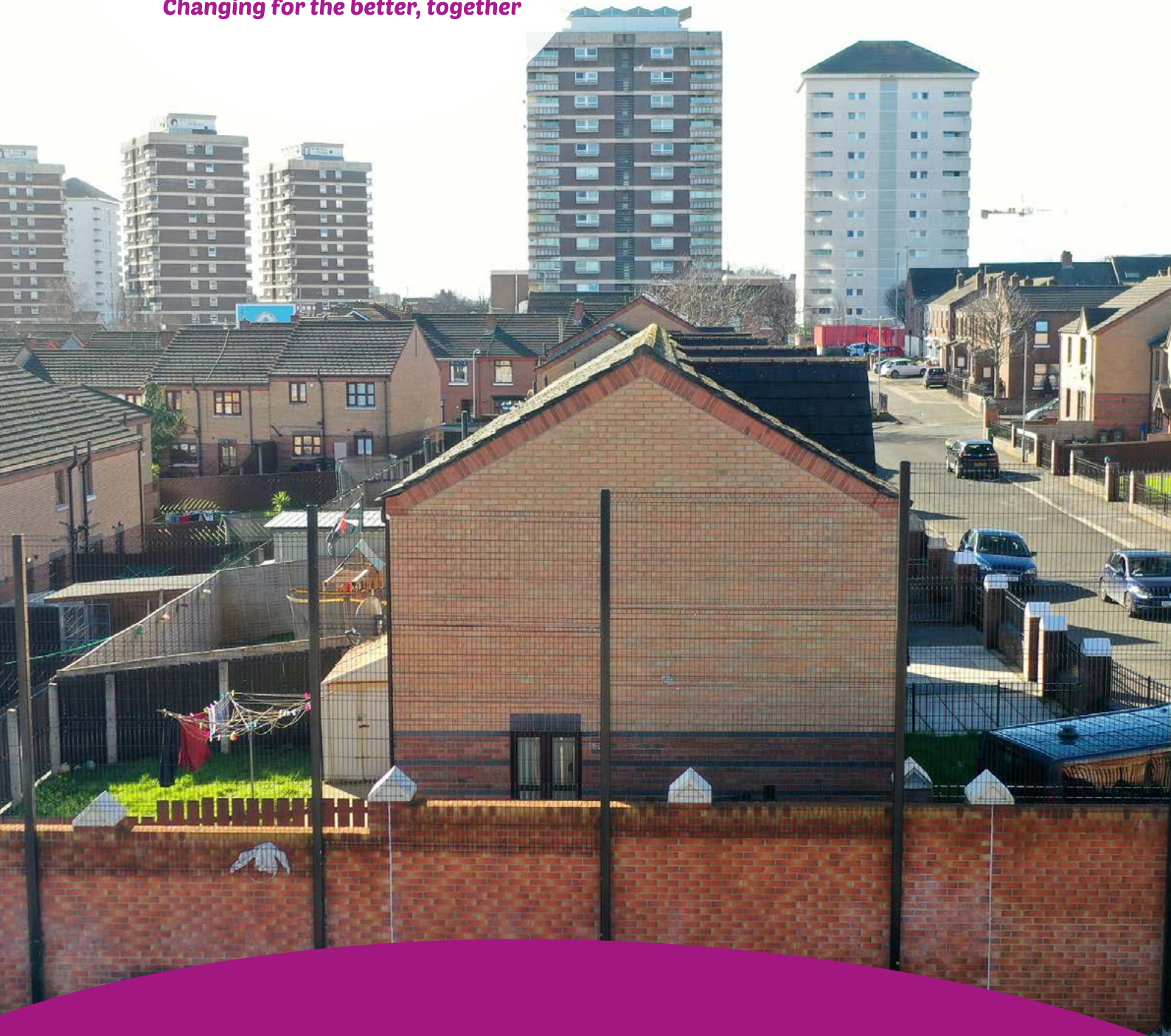


# T:buc

Changing for the better, together



## **T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER**

MAY 2021



Northern Ireland  
Executive

# Introduction

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In February I took over as Acting Head of T:BUC and Good Relations Division, the part of TEO which manages good relations funding, measures success, sponsors the CRC and delivers key parts of Together: Building a United Community. We also have overall responsibility for T:BUC.

I am therefore delighted to introduce this edition of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter. Engagement is at the core of what we do – as a Department, as community workers and as anyone interested in building good relations - and in that context I want to acknowledge the particular challenges Covid has presented to everyone working in this critical area.

However, despite the challenges, there have been some impressive successes and this newsletter celebrates progress across the 7 T:BUC headline actions as well as a shining a spotlight on a selection of projects. These include the Rural Housing Association's 'Housing for All' scheme at Old Mill Court, in Sion Mills, which has been running an innovative Community Bakery project (see Page 6), the 'Don't Burn Them, Turn Them' Planned Interventions Project which has enabled young people to attend their local Men's Shed to learn woodcraft skills (Page 14), and the Forth Meadow Community Greenway in North and West Belfast run by a partnership of Sustrans and Intercomm (Page 23). There are plenty of other

great projects and TEO is always open to hearing more about how we can share and promote their innovative approaches.

