

# T:buc

Changing for the better, together



## T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021



Northern Ireland  
Executive



# Introduction

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It is my pleasure to present this latest issue of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter. As always, there are brief updates on the latest progress on the 7 T:BUC Headline Actions, as well as news stories on a number of projects and events delivered recently. I am sure that as you read them, you will be encouraged by the progress that is being made as we continue to work together to build a united community.

I would particularly draw your attention to Page 3 where you can read about Paddy White, the winner of the Community Relations Council Good Relations Award 2020. The award, which was “presented” to Paddy at an online ceremony in September, recognises his work in promoting community relations, intercultural work and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. It is unfortunate that, due to the current restrictions, Paddy could not be physically presented with his award. However that does not take away from the significance of his achievement and I would congratulate him once again on winning the award.

The theme of this Engagement Forum is “Delivering T:BUC through Shared Space”. The term, “shared space”, is a broad one. Sharing neighbourhoods is one aspect of sharing space and on Page 7 you can read about the recent success of one shared housing scheme, Old Mill Court in Sion Mills, which recently received the Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland Award for Planning Excellence 2020. Meanwhile, in the Eastside Urban Village area, a number of capital projects have greatly enhanced the locality, making it a more pleasant and welcoming space to be shared by all.

Other articles in this issue illustrate how more people are able to share space in one way or another. For example, Nugent’s Wood (Page 22) is a ‘Shared Spaces and Services’ project supported by Ards and North Down Borough Council’s PEACE IV programme. The area has benefited from general repairs and improvements to the walking trail, making it an outdoor space that can locals and visitors can enjoy. And in North Belfast, local group, Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues, has run a project to help local young people to address the issues of reconciliation and resilience (Page 21). The project, which is supported by TEO’s Central Good Relations Fund, was run in the shared space of the Girdwood Community Hub.

These latter two projects not only promote shared spaces, but also benefit the mental health and wellbeing of those who avail of them – something that is much needed in these difficult times. I hope you will be encouraged as you read about these and other projects – and that you will be inspired to enjoy the many shared spaces that have been created for the benefit of us all.

## **Chris Gardner**

Head of Good Relations Outcomes Branch  
The Executive Office

# Looking back...

## T:BUC Engagement Forum: September 2020 – Progressing Good Relations during the Covid-19 Pandemic



On 15 September 2020, over 200 people attended the first fully online T:BUC Engagement Forum – “Delivering T:BUC during the pandemic” - which explored creative ways to continue delivery of key projects and learn from best practice examples.

The Engagement Forum provided attendees with an important opportunity to hear from people and organisations involved in the delivery of T:BUC (Together: Building a United Community) during these unprecedented times.

Junior Ministers Gordon Lyons and Declan Kearney attended the event.

Addressing the event, Junior Minister Lyons said: “I am impressed by the vast range of activities still taking place in Northern Ireland across the breadth of T:BUC, and I have no doubt that these contribute significantly to breaking down barriers and helping to bring communities together.”

Junior Minister Kearney stated: “T:BUC is the Executive’s strategy to realise a fully united community and it is great to see the continuing progress being made towards this goal particularly in the current circumstances.”

Case studies and talks were delivered by three inspirational speakers:

- **Alfie Wong, NICS Diversity Champion for Race and Ethnicity**
- **Rumena Kostadinova-McCabe, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council**
- **Liza Wilkinson, TIDES Training (who are core funded by CRC)**

The creativity and tenacity of the speakers demonstrated a pursuit of peacebuilding, as well as seeking new ways to deliver good relations work.

# Community Relations Council Good Relations Awards 2020



An inspirational local peacemaker received the Good Relations Award 2020 at an online ceremony on Wednesday, 16 September. For his tireless work with Youth Link since 1991, the overall winner was Paddy White.

The ceremony, held by the NI Community Relations Council (CRC), recognised 16 good relations champions, the largest number nominated in a single year since the Award's inception in 2006.

The Good Relations Award highlights exceptional achievement throughout Northern Ireland in promoting community relations, intercultural work, and peacebuilding.

