

T:buc

Changing for the better, together



T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



Northern Ireland
Executive

Introduction



I am delighted to present this issue of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter for our 'Good Relations Across the Atlantic' event. For the first time ever we are bringing an international flavour to the day, with input from community organisations both here and from Boston, Massachusetts. This is very fitting given the Sister City Agreement between Belfast and Boston. It is a truly exciting opportunity to share learning, discover more about what building a community means in Boston and understand first-hand how good relations work is being delivered in another part of the world.

In organising this meeting of the Forum, we have had huge support from Robert Mauro of Boston College, which welcomes around 15,000 students each year and is currently the 35th ranked university in America. I would like to thank Robert for taking the time to make this happen – a great example of personal commitment and the ongoing US interest in NI. Robert has provided an article for the newsletter which you can read on page 3.

Our Keynote Speaker for the Forum from across the Atlantic is William B. Evans, Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police at Boston College and former Commissioner in the Boston Police Department. You can read more about Chief Evans on Page 4 and I am very grateful to Chief Evans for making himself available.

You will also hear from three Boston based groups throughout the course of today and I have no doubt there will be shared learning points for us all to take away regarding how they deliver their work. On Page 5 you can learn more about Operation Homefront, Youth Connect and Roca. Along with Commissioner Evans, it is a privilege to have them involved. It is also a privilege to be able to share our experience from here through the work of YouthLink, the Irish Football Association and St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre.

This meeting of the Forum is of course taking place during Good Relations Week 2021. While Good

Relations work takes place every day, this is one week of the year where good relations work is firmly in the limelight. It provides a huge opportunity to highlight and engage with the vast amount of work that is delivered across the community, to reflect on successes and to share the challenges. I hope that you will be able to take the time to attend some of the 250 or so events taking place – whether that be online or in person. As always, the Community Relations Council are co-ordinating a wide-ranging programme and I would like to thank them for their leadership, vision and support.

This issue includes latest progress on the seven T:BUC Headline Actions as well as examples of exciting projects (Pages 6-21). Even after 18 months of lockdowns and social restrictions, the commitment to the delivery of innovative, interesting and impactful cross-community activities is as strong as ever. It hasn't been easy but there is even more for everyone involved to be proud of.

Finally, on Page 22 you can read the profile of community worker Marie-Louise McClarey of the Building Communities Resource Centre. Marie-Louise ends her article by recommending that everyone should take time to take a broader view – and in one sense, this meeting of the Engagement Forum is enabling all its attendees to do just that. Looking beyond our shores to the work that is being undertaken in communities on the East Coast of America will broaden our perspective and give us fresh ideas and showcase the work we do to an international audience.

All of this work is made possible by the support of the Executive's T:BUC Strategy. I wanted to take this opportunity to mention some important staff moves within the Executive Office. Jayne Brady has taken up the position of the Head of the Civil Service. She joins our organisation at a time of great challenges but also great opportunities and she has already asked about opportunities to visit and learn more about GR programmes. Gareth Johnston has been temporarily promoted to Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations Directorate, and Denis McMahan has joined the Department from DAERA as Permanent Secretary. Each brings huge wealth of experience to their roles and I know they look forward to supporting, encouraging and celebrating good relations achievements.

Richard Cushnie

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

Looking back...

T:BUC Engagement Forum: May 2021 – Our Safe Community



On 18 May, The Executive Office (TEO) and Community Relations Council (CRC) held another online meeting of the T:BUC Engagement Forum, hosted by TEO's Chris Stewart. The theme was "Our Safe Community" and focused on the T:BUC Shared Aim: "To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety."

The meeting provided an opportunity to hear from the people and organisations involved in the delivery of T:BUC and promotion of a safe community.

Input was provided by a range of speakers including central government officials, academics, community practitioners and others – all of whom demonstrated the creativity of individuals and

organisations who are involved in the pursuit of peacebuilding and finding new and interesting ways to create a safe community.

Key presentations included:

- An overview of the Department of Justice Interface Programme – Michael McAvoy;
- Belfast Interface Project – Shared Futures Community Planning Toolkit – Paul Smyth and Professor Peter Bloom; and
- St. Columb's Park House – Interface work at Tullyally/Currynerin – Becca Bor.