Each project is unique, but they also have at least one thing in common: they are not just about good relations, they are about Community, and that is at the heart of what we want to achieve.

I have only been able to meet many of you through zoom. But, as Covid restrictions begin to lift, I look forward to being able to see at first hand your achievements. Until then – or alongside that in person engagement – I am happy to use the advantages of zoom to discuss how we can creatively support and enhance the work that you are doing. If you think there is more TEO can do or do differently, please get in touch.

In closing I would also like to thank the CRC for their support, and for their delivery in communities and I look forward to seeing you and learning more at this TEO Engagement Forum which CRC have organised for us on 18th May.

**Richard Cushnie**

Acting Head of T:BUC and Good Relations Division  
The Executive Office



# Looking back...

## T:BUC Engagement Forum: January 2021 – Our Shared Community



On 19 January over 200 people gathered online for the fourteenth meeting of the T:BUC Engagement Forum - the second to be held fully online.

The meeting, which was organised by the Community Relations Council on behalf of The Executive Office (TEO), was attended briefly by Junior Ministers Declan Kearney and Gordon Lyons and was hosted by TEO's Dr Mark Browne.

The theme was the T:BUC key priority, 'Our Shared Community' and a number of presentations were delivered which addressed different aspects of shared community. These included overviews of:

- the Department for Communities' Shared Housing Programme;
- Clanmil Housing Association's "Perspectives of Shared Housing";
- "Developing and Delivering Shared Housing Good Relations Plans", presented by Radius Housing; and
- "Delivering Good Relations during Covid Lockdown" - the Rural Housing Association.

Other presentations were delivered by:

- **Footprints Women's Centre who presented a case study and video; and**
- **The Ministerial Advisory Group on Architecture and Built Heritage who presented on "Cupar Way: The Beginning of a Conversation About An Important Place for Local Communities and the City".**

# Looking forward...

CRC Shared Learning Forum: **8 June 2021 (for Core and North Belfast Groups)**

Good Relations Week 2021: **20-26 September 2021. (More details on the theme and opening launch will be made available by CRC).**

Further information on the T:BUC Strategy can be found at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-together-building-unity-community-tbuc>

# Community Relations Council Good Relations Awards 2021

Veteran community worker, Baroness May Blood, received the Community Relations Council's Good Relations Award 2021 at an online ceremony on 31 March.

The Good Relations Award highlights exceptional achievement in promoting community relations, intercultural work, and peacebuilding. Martin McDonald MBE, Chair of CRC, said:

"The Good Relations Award is a way to recognise individual and collective substantial contributions to peacebuilding in local communities, and we were humbled by the large number of nominations we received. Indeed, such was the breadth and diversity of these nominations that we were able to also feature eight highly commendable awards. Well done to all those involved - together we're building the bedrock of a more inclusive shared society."

Baroness Blood, who has devoted many years to promoting Good Relations across the community, currently works for the Integrated Education Fund. She has received many accolades for her work, and is a regular speaker on integrated education and its role in building a better future for our children.



Martin McDonald, who presented the award to Baroness Blood, said:

"Baroness May Blood is a champion for integrated education and has long made the case for a more united community. She is an inspiration for many in our society, and her messages of hope and reconciliation have reached both a national and international stage. It's an honour for the Community Relations Council to recognise Baroness Blood's amazing contribution to our society and to rightfully present her with the 2021 Good Relations Award."

In accepting the award, Baroness Blood said:

"Community relationships are strengthening and getting better right across Northern Ireland. I've been involved in this work for a long time. My passion for the past 20 years has been integrated education. The work that the community relations people are doing, and the work that the people in integrated education are doing - is the vital work. We are building a foundation for a better Northern Ireland. We want to change Northern Ireland and integrated education is certainly moving in that direction."





# Community Relations Council Good Relations Awards 2021

Eight Highly Commendable Awards were also presented during the ceremony. Recipients included:

- **Michael Boyd, the IFA's first ever Community Relations Officer, who has been central to community relations work within the sport of football and beyond.**
- **Joe Garvey, Chairman of Richmount Rural Community Association, for his work in establishing connections and goodwill with the local immigrant population.**
- **Olive Hobson, for her work as an authorised officer with the Parades Commission, Mediation NI and the Shankill Parish Caring Association.**
- **Gordon McCoy of Turas, who has used the Irish language, history and culture as a mechanism to build bridges across the divide.**
- **Susan McCrory, who has been involved in the Falls Women's Centre since 1990 and has been the centre's manager since 2009.**
- **Sinead McKinley, the current co-ordinator of the North Belfast Advice Partnership, who has been delivering a range of community initiatives.**
- **Narasimha "Bobby" Rao, who has played a key role in building race relations in the community, notably through establishing the Strabane Ethnic Community Association in 2004.**
- **Constable Stephen Simpson and Constable Mark McGarrity, who have worked as Police Engagement Officers in South Armagh for many years.**

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/contact-us>

Presenting the Highly Commendable Awards was Richard Cushnie, TEO's Director of Good Relations and T:BUC. Richard said:

"This year has been particularly challenging, needless to say, and the recipients of today's awards have gone above and beyond in their efforts to make sure that people continue to have access to the vital services they offer.... Importantly, all the award winners here today have been nominated by their peers within their communities and it is a pleasure to recognise these Champions and the work that they do."