Michael McGinley of The Executive Office highlighted Paddy's significant work to date:

"As the Director of Youth Link, Paddy has devoted a significant part of his life to community relations and intercultural work across Northern Ireland and the border regions."



Paddy White, Director of Youth Link: NI, winner of the CRC Good Relations Award 2020

On accepting the award, Paddy said: "I am delighted and honoured to receive this Award. I see it very much as a recognition of all that Youth Link: NI has accomplished over almost three decades. Peacebuilding, reconciliation and good relations have always been at the heart of Youth Link's strategy and programme. As an inter-church agency we have been in the frontline of such activity not only as churches working together but with a range of organisations across the sector who improve relationships and work for the wellbeing of young people."

The Good Relations Award ceremony was hosted by Nisha Tandon OBE, director of ArtsEkta and board member of the CRC.

Nisha said: "The Community Relations Council held its first ever online Good Relations Award today. It's clear from the large number of nominees that peacebuilding, community and good relations is thriving within local communities throughout Northern Ireland. Their work promotes trust and interdependence, challenges sectarianism, racism and violence, and supports inter-cultural relations within our increasingly diverse society."

# Community Relations Council Good Relations Awards 2020

## Highly Commendable Awards

Three Highly Commendable Awards were also presented to:

- Adrian Bird, Resurgam Trust
- Jahswill Emmanuel, Multi-Ethnic Sports & Cultures NI (MSCNI)
- Veronica McEaney, Belfast Health Trust (recently retired).

Adrian has been involved in peacebuilding for over 25 years, is a founding member of Lisburn People's Support Project and won the Lisburn Castlereagh mayor's award for Bringing Communities Together.

Jahswill created the charity MSCNI in 2016 and uses the medium of sports and multicultural activities to showcase the vibrancy of cultural diversity while promoting inclusion.

While promoting good relations within the Belfast Trust, Veronica worked on notable projects such as the 'River of Hope' at the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit at Belfast City Hospital which promoted both good relations and mental health.



"CRC is proud to acknowledge and celebrate the huge effort undertaken to create a more peaceful and reconciled society. In particular, we celebrate the determination of people working within and across our community for peace and good relations.

"It's important to recognise the efforts of those amazing people who are working at grassroots, the tireless often unsung champions who make a real difference in the local community every single day, even during the Covid-19 crisis."

"With our annual Good Relations Award the Community Relations Council is committed to highlighting excellence and outstanding commitment to peacebuilding in Northern Ireland."



## Contact:

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

# 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



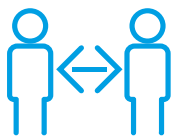
The programme is on track to successfully achieve its objectives with over 5,000 young people having participated to date.



A second evaluation was carried out in 2020 and was again highly positive.



Phase 2 of the programme, which began in early 2019 and will run until 2021/22, is progressing well.



The projects, which support participants in developing capabilities in the outcome areas of personal development, good relations and citizenship, are designed to lead to increased life chances for the young people involved, including their enhanced employability.



The independent evaluation of Phase 1 of the programme (October 2018) was highly positive, with the majority of indicators under the main outcome areas showing clear progression for participants. Almost 80% of the young people surveyed indicated they were going to progress to education, training, employment or voluntary/community engagement, and almost 90% had gained a qualification in at least one area.



## Contact:

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

# 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



The current Shared Housing Programme has its origins in the T:BUC Strategy - there are now 49 shared housing schemes developed or under development.



The 2020/21 Shared Housing Programme is being delivered, in part, using funding provided through the Fresh Start Agreement. The Fresh Start funding has enabled the Department for Communities to double the shared target for 2020/21 from 200 units to 400 units.



Shared housing schemes attract Good Relations Support funding which is used to develop five-year Good Relations Plans for the shared schemes. The Plans are delivered to the new shared communities and to surrounding communities (within a five-mile radius of the shared schemes).



Each shared housing scheme is supported through the establishment of an Advisory Group. The Advisory Groups are key to informing the development and delivery of the Good Relations Plans. Advisory Group membership includes local politicians, Housing Executive and local Council Good Relations Officers, local schools and organisations from the Community and Voluntary sector (this list is not exhaustive).