Participants had the opportunity:

- To learn about interventions and good practise currently being delivered in the furtherance of a safer community;
- To gain a better understanding of the issues and challenges for good relations and diversity work in the delivery of T:BUC; and
- To get an insight into successful practical actions that have been undertaken to strengthen and embrace the impact of T:BUC and Our Safe Community.

The presentations were followed by a highly informative Q&A session facilitated by TEO's Chris Gardner.

Looking forward...

CRC's **Small Grants Scheme** is now open - deadline: Monday 1 November 2021

Publication Grant Scheme is now open – deadline: Friday 14 January 2022

Media Grant Scheme - opening soon

Core Fund Scheme will re-open for 2022/23 bids in September 2021.

Find out more at: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding>

Engaging with the US

Bob Mauro, Boston College



It is often claimed by visitors that Boston is a small town. Traveling from Logan Airport to Boston's financial district, a mere 4 miles, walking the Freedom Trail and experiencing the heart of the American revolution in less than 3 miles, or learning that Boston is only the 24th most populated city in the United States, visitors can be forgiven for claiming that Boston is a small town. As a proud native of Massachusetts, I take umbrage at that claim.

Boston is both a small town and big city. How can it be that Boston is both a small town and big city at the same time? The Boston metropolitan area is made up of discrete, sometimes segregated, neighborhoods and towns. The city of Boston itself is a patch-work of neighborhoods, each distinct, and with the ability to create divisions between people. And reaching just beyond the city limits of Boston, a series of small towns that in most other metropolitan areas would have been annexed into a larger urban entity, help to create divisions between people by wealth, income, class, race, and ethnic identity.

What's the trouble with West Roxbury? Earlier this year, two Boston School Committee members resigned over a text exchange in which one said, "I am sick of westie whites". The exchange took place during a school committee

meeting about access to and the inclusive nature of Boston's exam schools. It implied that the White population of West Roxbury - about 67% of the total residents of the neighborhood of West Roxbury identify as White compared to 52% for the entire city of Boston - did not want to open access to Boston's most competitive schools. The subsequent media scrum around this drew on Bostonians' memories of the desegregation of the Boston Public Schools and the wider race-riots that were associated with the desegregation process, among other now infamous incidents of racial, ethnic, and cultural tension in the city.

So, where is Boston now? Despite Boston's history, the obvious tensions between communities, and the ongoing wider examination of race, ethnicity, culture and equity in America, there are encouraging examples of good relations and unity between communities. The Boston Police Department has maintained mechanisms to encourage community engagement and dialogue. METCO - a voluntary school desegregation program - has continued to support students who live in the city of Boston to study in school districts of those wealthy small towns in the Boston metropolitan area. And the next mayor of Boston - if the current polls are accurate - will likely be a woman of color. So, there are reasons to be optimistic about community relations in Boston.

Ultimately, however, it is individuals and their experience of community relations that matter. As long as individuals continue to face racial, ethnic, and cultural challenges to realizing equity and inclusion, good relations and unity will continue to suffer at the community level. Those Bostonians speaking in the "Good Relations Across the Atlantic" forum will help to illuminate the judgments their fellow citizens are making about community relations in Boston today.

Keynote Speaker - William B. Evans, Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police, Boston College

William Evans joined Boston College as the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police in August 2018. He is responsible for delivering police services and ensuring the safety of the Boston College community, including students, employees, and those who visit the campus.

Chief Evans came to Boston College after serving in the Boston Police Department (BPD) for 38 years, rising to the rank of Police Captain. As Police Captain, he covered the Allston-Brighton district of the City of Boston, working with the community and colleges such as Boston College, Harvard University, Boston University, and other institutions. Later he was commander of District 4 which covered the South End, Back Bay, Lower Roxbury and Fenway area of the city, dealing with violence and community concerns.

He was later appointed as Superintendent Chief of Patrol in the BDP, followed by service as the Police Commissioner of the BDP from 2013 to 2018. Commissioner Evans has had major roles in some of Boston's most notable situations, such as the peaceful decampment of the 70-day occupation of Dewey Square by Occupy Boston, the capture of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect, as well as oversight of the planning and security of all major events including parades, sporting events and demonstrations.