A Posthumous Award was also presented by Martin McDonald to Mel Corry of Trademark for his peacebuilding and Trade Union work. Mel joined Trademark in 2007 and played a key role in all the organisation's community relations activity. Sadly, Mel contracted Covid-19 and passed away on 13 January this year at the age of just 56.

Stevie Nolan of Trademark accepted the award on behalf of Mel and said:

"Mel Corry was above all a very proud trade union activist. He spent his life representing workers, organising workers, educating workers. He was extremely proud to work for us in Trademark. Mel was absolutely the centre of everything positive we did and achieved here over the past 15 years. His strength as an activist and an educator lay in his authenticity, and his ability to connect with people. His passing has left a huge and irreparable hole in all of our hearts. The greatest tribute I hope to his memory is that his influence and his legacy will continue in the people he worked with."

# Shared Housing Programme

## Programme summary

The aim of the Shared Housing Programme is to create communities of 'good neighbours' and ensure that there is greater choice open to those who wish to live in a mixed area.



Each Scheme is supported by an Advisory Group made up of local Community and Voluntary Groups, local political reps and Good Relations Officers from the Housing Executive and local Councils. The Groups also include representatives from Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and other relevant statutory bodies.

## Programme News



Department for Communities (DfC) received in-year confirmation of Fresh Start funding to deliver additional shared housing in 2020/21 - this is additional to the initial Programme for Government (PFG) target of 800 units.



The draft PFG target of 800 units was met and a further 197 units (including up to 20 affordable) will be delivered, giving a total of 977 + 20 'Housing for All' units across 35 schemes.



The Shared Housing Programme is now supporting 45 schemes in total, with 1480 units: 483 units across the 10 T:BUC schemes; and 997 units across 35 'Housing for All' schemes.



Further information: if you want to know more about these projects, or the Shared Housing Programme, check out the following websites:  
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/shared-housing-programme>

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/forms/feedback>



# Rural Housing Association's 'Housing for All' scheme, Old Mill Court

The Rural Housing Association's 'Housing for All' scheme, Old Mill Court, in Sion Mills has been running a Community Bakery project which saw the provision of fortnightly bakery boxes exploring traditional Irish and Ulster-Scots recipes prepared by McGolgan's Bakery in Strabane. Residents participating in the project had the opportunity to bake traditional Irish/Ulster-Scots recipes from their homes through specially prepared bakery boxes containing instructions and ingredients.

Alongside their bakery boxes, residents received fortnightly learning packs exploring the traditions associated with Ireland and Ulster-Scots through the provision of learning materials developed in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency and Pobal Mhuileann an tSiáin. These learning resources helped residents explore both the Irish language and Ulster-Scots.



Fortnightly illustrated stories also helped residents explore the history of Ulster-Scots and Ireland, looking at significant moments in history for both traditions. Community bakers also had the opportunity to take part in arts activities based around the topics explored each week.



# Uniting Communities Programme

## Programme summary

The Uniting Communities Programme uses sport, physical, and creative activity to break down divisions in society and deliver and embed key good relations messages with an emphasis on tackling sectarianism, racism and promoting equality of opportunity.



## Programme News



**Projects in Ardoyne and Ballysillan and the Uniting Derg project in Co Tyrone have been completed.**



**Uniting Communities Ambassadors have been the first recipients of the newly developed OCN Uniting Communities through Leadership Award.**



**Seven Uniting Opportunities grant scheme recipients have finished delivery of their 12-week projects.**



**Uniting Communities and T:BUC Camp Ambassadors held a Good Relations Ambassador event with TE0 Junior Ministers on 16 March. Ambassadors got to tell their story of how involvement in their respective programmes have had a positive impact on personal development and helping them enhance their involvement in good relations work in their communities. The meeting included a question and answer session with the Junior Ministers.**

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
[tbuc@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:tbuc@communities-ni.gov.uk)



Further information: if you want to know more about the Uniting Communities Programme, check out the website:  
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/uniting-communities-tbuc>



# Staying Safe but Getting Out and About

The T:BUC Young Leaders on the Uniting Derg project wanted to combat 'Zoom-fatigue' while also helping their local community through these difficult times. They co-designed a programme of sport and creative activities that included a QR Challenge. This presented an opportunity for people to learn about their local community and to get outside for their daily exercise, all whilst adhering to the latest Covid guidelines.

This adventurous challenge encouraged participants to explore Castlederg's rich history and culture while searching for clues in the great outdoors.

The T:BUC Young Leaders worked with delivery partners, Todds Leap and Co-Operation Ireland, to hide a number of QR code markers at different historic sites in Castlederg. Each marker needed to be scanned using a smart phone to allow participants to unlock a clue to the whereabouts of the next marker on the trail.

Young Leader, Lucy said,

"I am really pleased about how the programme continued [through the pandemic] and that the ideas we generated have come to life. I hope that many young people can be inspired and continue to work together over the years".