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>



# Old Mill Court Shared Housing Scheme receives Top Prize at Northern Ireland Planning Awards

Rural Housing Association's Old Mill Court shared housing scheme in Sion Mills received its second industry award in recent months, placing it as one of the most professionally recognised social housing schemes in Northern Ireland.

The shared housing scheme was awarded a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Social Impact Award in May 2020, and it has now been named winner of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Northern Ireland Award for Planning Excellence 2020. The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most high-profile awards in the industry and they recognise and reward talent in the planning industry that has helped transform local economies, environments and communities.

This shared housing development is a flagship example of a housing proposal that combines innovative architectural design rooted in the history of its surroundings, with a commitment to improving the economic, social and environmental conditions of the village in which it sits.

Old Mill Court received funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) and Danske Bank to develop the scheme as a 'Housing for All' shared housing development. DfC also fund Rural Housing to produce a comprehensive five-year Good Relations Plan for the area. The Plan includes a range of community-focused programmes for local residents, with the aim of delivering positive good relations outcomes.

The Covid social distancing measures have impacted the delivery of many of the projects and events in shared housing schemes' Good Relations Plans. However, the Housing Associations delivering the shared housing schemes have developed innovative project approaches which continue to advance good relations.



# Choice Housing - 'We All Belong' Project

Patrick's Primary School (Ballynahinch), St Mary's Primary School (Saintfield), and the Academy Primary School (Saintfield).

The project was delivered as part of the Nursery Close Shared Housing scheme's five-year Good Relations Plan, which includes initiatives that strive to improve community relations and continue the journey towards a united and shared society.

It was initially planned that the project would be delivered in the schools, but owing to the early closure of schools for the Halloween break (due to increases in Covid transmission) the project had to be delivered remotely. Choice Housing were thrilled to see the children's enthusiasm for the project, even in these difficult circumstances.

Pupils were provided with information on how 10 cultures from across the world celebrate Halloween, and the Primary 1 to Primary 5 age group took part in a Halloween art project while the older children in Primary 6 and Primary 7 practiced their pumpkin carving skills.



The Choice Housing Tenant Forum members were then tasked with the difficult job of picking a winner from the amazing entries. The pumpkin carving winner received an Amazon Fire Tablet, and the art project winners each received an arts and crafts kit and the beautiful children's book, 'We All Belong', which celebrates diversity and inclusion.



# Uniting Communities Programme

**Uniting Communities**  
through sport & creativity

## 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



**T:BUC Uniting Communities young leaders continue to train across delivery areas, with the Ardoyne and Ballysillan project currently completing the final 'Embedding Sustainability' stage and the Uniting Derg project in Co Tyrone having recommenced activity in December 2020.**



**Plans are in place for T:BUC Ambassadors to be the first recipients of the newly developed OCN Uniting Communities through Leadership Award**



**12 Uniting Opportunities grant scheme applicants that delivered in 19/20 have had extension proposals approved to deliver projects of up to 12 weeks, commencing in January 2021.**



**T:BUC Uniting Communities and T:BUC Camp Ambassadors held a successful shared learning event on the 16 December with Dr Mark Browne in attendance. Future plans are in place to explore opportunities for both groups to engage jointly in further good relations activity.**

## 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>

# 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 project of Limavady SEC is leading the way with construction due to start in mid-2021 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 revenues to allow Third Call projects to proceed.**



Further information: if you want to know more about the Interface Programme, check out the website:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/shared-education-campuses-programme>

## Limavady Shared Education Campus

Continuing the successful work of Shared Education in the Roe Valley, St. Mary's, Limavady and Limavady High School recently launched their newly designed 'SERV' (Sharing Education Roe Valley) badge. The badge is worn, with pride, by all students who participate in joint classes in the schools. At present pupils from Year 8 right through to Year 14 have shared lessons in LLW, Maths, Applied Science, History and Moving Image, to name a few.