Under Commissioner Evans' leadership, open dialogue, transparency, and thousands of community interactions helped to increase trust and community engagement between the BPD and the community. This community policing philosophy was a part of the day-to-day operations of the department and was a leading force behind the reductions in crime across the city and in every category that the BPD experienced. This was often achieved without locking people up for less serious crimes and diverting young people away from the criminal justice system, through numerous programs and initiatives.



Commissioner Evans holds a Bachelor of Science in Government from Suffolk University and a Master of Public Administration in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, FBI National Executive Institute, the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, and the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Naval Postgraduate School. Commissioner Evans has also completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government as well as the General and Flag Officer Homeland Security Executive Seminar at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has received several certificates from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in subjects ranging from homeland security to preparedness leadership.

He is active in several professional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Major Cities Chiefs Association. Additionally, he has attended the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative and the Meta Leadership Executive Sessions, a collaboration of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Harvard School of Public Health.

Operation Homefront



Rev Mark Scott, Director Division of Violence Protection, Boston Department of Public Health

The Boston Police Department's Operation Homefront is a national award-winning collaboration between the School Police Unit, Youth Violence Strike Force, Boston Public School Police as well as community- and faith-based organizations. This programme operates under the premise that the family provides the first line of defence against gang and criminal activity among youth.

Following a referral, law enforcement officers, Boston Public Schools, service providers, or clergy may conduct weekly home visits to inform parents or guardians about their child's behaviour and to educate them about the warning signs of criminal and/or gang involvement.

This effort sends a strong message to identified youth that neither their school, their community, nor, most importantly, their home will tolerate their actions. In situations that warrant additional services, the School Police Unit will make referrals to social workers at Youth Connect.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston – YouthConnect

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston work to ensure that all young people in the community have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

The Boston Police Department, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, created YouthConnect (formerly known as the Youth Service Providers Network). With focus on Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, and the South End neighbourhoods, YouthConnect places social workers in the district stationhouses and specialised units to work with

at-risk youth and their families. Participants also work with the Youth Violence Strike Force and the School Police Unit.



Adrienne Wallace Lawrence, Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston

Roca Inc



Molly Baldwin, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Roca, Inc

Roca's mission is to be a relentless force in disrupting incarceration, poverty and racism by engaging the young adults, police, and systems at the centre of urban violence in relationships to address trauma, find hope, and drive change.



Chianta Mack, Roca Inc

What's Been Happening Locally

T:BUC Camps Programme



118 groups are currently delivering T:BUC Camps.



Delivery is ongoing until the end of February 2022.



Due to the ongoing pandemic, many groups have been unable to carry out delivery in a residential setting, and instead have been delivering their camps over three consecutive days and incorporating online methods of engagement. Many groups have extended the end dates of their camp to give participants a more rounded experience.

Planned Interventions Programme



112 groups have been awarded funding to deliver projects under the Planned Interventions Programme.



Delivery of all projects is expected to be complete by end of Sept 2021.



Many groups have reported a noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) within their area as a result of the programme.



Many groups have delivered social action projects (e.g. clean ups, providing elderly with plant boxes, arranging community fun days) to benefit their local communities.

T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors



33 Ambassadors have been recruited to the 2021-22 programme.



Ambassadors have been working collaboratively with DfC Uniting Communities Ambassadors in the planning of GR Week 2021 with each set of Ambassadors hosting an event for GR Week 2021.



Ambassadors are working on an OCN in Uniting Communities in Leadership.



We are working with the Washington Ireland Programme (WIP) to explore opportunities the WIP have to offer to our Ambassadors.



A Programme Report is being created to showcase the work of the Ambassadors Programme.



Scotch Street Youth & Community Centre (SSYCS) in partnership with Youthlink NI - delivering T:BUC Camps 2020-21 during the pandemic

Andrew Topley, Leader in Charge at Scotch Street Youth and Community Centre (SSYCC) in Portadown, shares his experience of delivering a T:BUC Camp during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Our T:BUC group consisted of 18 young people (13 girls and 5 boys) aged between 12 and 17 years and of four different nationalities.

We were absolutely delighted when Youthlink NI asked us to partner with them. We knew that the opportunity, even online, to do a T:BUC project during a pandemic was too good an opportunity to turn down. I knew the young people would benefit through meeting new people, learning new things and having some structure in their daily lives.

Throughout delivery we experienced many challenges. My team and I spent a lot of time designing, planning and adapting the programme to make it suitable for online delivery.