The challenge is still available for people to take part in. Please visit [www.qrchallenge.co.uk](http://www.qrchallenge.co.uk) and click on 'Urban Challenges Derg' for more information.



# Shared Education Campuses

## Programme summary

The Shared Education Campuses (SEC) Programme provides capital assistance to applicant schools to facilitate shared education. There have been three calls to the SEC Programme, with five projects having been approved to proceed to planning. The projects include a mixture of designs, but all include shared education facilities as the core element of delivery.

## Programme News



**Work continues on the four projects approved from the First and Second Calls to the programme. The post-primary projects are leading the way with construction already started on the new shared facilities for the Limavady SEC and the Integrated Consultation Team beginning design work for the Ballycastle SEC.**



**The primary school projects are progressing well with the Integrated Consultation Team for Moy SEC appointed in November 2020 and the business case for Brookeborough SEC currently being progressed between the Education Authority (EA) and DE.**



**Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible for the Department to make an announcement on the Third Call due to the unavailability of funding. DE is, however, continuing to explore alternative avenues to allow Third Call projects to proceed.**

## Work Begins on Limavady Shared Education Campus

The Shared Education Campus project for Limavady which encompasses Limavady High School and St Mary's Limavady, has reached an exciting stage. On Wednesday, 21 April 2021, work formally began to create new shared education facilities on each of the participating school sites, with Education Minister, Peter Weir, attending to cut the first sod.

The project represents an investment of over £11million by the Department of Education with funding allocated through Fresh Starts. The

new shared facilities will include a new high-tech building for science, technology, engineering and mathematics; a new study/common rooms for careers, drama, media and sixth form pupils; and reconfiguring and upgrading existing school office accommodation, staff rooms, science and technology rooms and planning/manufacturing rooms. Speaking at the event the Minister said:

"I welcome the £11million investment, which is a significant milestone for both the St. Mary's and Limavady High School sites. Once completed, these new facilities will provide much needed education benefits for pupils, staff, teachers, parents and for the wider community."

"I understand that shared education has been in existence between St. Mary's and Limavady High since the 1970s. It is clear to me that the Limavady Shared Campus is leading the way for others to follow. I hope the use of these shared facilities will promote good relations and equip the children and young people of Limavady to meet the challenges of being an adult in a shared society."

Acknowledging the work in bringing the project to this stage, the Minister concluded:

"I would like to thank everyone involved in this scheme for their hard work and commitment in getting the scheme to this stage."

"I wish the pupils, the staff and the school management every success as they embark on this new chapter and I look forward to returning, in the not too distant future, to see the new shared facilities."

# T:BUC Camps Programme

## Programme summary

The T:BUC Camps Programme provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 to come together to build positive relationships across divided parts of our community. The camps challenge historic positions, encourage debate and discussion and provide a way for young people to get to know each other, try new experiences, have fun and help to build longer term relationships. Camps are delivered on a cross- community basis.



## Programme News



The Programme has continued to be delivered since 2015, and up to the end of 2020/21 approximately 644 Camps have been delivered involving around 24,000 young people.



Due to the on-going pandemic, delivery has been extremely challenging for groups, with a number having to withdraw from the Programme in 2020/21, but EA have worked extensively to support camps to deliver projects using alternative methods of engaging with young people. 75 Camps were delivered in 2020/21 - an excellent result.



Over 130 groups have applied for funding to the 2021/22 Camps Programme and the assessment process is complete.



The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of TEO, and more background on the Programme can be found at the following website: <https://www.eani.org.uk/tbuc>

## Good Relations Ambassadors Programme

- The Good Relations Ambassadors Programme commenced in February 2020 and is delivered through The Executive Office's T:BUC Camps Programme. It is managed and delivered on behalf of TEO by the EA.
- There are 28 Ambassadors in the current cohort from across 10 Council areas.
- Ambassadors are involved in various aspects of the delivery of the T:BUC Camps Programme and have received good relations training. They are completing an OCN Level 2 Award in Diversity and Good Relations and this provides a supportive, developmental, accredited leadership pathway for the young people involved. The role of an Ambassador includes engaging, encouraging, and inspiring other young people to make positive changes in their own lives and to inspire others in their community.
- The Ambassadors have also attended a number of shared learning events over the past year with other Ambassadors from DfC's Uniting Communities Programme. Senior Civil Servants and Junior Ministers have been involved in these very successful cross Departmental initiatives.
- The application process for the next cohort of Ambassadors is currently underway.

# Planned Interventions Programme

## Programme summary

Delivered annually as part of the Executive's wider "Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy", the Executive Office's Planned Interventions Programme provides funding for community activity to divert young people from anti-social and potentially criminal behaviour around contentious parades and public assemblies, and to deal with heightened tension around interfaces during the summer period. The Planned Interventions Programme is administered by the Education Authority.

## Programme News



91 groups were funded in 2020/21 to deliver planned interventions projects to over 1,100 young people -an excellent result for TEO and its delivery partner, the Education Authority (EA) during a challenging climate for project delivery due to the ongoing pandemic.