The Shared Ambassadors, made up of pupils from Limavady High School and St Mary's Limavady, are involved in important decisions regarding the Shared Campus. In previous years the Shared Ambassadors have taken part in pupil training, enjoyed surfing trips, spoken to school visitors, and represented the school at various events. The Shared Ambassadors were given the brief of designing a SERV badge that was representative of both schools and the local community. Mr Douglas Bartlett, local historian and retired Vice Principal of Limavady High School, met with the Shared Ambassadors to provide a background to the rich history of the Roe Valley. Pupils discussed the ethos and values of SERV and worked to encapsulate the spirit of the Roe Valley, with the badge depicting the River Roe, Binevenagh Mountain and the Roe Valley. The pupils were guided through the design process by Limavady High School Art technician, Mrs Gillian McBride. The chosen colours are representative of the two schools and all this combined resulted in a vibrant badge for students to wear. The final badge was designed by Limavady High School student, Erin Campbell Moore.

# T:BUC Camps & Planned Interventions Programme

## Programme summary

The T:BUC Camps Programme provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 across Northern Ireland 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



In 2020/21 there were 111 successful applications to the T:BUC Camps Programme. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there have been 31 withdrawals, leaving 80 groups currently delivering T:BUC Camps.



A new addition to the 2021/22 T:BUC Camps Programme going forward is the 'Social Action Activity', which is being embedded within the Programme. All T:BUC Camps participants will have an opportunity to discuss and design a social action project that they wish to deliver within their communities.



The 2021/22 T:BUC Camps Programme is currently open for applications. The closing date for applications to be submitted is 29 January 2021. Further information can be accessed at: [www.eanifunding.org.uk/tbuc](http://www.eanifunding.org.uk/tbuc)



The T:BUC Ambassadors Programme continues to be piloted with the T:BUC Camps Programme and TEO is working collaboratively with DfC Uniting Communities as part of the delivery of the overarching Good Relations Ambassadors Programme.



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>

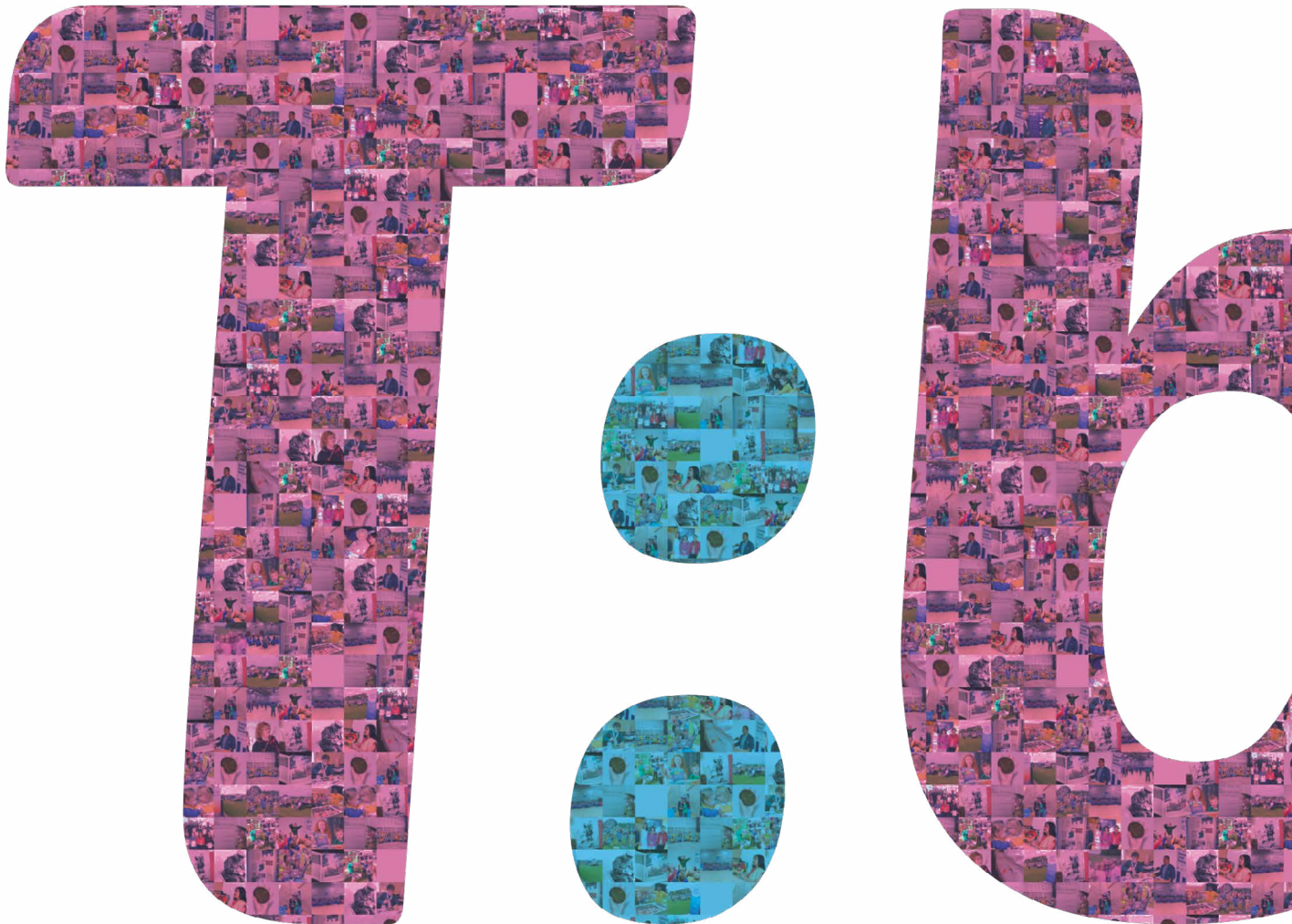
## What is it?