Before each online session a meal was delivered to the home of each participant, which provided them with an opportunity to eat together (albeit virtually!) as a group before we started our work. We found this worked extremely well, creating a comfortable and positive atmosphere. Content covered during the camp included:

- Introduction & Teambuilding
- Personal Identity
- Understanding Preconceptions & Stereotypes
- Prejudice & Discrimination
- Sports Sessions
- Baking Workshop
- Quiz Night
- Our own diversity
- Flags & Symbols
- Conflict Transformation
- Personal Reflection

Throughout our project it was apparent that there were certain young people who seemed to naturally take on and develop a leadership role within the group. This was great to see as it meant when we went into the virtual breakout rooms the work was truly youth-led. The respect shown by everyone involved, especially when it

came to listening to each other's opinions and being quiet while someone else was speaking, was great to witness.

As part of our project we hosted an online assessment evening. Comments from the young people on their experiences of T:BUC Camps included:

"I have really enjoyed attending each week as it seems like we are all family now."

"I have met new friends and they all seem to like me."

"It really helped me realise that we have so much in common with people from different religious backgrounds and we are really quite similar."

As a leadership team we feel that our T:BUC project was a great success. The participants involved were challenged by the work and developed a better understanding of good relations issues within their area.

It was evident that the young people really enjoyed their T:BUC Camp. Taking the time to eat and socialise together during each session allowed the young people to relax and feel comfortable, which led to some very honest feedback within the sessions.

We now have all the young people from this T:BUC Camp registered as members of SSYCC. We are looking to build on the successes of this project by providing further programmes and provision to assist their growth and development.

We are really looking forward to doing more T:BUC projects in the near future.



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>

Uniting Communities Programme

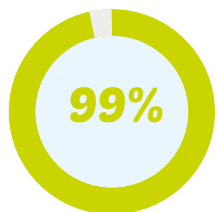
Programme summary

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.

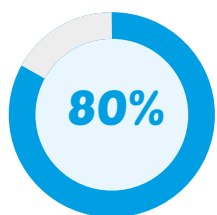


Programme News

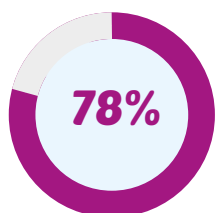
Headline evaluation data from T:BUC Uniting Communities in 2020/21 shows that, despite being significantly impacted by COVID, 183 young people engaged through the medium of sports, physical and creative activity, with a strong youth leadership aspect. The programme engaged 15 Young Leaders and Ambassadors:



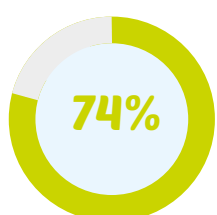
Young people satisfied with quality of training



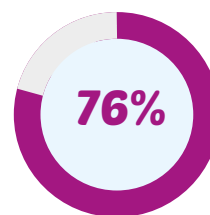
Young people reporting increased confidence



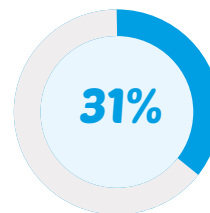
Young people reporting positive attitudes towards people from other religious backgrounds



Young people reporting positive attitudes towards people from other ethnic backgrounds



Young people making a new friend from a different religious background



Young people making a new friend from a different ethnic background

T:BUC Ambassadors engaged with the Good Relations Week steering group led by the Community Relations Council, representing the voice of young people on the group and assisting in the co-design of Good Relations Week 2021. Along with T:BUC Camps Ambassadors, they met with Junior Ministers Kearney and Lyons to discuss issues around youth leadership.

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
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>

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

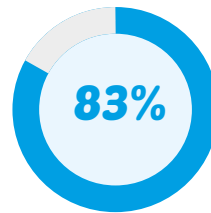


1,700 programme participants currently on Phase 2 of the Programme.

% of Participants surveyed who indicated they were going to progress to education, training, employment or voluntary/ community engagement:



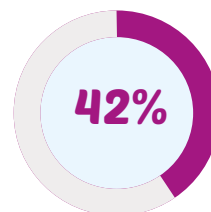
Over 3,600 Phase 2 participants have completed the programme.