The 2021/22 Programme closed for applications on 30 April 2021. £400k of funding will be made available to fund over 100 Planned Interventions projects in 2021

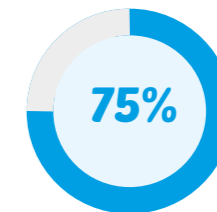


TEO and its delivery partner, EA, continue to engage with the community and voluntary sectors to assist with delivery during the current challenges associated with the pandemic.

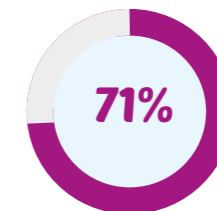


The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of TEO, and more background on the Programme can be found at the following website: <https://www.eani.org.uk/tbuc>

## Key outcomes from the evaluation of the 2020 Programme included:



of participants who feel more favourably about young people in other community background;



of participants who feel more favourable about young people from other ethnic groups after participating in the project; and



of participants stated that they had improved self-confidence and developed new skills through participation



In response to recent events, TEO agreed to early provision of funding to assist EA in funding emergency interventions to mitigate the risk of more young people engaging in risk-taking behaviour and possibly entering the youth justice system.



### What is it?

The T:BUC Engagement Forum has been established to enable government and its associated bodies to update the voluntary & community sector on progress with regard to the implementation of T:BUC.



### What is the vision?

Enable the voluntary & community sector to address T:BUC implementation issues, identify good practice and make practical and innovative recommendations for improved delivery.



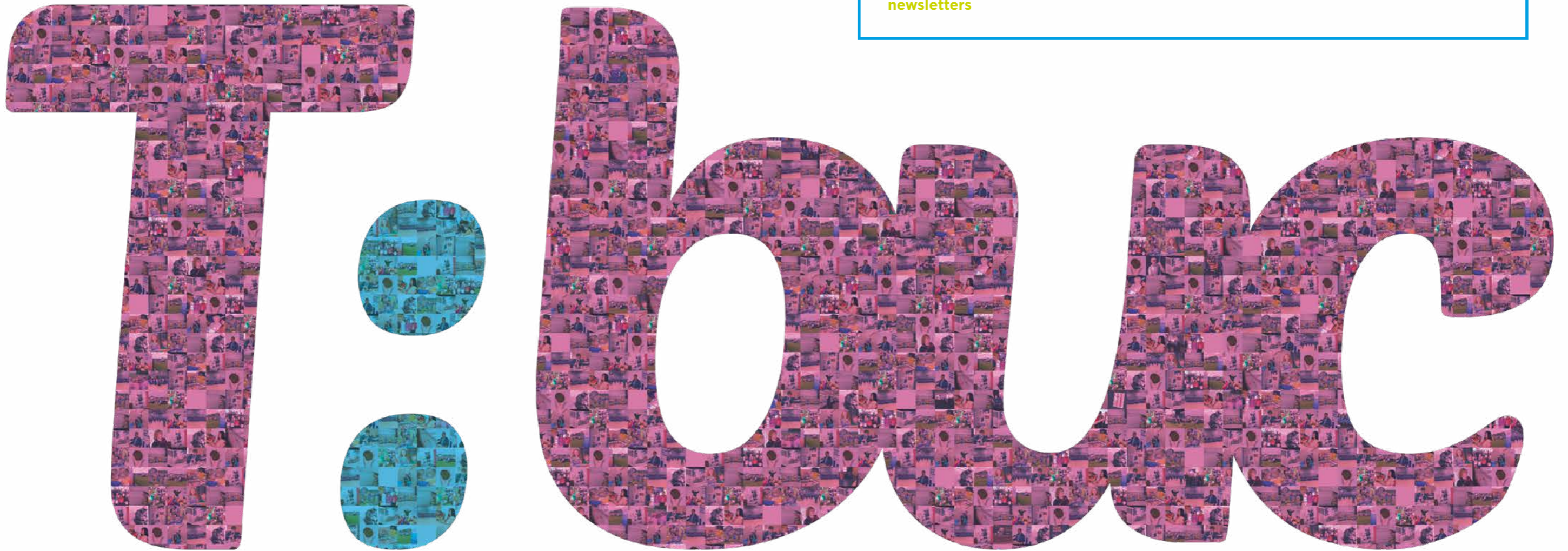
### When is it?

The inaugural meeting took place on 10 March 2016. Three meetings are held each year.



### Interested?

If you would like to register your interest in the T:BUC Engagement Forum please contact the Community Relations Council at **028 9022 7500** or **info@nicrc.org.uk**. You can view the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletters via the link below:  
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/tbuc-engagement-forum-newsletters>



# Engagement Forum



# Planned Interventions Project – ‘Don’t Burn Them, Turn Them’

Delivered annually as part of the Executive’s wider T:BUC Strategy, TEO’s Planned Interventions Programme provides funding for community activity to divert young people from anti-social and potentially criminal behaviour around contentious parades and public assemblies, and to deal with heightened tension around interfaces during the summer period. The Planned Interventions Programme is administered by the Education Authority.

In summer 2020, Leafair Community Association secured funding for the ‘Don’t Burn Them, Turn Them’ project. They identified a need, due to the amount of anti-social and risk-taking behaviour from young people around a bonfire site which was also causing residents social unrest.