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.



# Engagem

## 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>**



# ment Forum



# T:BUC Journeys

Changing for the better, on the journey together

## Jessica's Journey - Former Participant of the T:BUC Camps Programme

Jessica Nicholl is currently a T:BUC Good Relations Ambassador who has participated in previous T:BUC Camps Programmes. Jessica has very kindly agreed for her T:BUC Journey to be shared.

### Before T:BUC Camps

Growing up Jessica was a quiet girl who lacked confidence when speaking out in groups and when it came to making new friends she much preferred to keep herself to herself.

Jessica attended a single religion school and so had only limited interaction with peers from other community backgrounds.

### Jessica's experience of T:BUC Camps

Jessica was invited to join a T:BUC Camps programme by a youth leader at her local youth club. This camp would involve 5 groups coming together to participate in the T:BUC programme, and would include a 4 day camp in the middle of Castlewellan forest.

The overall group included young people from different religious backgrounds taking part in activities designed specifically to support them to build friendships, explore each other's backgrounds and cultures and dispel myths and stereotypes held. The group also explored symbolism and the meaning of flags and emblems, and they looked at their local communities (similarities and differences, prejudices and stereotypes, how we can live and work together as one etc).

Initially Jessica had reservations about taking part, however she decided to give it a go - "It turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made".

Not only did Jessica enjoy the programme, but she made new friends, and challenged herself to complete things she never would have dreamed of. Having participated in her first T:BUC Camp, Jessica felt she was:

- more open-minded being able to look at things through the eyes of others
- more accepting of others which helped expand her friendship group.
- Able to change her understanding about young people from different religious backgrounds, why they had certain traditions, what these meant to them and why.

"It has been the most amazing experience I could have ever imagined, the camp especially was so natural and effortless, we had time to chat, laugh, make friends with other young people from different religions and areas, with such amazing leaders to help and support us."

Jessica has since taken part in two more T:BUC Camps where she has acted as a buddy for new young people, helping them to fit in and feel comfortable with those around them, and also as a peer leader, assisting with smaller groups.

"T:BUC Camps has been a very positive life changing experience for Jessica. It has helped her gain confidence and self-esteem she never thought possible. She has made a new best friend by stepping outside her comfort zone and allowing new interactions and conversations to take place. This is the legacy of T:BUC for Jessica and as of now her journey isn't yet over as she continues with her peer leadership work within her group and her work within the Ambassadors programme, she will continue to go from strength to strength."  
Quote from Youth Leader

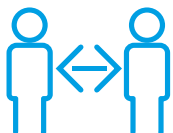


# Minority Ethnic Development Fund

## Programme summary

The aim of the MEDF is to assist minority ethnic and local community organisations to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds. It provides support for voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups.