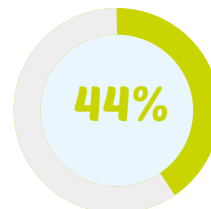
to education/training



Over 2,000 Phase 2 participants are in receipt of an incentive payment.



to employment (including apprenticeships)



to voluntary/ community engagement

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
info@seupb.eu



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



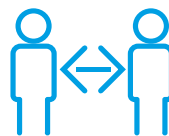
During 2021/22 there are a total of 37 Community-Led projects ongoing, with an investment of £1.27m, to support capacity-building and fostering positive community identities across the Urban Village areas.



44 capital projects have been completed to date. £18.5m of capital investment has been spent 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 2022.



Cross-cutting projects, covering themes such as: education; employability; tourism and heritage; and capacity-building span the five Urban Village areas and involve partnerships with a wide range of partners from the statutory, education and voluntary and community sectors.



Good Relations statistics from project activities reflect that 88% of participants are subsequently more likely to take part in shared activities with people from a different background; and the same percentage (88%) agree that different cultures and traditions are important for the richness and diversity of society.

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
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>

Interface location transformed into Sensory Garden

The Urban Villages Initiative is supporting the development of a sensory garden in North Belfast that will give the community a space to be proud of.

The new sensory Garden at North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project (NBWISP) will aid healing for local members of the community, not only for those who need support with their physical and mental health, but also those who just need five minutes of downtime to stop and reflect on their day.

Locally there is a culture of social isolation where barriers between residents are commonplace. The sensory garden will give the community a space which is accessible, social and safe, contributing to a greater sense of belonging and a place where new friendships can be made.

The garden will bring activity into the public area, transforming a derelict, underused and contentious space into a community facility that can be enjoyed by all sections of the local community.

Alex Crossley, NBWISP Co-ordinator said:

"The area in which we are developing the sensory garden is situated against a 60ft peace wall and had been derelict for over 12 years, it had become a dumping ground and was very unattractive."

"Through participation in the garden, people will start talking to one another. As the plants grow, so will friendships, often forged across cultural barriers, challenging stereotypes and an historical suspicion of strangers."



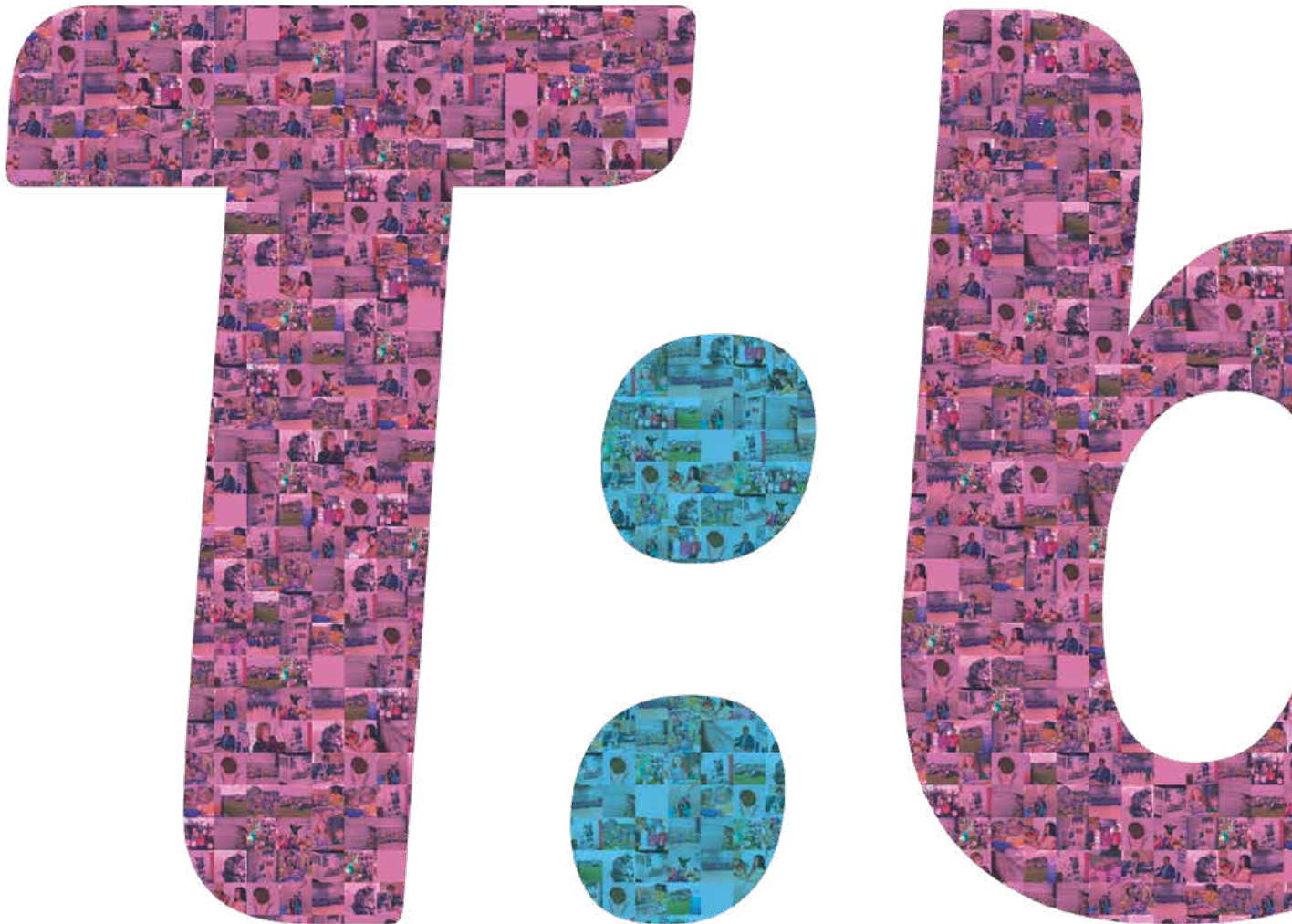
What is it?