With the assistance of the local school and local PSNI, 10 young men aged between 14 and 19 years were recruited to the programme. Many were known to the PSNI, had family issues, or identified as more vulnerable or at risk to being easily led to partake in anti-social and risk taking behaviours.

The ‘Don’t Burn Them Turn Them’ Programme involved the participants attending their local Men’s Shed (an established organisation where men come together for friendship, and share skills and knowledge).



The young people learned about the tools in the workshop and assisted the men in building furniture with pallets they would have normally been burning on their bonfire.



The participants were getting so much out of working with the men at the Men’s Shed that they were attending more regularly in addition to the planned project times – which for most of them was every day in the month of August and then days in September also.

“This is the first time I took part in something like this. I always thought it would be a waste of time, but it wasn’t. I’ve learned to do so many new things. I would like to work making things and become a joiner now, I think I will go back to school now”. Quote from a participant



“I was always in bother with the police, once they got to know me they were constantly at our door, my ma was going mad, but now since I have been coming here, they haven’t been bothering with me, probably cause I’m not getting into trouble and my ma is happy about that.”  
Quote from a participant

## Impact of the Programme

Group leaders reported that participants on the programme became more involved within their community, by taking part in clean-ups and promoting the good work being carried out by both the Men’s Shed and themselves. They also advised there had been a noticeable decrease in anti-social behaviour, with the young people now having more respect for their community.



“I want to help out with the younger lads in the estate, just to show them that it doesn’t have to be the way of getting into bother all they time just to be a big man. It’s better to make something of yourself and help people instead of annoying them all the time”. Quote from a participant

“I have really noticed enormous change in the boys since the start of the programme, their attitudes have changed for the better, they are really interested in making different pieces of wood for their community. They are now feeling like more a part of their community and I hope it helps build for the time ahead”. Quote from Group Leader



Charlene Sharkey, from TEO’s T:BUC Camps & FICT Branch said:

“It is great to see a project like this, funded by the T:BUC Strategy, really making a difference to both the young people, and the community they live in.”

“It shows how successful Planned Interventions can bring people of all ages together whilst providing learning and good practice.”



If you would like to find out more about the Planned Interventions Programme, information is available on the TEO website:  
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/planned-interventions-programme>



# Urban Villages Initiative - Building our safe and connected community

## Programme summary

The Urban Villages Initiative is designed to support communities and to work collaboratively across government departments, councils, and other interested parties to achieve positive outcomes for each Urban Village area through a series of capital investment and community-led projects.



## Programme News



During 2021/22 there are a total of 37 community-led projects, with an investment of £1.27m, to support capacity-building and fostering positive community identities across the Urban Village areas.



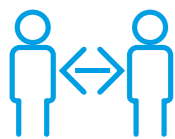
Good Relations statistics reflect that 88% respondents agree that different cultures are important for richness and diversity of society.



A further £550k has been invested in 15 cross-cutting projects, covering themes such as education, employability, tourism and heritage and capacity-building.



During lockdown groups have continued to rise to the challenge to support those most vulnerable in their communities: additional funding was provided to Urban Villages community-led groups to support the needs for technical equipment to connect more effectively and to help those without the necessary resources to stay learning, stay active and stay connected!



44 capital projects have been completed to date - £18.5m of capital investment has been spent across the 5 Urban Village areas, and an overall capital investment of £47.2m is expected to be fully allocated to projects by the end of March 2022.

The negative coverage showing young people rioting recently in North and West Belfast is not the only story of youth in those areas. In the Urban Village areas there are positive youth programmes that are supporting the building of our safe and connected communities.



If you want to know more about these projects, check out the website: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/urban-villages-initiative>

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact: [info@urbanvillagesni.org](mailto:info@urbanvillagesni.org)

# Young Leaders connect across North Belfast Urban Village Area

The Young Leaders project successfully connects groups from Ardoyne Youth Club and North Belfast Alternatives, in Ballysillan. They work collaboratively to develop strong relationships, where previously there would not have been connections between these young people.

Marc Young, North Belfast Alternatives said,

"Over the first few weeks, some of the young people didn't want to get involved, but now everyone knows each other and they are starting to make new friendships and breaking down barriers."

The young people from Ardoyne and Ballysillan are taking part in a customised capacity building programme, which includes teambuilding, leadership training and social action projects, with a strong good relations element.

Liam Davey, Ardoyne Youth Club said,

"The Young Leadership Project has good relations embedded within it. These young people have a lot of potential, and we are trying to unlock that potential through the programme."

Together, the young people have overcome the limitations the pandemic has imposed and have built strong supportive networks that contribute to the future of our safe and connected community.





# Removing Interface Barriers

## Programme summary

The Department of Justice, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and other statutory partners continue to engage with communities at interfaces to explore opportunities for physical change.