## Programme News



**In line with the commitment in the Racial Equality Strategy, a review of the MEDF is now complete. The resulting report made 10 recommendations which were discussed with the Racial Equality Subgroup to inform implementation.**



**We remain fully committed to ensuring the MEDF continues to provide a valuable source of funding to support our minority ethnic communities and retain and enhance capacity in the sector.**



**Following this, the 2021-22 Minority Ethnic Development Fund was launched by Ministers on 18th December 2020 with a closing date for applications of 25th January 2021. An online information session was held on 6th January 2021**



**The earlier launch of the application process this year was in direct response to one of the recommendations in the report and marked the commencement of implementation. Work is underway to implement all other recommendations over the next year including moving to multi annual funding cycles in future.**



If you want to know more about Race Equality & Good Relations, check out The Executive Office website at: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/racial-equality>

# 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



**Work on the interface reduction scheme at Duncairn Garden / Hillman Court in North Belfast is now complete. Delays had been experienced due to Covid-19, however socially distanced brick laying won the day!**

If a picture is worth a 1000 words, then the images attached probably sums up how the T:buc Interfaces Programme can contribute to wider regeneration of interface communities such as the re-development underway on the Crumlin Road.



**Since October 2020, the gates at Townsend Street have been opened for a short time on Saturdays to allow a charity, Life-Hub, to deliver Foodbank services to those in need. The opening of the vehicular and pedestrian access gates between the Falls and Shankill areas has been without incident. The Prime Minister recognised the outstanding volunteer work of the charity's leader, Mr. Edmund Odeli Aruofor, as a Point of Light on 25 December.**



Whilst DoJ continues to work with local elected representatives, community groups and local residents towards positive changes in the Crumlin Road area, there are positive signs of redevelopment at the Hillview and Brookfield Mill sites. These developments, and the proposed removal of the steel barriers at Flax Street, to be replaced by a new security gate with pedestrian and vehicular access, will contribute to the wider regeneration of this area by bringing services and amenities to local communities.



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

# Urban Villages Initiative

## 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 2020/21 there are a total of 55 community-led and cross-cutting projects with an investment of £1.8m to help create thriving places across the Urban Village areas.



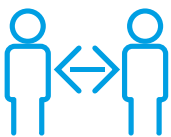
FOCUS magazine edition 10 has been published and is being distributed to 30,000 households in Urban Village areas across Belfast and Derry~Londonderry



43 capital projects have been completed to date and 9 more have commenced. £21.8m of capital investment is currently committed across the five Urban Village areas, and an overall capital investment of £47.2m is expected to be fully allocated to projects by the end of March 2021.



During the pandemic, groups have risen to the challenge to support those most vulnerable in their communities; the energy and commitment of community led groups to work together to serve their communities, has been exemplary.



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



## Contact:

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



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

# Connecting People and Places in the EastSide Urban Village

Investment in a number of Urban Villages capital projects across the EastSide Urban Village area has created a connectivity that will improve the physical environment and provide welcoming shared space for locals and visitors to the area.

Projects include Ballymacarrett Walkway, a walker- and cyclist-friendly pathway that passes a mural depicting the Ballymacarrett rail crash in 1945. This links to the recently renovated Titanic Halt, now an inviting gateway point to and from the Titanic Quarter, and a community-led mural is currently being developed for this underpass.

The Fraser Pass public realm scheme connects to Pitt Park, which is the next significant Urban Villages investment for the area, creating an attractive, safe and accessible shared space where families, children, and people of all ages can get active, have fun and enjoy the rich heritage of the area.

The development of EastSide Urban Village community tourism products, which link and span the area has been led by the community with support from cross-cutting partners. These projects mirror and interlink with the capital projects and the mural art connecting across the area.

All of these Urban Villages supported projects and developments have been achieved by working in partnership with community, across departments, council and ALBs, to create a joined up approach to this area-based transformational development; supporting communities to deliver a thriving and connected, transformed place.

## State of the Art Shared Performance Space

Designs have been submitted to planning for a new state-of-the-art shared performance space at the New Gate Arts and Cultural Centre in the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area.

