, other cultures



17/18 CGRF Barnardo’s, Leading Change Programme

All groups who applied for 2018/19 Central Good Relations funding were notified of the outcome on Friday 4 May 2018. This year there was significant demand for funding and following the funding forums held in each council area in January and February, applications were of a particularly high standard.

TEO officials will be meeting with each of the successful groups to finalise programme activities and outputs to be delivered, costs associated with each programme, and most importantly, T:BUC outcomes to be achieved.

For those groups who have not been successful, there will be an opportunity to receive feedback on their application (requests for feedback must be received by 25 May 2018) and this is being offered from the last week of June onwards. Please contact goodrelationsfund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk for further information.

There are a number of groups whose applications have been waitlisted should additional monies become available, and groups will be advised by September at the latest if there is additional budget available to deliver a CGRF project.

We are currently developing an additional strand of the 2018/19 CGRF which we hope to pilot later in the year. A gap and needs analysis will identify areas to be targeted with additional good relations interventions. Further information will be made available on the TEO website over the coming weeks - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/together-building-united-community#toc-10>

Racial Equality Update

In response to the commitment made in the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025, The Executive Office has established a new team, to review the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 (the Order).

The Racial Equality Legislation Branch, will conduct a review of the Order against Great Britain and Republic of Ireland legislation to inform recommendations on areas that may require strengthening. If any gaps or weaknesses are identified within the Order, the team will develop policy options and submit proposals to strengthen the legislative protections in NI, with a view to progressing legislation as soon as possible thereafter.

If you have an interest in the Review or would like any further information, the team can be contacted via the email address below.

RELB@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Success for Local Community Groups at the Urban Villages Community Awards 2018

People and projects making a difference across Belfast and Derry~Londonderry have been celebrated at the first ever Urban Villages Community Awards. Thirty finalists from across five Urban Village areas were joined by families, supporters, community and elected representatives at an event in the Great Hall at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Wednesday 21 March 2018.



The Urban Villages Community Awards are not just about highlighting projects supported by the Urban Villages Initiative, but any project or activity that is making a difference in Urban Village areas.

Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality & Good Relations at the Executive Office, commented, "Congratulations to all the winners. In them, and indeed in all our finalists, we have seen examples of exceptional people, projects, organisations and places. There is tremendous value in connecting groups and communities in this way to share learning on what works in tackling common issues."



The standard of finalists was extremely high and a successful night saw 12 winners in total. The winners on the night were:

<p>Youth Achievement Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people on YEHA Aspire project • St Malachy's Youth Club – Our Future Project 	<p>Education and Learning Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Evangelists' Community Hub • Margaret Cunningham, Health and Well-being facilitator 	<p>Sport and Physical Activity Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Soccer NI – Homeless World Cup Women's Team • Colin Valley FC
<p>Celebrating Diversity Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Men's Shed • Kyle Thompson, Cultural Liaison Officer 	<p>Creativity and Innovation Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Boys' Model 'Restorative School' project • Festival of Fire 	<p>Thriving Places Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donegall Pass Community Garden • Eastside Visitor Centre/ CS Lewis Square

Find out more about Urban Villages Community Awards event in the short video below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84DYedJ4RvA>

New Ballysillan and Ardoyne Transport service (BATS) buses next stop on transformation journey

New community organisations in Ballysillan and Ardoyne have taken delivery of two brand new 17 seater disabled access minibuses.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise (AYE) and Basllysillan Community Trust (BTC) will work together in this new initiative to deliver this affordable, reliable and locally owned transport scheme to service the needs of schools, youth groups, church groups, community and voluntary groups within the Ballysillan and Ardoyne areas.



The minibuses have been provided as part of the Executive Office's Urban Villages Initiative at a cost of £136,000. These two new buses, which will be a shared resource, will be a major asset to the local community.

EastSide Pocket Park & Containers open for business

The Urban Villages Initiative has supported a project in Eastside to create a unique contemporary pocket park using shipping containers that links with the existing provision at the EastSide Visitor Centre and CS Lewis Square.



The project promotes health and wellbeing, with Sustrans having established a hub in one of the containers to encourage active travel and the wider use of the surrounding greenway infrastructure. The project also provides space for a pop up café

(Pot Kettle Black) which has recently opened and is well worth a visit.

The project will be officially launched in the coming weeks.

Headline Actions

Peace4Youth (United Youth Programme) – all letters of offer have been issued and signed and projects are now operational. Phase 1 of the programme will conclude at the end of October 2018, with Phase 2 running until the end of 2021 subject to a positive evaluation of Phase 1. ‘Peace4Youth’ has been adopted as the programme name.

Uniting Communities through Sport & Creativity

The tendering process to award contracts to key delivery partners for the next stage of the programme in Colin Eastside and Erne East Engagement has been completed. The Young Leaders and Ambassadors programme tender closed on 22 Jan 2018 and was won by the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. The Phase 3 programme continues for the United Champions in Erne East. A Multi-Cultural Day was held on 16 Feb 2018 in Lisnaskea Library with over 950 attendees. The Urban Village Engagement programme has been developed in conjunction with the Urban Village Co-Ordinators in North and South Belfast and Derry/Londonderry and is aimed at encouraging collaborative working.



Shared Campuses Programme – Work is progressing on the Limavady, Ballycastle and Moy Shared Education Campuses . Project Boards for the second tranche projects at “Duneane/Moneynick – Partners in Learning” and “Brookeborough Shared Education Campus” have been established and are meeting regularly. Arrangements for the announcement of the successful projects under the third call for proposals is currently under discussion within the department.

Shared Housing Five schemes have completed: Ravenhill Road and Ravenhill Avenue in Belfast, Burn Road in Cookstown, Manse Court in Crossgar and Felden in Newtownabbey. A further 5 schemes are underway: Dromore Street in Banbridge, Main Street in Dundrum, Market Road in Ballymena, Antrim Road in Ballynahinch and Embankment (Ballynafeigh) in Belfast.



Burnvale Crecent, Cookstown

Removal of Interface Barriers – In 2017/18 1 fence has been removed and 2 have been reclassified. A fence in Portadown has been removed to allow the site to be developed as a park and ride facility by Translink. Another fence in Portadown is being handed over to the private owner of the land it surrounds, as it is no longer required for the security purpose for which it was erected. Work on a physical improvement scheme at the Woodvale side of the Crumlin Road is ongoing. The IFI will continue to fund six groups through its Peace Walls Programme in 2018. Following community consultation, Belfast City Council and DoJ expect to begin work on the removal of an interface structure fronting the Serpentine Road in North Belfast, through development of shared park/sports facilities.

Dates for Your Diary

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme

The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme (CR/CD Scheme) is currently open to applications for 2018/19 period.

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

If you would like to discuss any potential bid prior to submitting an application please feel free to contact CRC on 028 90 227500 or by email at info@nicrc.org.uk and ask to speak to a member of the Funding & Development Programme.

Application forms and guidance notes can be downloaded from the CRC website.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK 2018

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2018 takes place from 17th – 23rd September. It will coincide again with International Day of Peace on 21st September.

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

Next Meeting

The next T:BUC Engagement Forum will take place on Tuesday 18th September. 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.