### Programme News



**Duncairn Gardens interface has been transformed and those people living closest to the security structure are benefiting from the positive changes.**



**North Queen Street residents are delighted with the improvements to the front of their homes as a result of the recent removal of the interface structure. Normalisation of the area creates an environmental improvement and uplifts the physical appearance of this area.**



**For the first time in decades, light is shining into the New Lodge as the height of the interface fence has been reduced and future proofing means that any new development, on what is a vacant site, will result in the ultimate removal of the free-standing mesh which is currently in place as a reassurance measure.**



Further information: if you want to know more about the Interface Programme, check out the website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/departmen-justice-interface-programme>

# Peace4Youth Programme

## Programme summary

Peace4Youth is aligned with the vision and objectives of United Youth as set out in the T:BUC Strategy. The programme focuses on supporting participants to develop capabilities in the areas of personal development, good relations and citizenship, ultimately enhancing their employability and improving their life chances.

## Peace4Youth

Peace4Youth is built on 12 essential design features and the programme has a strong focus on engaging, non-formal learning approaches delivered via a professionally founded youth work approach.

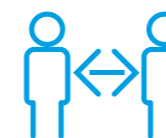
### Programme News



**At the end of March 2021 over 3,000 young people had completed their Peace4Youth programme during Phase 2 of the programme**



**Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) have provided guidance to the Peace4Youth projects on Covid-19 advising that the impact on project outcomes will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.**



**There are around 1,700 young people currently participating on Phase 2.**



**The second programme impact evaluation report was delivered in October 2020.**



**Since the Covid-19 restrictions were introduced in March 2020, young people have been able to continue their participation on the programme via online methods.**



**Engagement is ongoing with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and SEUPB on proposals for PEACEPLUS.**



**The minimum number of contact hours required to complete the programme have been reduced while the Covid-19 restrictions are in place, with prior agreement with the accountable departments.**

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact: [info@seupb.eu](mailto:info@seupb.eu)





# District Council Good Relations Programme

## Programme summary

The key aims of the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) are to improve relations between and within Council areas and to support local solutions to local good relations issues.

## Programme News

### Youth Educated in Safety 'YES' Project – Derry City & Strabane District Council

The 'YES' Project is a multi-agency initiative which covers several prioritised Community Safety and Good Relations issues facing children and young people in their daily lives. The 'YES' Project focuses on helping children and young people to be safe in their City and District and to develop as better citizens. As well as introducing age appropriate awareness on good mental health, building self-esteem and resilience, the project focuses on some of the Good Relations issues that children and young people face, sometimes on a daily basis.

2000+ children and young people participate in Good Relations workshops, with resources developed by DCSDC and other statutory and community organisations via the delivery agent's peer-led youth team. The interactive workshops address cultural diversity and challenge sectarianism and racism using local examples such as bonfires and alternatives to bonfires, flags issues, marches and parades.

'YES' has been delivered by Shantallow Community Residents' Association for a number of years on behalf of the Good Relations Team. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year involved a creative 're-think' of the usual face-to-face delivery methods, with the filming and production of an interactive video accompanied by a workbook for the various elements of the programme. The video includes input from all the usual services and organisations taking part, coordinated by a team of youth leaders/mentors.

The outcomes achieved through the programme are:

- **A reduction in the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation;**
- **An increase in the percentage of participants who feel safe going to events held in, for example, an Orange Hall, GAA club, Protestant school, Catholic school;**
- **An increased understanding of sectarianism, racism and Section 75 groups; and**
- **Increased awareness and understanding of the PSNI and other agencies in promoting Community Safety and Good Relations.**



'Youth Educated in Safety' is a collaborative programme funded via PCSP grant aid and the DCGRP for DCSDC, coordinated and delivered by Shantallow Community Residents' Association and the Good Relations Team.

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
[District.CouncilGR@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:District.CouncilGR@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

# Central Good Relations Fund

## Programme summary

The Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) supports constituted voluntary and community sector groups to deliver good relations projects where there is evidence of good relations need. Since 2016, £15million has been awarded to support over 460 projects. In the last three funding years alone over 100,000 direct participants have been positively impacted by programmes using activities like sport, music and crafts to engage local communities.

## Programme News

### Intercomm - Breaking the Cycle (BTC) – Sustaining the Future

The 'Breaking the Cycle (BTC) – Sustaining the Future' project received funding in 2020/21 from TEO's Central Good Relations Fund and has been delivered in Ardoyne, Twaddell (North Belfast), Portadown and Lurgan.

The project is designed to address issues relating to sectarianism/community tensions and enhance understanding around bonfires, flags, parades, language and cultural celebration, alongside other issues that relate to the legacy of the conflict across NI.

It includes a range of interventions, training and other initiatives such as mentoring, best practice visits and area planning. This is to encourage and improve the context within and between communities. It is based on a partnership approach ensuring strong links with each target community and building on previous successes.

Some of the exchange visits have included participants from the Twaddell area visiting Portadown to look at the Drumcree parading disputes and the effects of living in an interface area in a semi-rural context. A follow-up visit was then arranged with a group from Portadown to explore Twaddell/Woodvale/Shankill interfaces and parading related issues, in the urban setting.

Participants from Ardoyne also assist the structured Community Safety Multi-Agency meetings, which take place fortnightly and include local residents, community groups, Community Restorative Justice, PSNI, Belfast City Council, Youth Justice Agency, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations and others. This is a solutions-focused group which meets to address issues such as anti-social

behaviour in the area and increase the sense of safety for residents.