This £1.7m investment is designed to enhance the local environment in the Fountain area and to create a welcoming and shared space for locals and visitors alike to participate and engage in theatre, music, dance and much more from across the Urban Village area and beyond.



The community partner is the North West Cultural Partnership and the project will be delivered by Derry City & Strabane District Council.



Latest Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine is now available to read online:  
<https://minprintpageflip.cld.bz/Urban-Villages-Focus-Magazine-ISSUE-10>

# 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



**The District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) is a match-funded good relations funding Programme delivered jointly by The Executive Office (TEO) and District Councils as part of the wider 'Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy.**



**In 2020/21 DCGRP has awarded £3.05m to the 11 councils to provide approximately 132 GR Programmes across all council areas.**



**Councils have developed programmes in line with current PHA guidelines and restrictions and are working on on-line solutions to enhance delivery.**

## Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council - St Andrew's Day Film Project

The Principal, staff and pupils of Fort Hill Integrated Primary School in Lisburn were delighted to premiere their St Andrew's Day film project recently, in partnership with LCCC Good Relations, to the Mayor and Lady Mayor of LCCC.

As an integrated school, they celebrate and explore the cultures and traditions of all their pupils, while at the same time, teaching the history and culture of the local community, especially the school's links with the Barbour family, who moved from Scotland in the late 1700s to set up linen mills in Lisburn.



The film project was developed because they wanted to showcase the talents of their pupils who receive music tuition through the Ulster-Scots Agency, which they usually do at their St Andrew's Assembly.

As the pupils are losing out on many learning experiences this year, it is good to have created some new ones!

The short film will be available for all to see on YouTube and on the LCC Council website. In this way, pupils, school governors, staff, parents, families and the local community will all be able to enjoy our celebration of St Andrew's Day (safely!).

Pupils from five classes took part in storytelling and performing. We hope you enjoy it....and if you do, we have two more film projects planned in the New Year, including Saint Patrick's Day.

## Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:  
**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 across Northern Ireland. 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



The 2020/21 CGRF has awarded over £3.2m to 98 good relations projects, and all expenditure and programme delivery must be completed by 31 March 2021. In what has been a very difficult and challenging year, funded groups have really excelled at adapting their programmes, given the current restrictions, to ensure delivery of activities and outcomes.



The 2021/22 CGRF will open for applications in January 2021. The CGRF team are hosting a number of CGRF funding fora in December and January and are offering one-to-one sessions for groups thinking about applying for CGRF funding. Please contact [GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) for further information.



If you want to know more about the CGRF check out The Executive Office website at: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/CGRF>

## Contact:

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

# Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI)

## Programme News

TAMHI, with thanks to support from TEO, rolled out another successful 'Girdwood for All initiative', despite the backdrop of Covid-19. Girdwood Community Hub is a purpose-built Shared Space in North Belfast. Once a contentious army barracks it is now a centre that champions peace and reconciliation.

TAMHI recruited 20 young people from two local partner schools, St Malachys College and Belfast Royal Academy, to participate in the programme. Only 4 young people had ever been inside Girdwood and were unfamiliar with its history.

The centre is based in North Belfast which has the highest number of interfaces and sadly the highest levels of suicide in the UK. They design all their programmes to challenge these issues.

Based on feedback and learning from previous years, TAMHI designed a 4-week learning and 4-week delivery framework called 'Reconciliation and Resilience'. The programme covered good relations, dealing with problems, anti-bullying (including discrimination) and coping skills.

TAMHI watched as 17 out of the 20 participants progressed through the programme, developing leadership skills and confidence - and when they delivered sessions to their peers TAMHI stood back in awe and amazement as they absolutely smashed it. They worked within the context of all Covid relevant risk assessments and protocols and, despite the restrictions which the senior coaches struggled with, stepped up.

The young people had to deal with issues around racism, language barriers and using play as communication, all the while resisting the 'high 5s' and similar appreciation from their peers, but they still remained warm and friendly.

They felt that Girdwood was a safe space - as do the staff who have worked in Girdwood since it was created. Everyone felt part of it and staff made the young people and the coaches feel part of it, with over 85% feeling it was a shared space for all.

Overall, despite various stops and starts and the procedures that had to be adhered to in line with Covid guidance, the young people stepped up, developed personally and grew in confidence and contributed to making Girdwood feel like a shared space for all.



# Peace IV and Peace Plus

## Programme News



**TEO is the accountable department for actions delivered by local authorities under 3 of the 4 thematic objectives of the PEACE IV Programme: Children and Young People; Shared Spaces and Services; and Building Positive Relations. Also included are the local authority action plans, the regional element of Building Positive Relations at local level and the provision of services for victims and survivors.**



**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 €1b.**

### Ards and North Down Borough Council – Celebration of Musical Traditions

Nugent's Wood in Portaferry is one of 4 of Ards and North Down Borough Council's PEACE IV 'Shared Spaces and Services' projects and is the first project to be completed. The work was carried out by contractor F.P. McCann and design consultants, AECOM. The work commenced prior to the pandemic and was completed in November 2020.

The National Trust acquired Nugent's Wood in 1983. The wood covers 13 hectares and was originally planted as a shelter belt to the adjoining Portaferry House Demesne. The 1.5-mile path through the woodland features views across Strangford Lough to the Castle Ward Estate. The project has provided improvements to the walking trail path and repairs to the existing stone wall. Additional drainage works as well as new seating, sculptures and entrance signage have been installed.

Visitors can now enjoy an even better experience at the beautiful National Trust site. The project was supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match-funding was provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



If you want to know more about PEACE IV, including videos and reports showcasing the activity and outcomes from the Programme, check out the website using the link below:

<https://www.seupb.eu/piv-overview>





# Community Relations Council

## Programme News

### Women's Stories of Resilience - 3 films dealing with legacy of the past and building a better future

Women from across the community recently came together to film 3 plays based on their own experiences from the past 30 years.

The project was a joint venture involving the Falls Women's Centre, Shankill Women's Centre, and Queens Park Women's Group, with volunteer support from the Community Relations Forum, and was funded through the Community Relations Council (CRC) Small Grants Scheme. The initiative gave the women the opportunity to tell their stories and to explore the past, as well as looking to the future.

Nancy Graham from Falls Women's Centre, said: "We wanted to create something funny and lively, but there was a need to address the experience of hurt and trauma too. With the help of community dramatist Jo Egan, we began to sketch out a plan for three films.

"Every line in each of the scripts was read through and discussed with the participants, in a supportive group setting. Any line or word that caused concern was taken out, mindful of the personal risk to some in talking too freely or being perceived as criticising their own. It was a collective process - we wanted every woman to feel happy about the final cut."

The three films are framed in the format of past, present, and future.

"The women shared very personal, sometimes painful, stories," Nancy explained. "But there was a lot of laughter! Which might surprise you - but the truth is, the women were glad to be out and involved again - and threw themselves so wholeheartedly into the project, it was a joy to be involved.

### Contact:

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

"We wanted to highlight women's contribution to peacebuilding, and create something lasting that would make our participants proud to be part of it. We felt there was a need for women to give voice to their very recent experience through lockdown - as mothers, caregivers, living alone, involved in community activism and more - recognising their own strengths and coping strategies, today as in the past."

Realising that the project would be intense, the organisers invited participants who had already engaged in Good Relations projects, and had experience of reflecting on the impact of conflict on their own and the "other" community.

"Jo Egan's experience informed the programme, which involved storytelling in single-identity groups; coming together for whole group discussion and editing of the scripts; whole group rehearsals; filming, and finally the launch," Nancy said. "The decision to allocate script lines randomly had a real impact. Any of the women you see in the films could be voicing the experience of another. Isn't that powerful?"



Future plans for the project include the organisations involved taking the films out to other community groups as part of a Good Relations programme.

# T:BUC - in pictures





# What's happening...

CRC has opened their annual Good Relations Award for 2021 - you can download the nomination form here: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/nominations-now-open-good-relations-award-2021>

Further information on the T:BUC Strategy can be found at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/good-relations-and-social-change/together-building-united-community-tbuc>

# T:buc

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