In 2020/21 there was obvious disruption to face-to-face group activities due to Covid-19, however, along with all other groups, Intercomm adapted their style of delivery, ensuring the continuation of activities and contact via video conferencing etc. One-to-one mentoring has been increased and includes contact by phone and video, where appropriate.

Themes discussed include: shared history and the 'Decade of Centenaries', which specifically explored the period of 1921-2021 (100 years of NI/partition).

The outcomes and differences witnessed to date include:

- **a decrease in sectarian instances in all of the participating areas; and**
- **a positive change in the attitudes of participants in relation to making the areas a "safer community".**



## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
[GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)



# Peace IV and Peace Plus

## Programme News




TEO is the accountable department for actions delivered by local authorities under three of the four thematic objectives of the PEACE IV Programme (Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations), including the local authority action plans, the regional element of Building Positive Relations at local level and the provision of services for victims and survivors.

- Delivery of single identity and integrated training in local communities leading to participants obtaining OCN accreditations in Good Relations and Civic Leadership and Contentious Cultural Issues;
- Building of grassroots relationships between PUL, CNR and BAME communities;
- Development of 45 cultural and community champions from BME that worked alongside project staff to represent their culture;
- Supporting stakeholders in civic society who have responsibility for individuals that felt vulnerable due to cultural differences and created a space for strategic dialogues; and
- Hosting a wide range of events for influencing policy/practice, as well as discreet conversations.

The DARE project has been valuable in informing and changing what citizens know and think about the mix in NI society. It has raised awareness of the challenges that people face when trying to make connections within their community, along with providing assistance in working together to overcome challenges.

The work to date culminated in an online International Symposium, held on 24 and 25 March 2021, in which DARE used the learning from their participants and knowledge from international colleagues to challenge and motivate us towards a culture of compassion, prosperity and peace.

 Check out our 2 day online International Symposium:  
Day 1: [https://youtu.be/tMCEr\\_-oW5w](https://youtu.be/tMCEr_-oW5w)  
Day 2: <https://youtu.be/TaBaq6iIRIE>

The Executive Office is proud to have supported this project which has made an important contribution to the Executive's vision for NI to be a place which is united, shared and safe. The project will have a lasting legacy for both the participants and their communities for many years to come.



The overall budget for the Good Relations element of PEACE IV is €110m. TEO provides approximately €13m in match funding.



The PEACE Plus Programme is expected to be in the region of €1billion.

### PEACE IV – Dialogues and Race Ethnicity (DARE to Lead Change)

Funded by PEACE IV, Bryson Care (partnered with TIDES Training and Consultancy) successfully delivered the 'Dialogues and Race Ethnicity' (DARE to Lead Change) project under 'Building Positive Relations' at a regional level.

The aim of this project was to inform and change what citizens know and think about the mix in NI society by introducing a multifaceted conversation about cultural, racial and ethnic interdependence.

Throughout the programme (July 2017 - March 2021) achievements from the DARE project included:

- Engagement with over 2,600 people via training and events dealing with building, improving and sustaining relationships;

# Community Relations Council

## Programme News

### Cross-community Volunteer Programme - Intercomm



An exciting new volunteer programme has been launched on the Forth Meadow Community Greenway in North and West Belfast.

Sustrans and Intercomm are recruiting and training a team of volunteers in a range of walking and cycling activities, as well as mediation skills.

Intercomm is funded through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP) administered by the Community Relations Council (CRC).

The newly-trained volunteer walk and cycle leaders will be supported to empower and lead people to enjoy the Forth Meadow Community Greenway and promote the shared space.

Rachael Ludlow-Williams, Sustrans Volunteer Coordinator said: "This is an exciting project

 If the cross-community volunteer programme sounds up your street, then find out more at: [www.sustrans.org.uk/ForthMeadow](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ForthMeadow) (external link opens in a new window / tab) or email [volunteers-ni@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:volunteers-ni@sustrans.org.uk)

ensuring local people can get involved and be at the heart of the greenway. Volunteers are pivotal to the new Greenway and we hope that the free training we offer will enable the wider community to walk and cycle along this shared space for many years to come."

The Forth Meadow Community Greenway is a new £5.1 million EU PEACE IV-funded project to connect existing open spaces in north and west Belfast along a 12km route leading to the new Transport Hub in the city centre.

The Greenway will be at the heart of this project – and it needs volunteers to bring it to life and encourage local people to get out walking and cycling.

Anybody who enjoys getting on a bike or walking should get involved – no experience is necessary, just a commitment to help others!

**Contact:**  
If you have any questions please contact: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/contact-us>



# T:BUC - in pictures



Derry City & Strabane District Council's 'YES' project



PEACE IV - 'Dialogues and Race Ethnicity (DARE to Lead Change)' project



North Queen Street, Belfast, following recent removal of the interface



Intercomm's 'Breaking the Cycle - Sustaining the Future' project



Education Minister, Peter Weir, cuts the first sod at the new Shared Education Campus site in Limavady

Front cover: Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, following reduction of the interface fence.



# T:buc

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