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

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 two 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 undertaking 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.

and sixth form pupils. The project represents an investment of over £11million by the Department of Education with funding allocated through the Fresh Start Agreement.



Limavady Shared Education Campus

The Department of Education is pleased to announce that work is continuing on Limavady Shared Education Campus (LSEC), which encompasses Limavady High School and St Mary's High School Limavady. With work formally beginning in April 2021, the facilities are now starting to take shape with works on the learning support rooms on the St Mary's High School site ready for use. External foundations and construction work is currently ongoing on both sites with the staff and pupils excited to see the project taking shape.

Works are expected to be completed in early 2023 with the new shared facilities including a new high-tech building for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and a new study and common rooms for careers, drama, media



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 Shared Housing Programme is currently delivering 45 shared housing developments. Each development is supported through the establishment of an Advisory Group and the development/delivery of a five-year Good Relations Plan.



21 schemes (718 homes) have completed and 24 schemes (762 homes) are under construction.



22 Advisory Groups have been established; some Advisory Groups support several schemes.



£123m has been invested in the Shared Housing Programme.



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>

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



North Howard Street Gates Replacement

North Howard Street runs between Falls Road and Cupar Way. There are two sets of gates and associated fencing which close North Howard Street between 6.30pm and 6.30am every day: one set is adjacent to the entrance of Twin Spires Industrial Estate close to Cupar Way; and the other set is towards the Falls Road end of North Street. Both sets of gates are manually operated with padlocks.

The existing gates close to Cupar Way were in poor condition and needed to be replaced. In addition to this work, the old green military style gate which gives access to the Hodges building site also needed replaced with a new security gate.

Following consultation with local community groups through the Falls and Shankill Forum it was agreed to proceed with a design and colour which matched the existing set at Falls Road end. Considerable community benefits were noted to the design of the new gates including: visual amenity; improved passive surveillance; enhanced Health & Safety through installation of pedestrian access gates on both pavements; the reconfiguration of new gates to widen road enhanced visibility for motorists; and a potential reduction in the opportunity for graffiti. The Department of Infrastructure agreed to install a full time waiting restriction (double yellow lines) on parts of North Howard Street which will also address health and safety concerns and reduce the risk of possible accidents/injuries. The new gates were installed in May 2021.



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>

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.



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



The new 'PEACE PLUS' programme is expected to be in the region of €1bn. A public statutory consultation on the draft Programme launched on 10 March and closed on 12 May. Feedback from the consultation is being considered by SEUPB and any necessary amendments will be made.



It is currently anticipated that the programme will be agreed late 2021/early 2022.

Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACE IV Programme

Despite the Covid pandemic, the local **Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACE IV Programme** has crossed the finish line. The €6.7 million programme reached around 7000 participants across 69 sustained cross-community reconciliation projects – reaching the targets in spite of the devastating impact of the pandemic has been a massive achievement. The closing event was held via Zoom on 2 June 2021. SEUPB and Match Funding Departments provided video input into the event.

Children and Young People's Theme - work on this theme reached 2500 long-term sustained participants across 6 main contracted projects sub-divided into over 24 smaller projects. Highlights included: health and wellbeing work; NW Ministry of Youth creating a structured engagement and representation model for young adult voices locally; and the 'Let's Talk' projects which engaged around cultural diversity and racism, sexual orientation and gender, disability, wellbeing and mental health.

The Youth Leadership, Government Ambassadors, Youth Street Art, LEAD project, Business Youth Charter and Pilot Youth Zone projects have equipped young people across a range of interests and areas of society. The North West Cultural Partnership over-achieved on an impressive tendered cross-cultural project reaching around 800 children and young people on inclusive Ulster-Scots, Irish, Marching Band and diversity arts-based programming.

Shared Spaces and Services Theme - work on this theme reached 1500 long-term sustained participants across 12 projects. These included capital builds – a Walled Garden in St.Columb's Park and a shared space at the Castle site in Castlederg, as well as projects in 3 designated interface areas (Bogside/Fountain, Tullyally/Currynierin, Irish Street/Top of the Hill), 4 geographical shared space projects (Newtownstewart, Strabane, Castlederg and Bonds Street/Shepherds Glen/Triangle), two thematic/services-based shared space projects (Peace Tourism and Bonfires/Alternatives) and a large scale inter-generational cross-community programming project in the Waterside Shared Village (including delivery of possibly the first cross-interface summer scheme in Northern Ireland).

Building Positive Relations Theme - around 2000 long-term sustained participants were reached via 15 projects and 18 small grants. Delivery mechanisms included council-led projects, tenders and small grants. Projects employed wide ranging approaches – community

development, culture and traditions, environment, sport, history and heritage, dialogue, conferences, training, public anti-prejudice campaigns, capacity building, faith, arts and culture and research to engage in cross-community reconciliation work.

Community-led projects included: work with marginalised and/or disabled young people via Youth Action's Beacon Project, 'From Patriarchy to Gender Justice', a project by The Junction, highlighting ground-breaking work around the issue of patriarchy in reconciliation; and 'Valued Voices' which ensured that victims/survivors were given space to be heard. A Nerve Centre, 'Creative Centenaries' project delivered wide-ranging work around the Decade of Centenaries, while the 'CultureFuse' project demonstrated how Irish, Ulster-Scots and Marching Band cultures are able to engage positively to bring added value and recognition to diverse cultures. The 'Beyond Tokenism' Minority Inclusion programme had a specific focus on the strategic priorities identified by local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents.

In Council-led projects, the 'One Community' project ensured that groups had opportunities to engage and design projects across all of our 8 District Electoral Areas/Local Growth Plan areas; Riverine delivered on significant environmental and cross-border work in the Strabane/Lifford and Derg areas and a sports and identity programme engaged across 6 sports.

The 18 small grants reached around 700 participants and despite being the area of the programme hit hardest by the Covid pandemic, delivered a wonderful array of projects with diverse communities. Using delivery ideas as diverse as cycling to household research, Gaelic games and rugby to accredited training, drama to history projects, they've made a radical difference.

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.



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



In 2021/22, the Central Good Relations Fund has awarded over £3m to 86 projects aiming to positively impact on approximately 40,000 participants across Northern Ireland.



These CGRF programmes with a good relations focus also include a wide range of activities such as sport, music, arts, personal development, leadership, educational attainment, mental health and reconciliation, to engage with and make a difference in local communities.



The CGRF team have been working with the 86 successful groups to agree detailed final activities, costings, outputs and outcomes which form the Letter of Offer. This is a vital part of the process that refines and shapes each programme to ensure optimum delivery of good relations projects and T:BUC outcomes, and is of a real benefit to those delivering projects.



Martial Arts Peace – Bridging Communities (MAP-BC)

‘Martial Arts Peace – Bridging Communities’ (MAP-BC) is the fourth project delivered in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area by a local organisation, the Zanshin Shotokan Karate Club. The project follows on from three previous successful T:BUC projects funded through the Central Good Relations Fund. The project sustains, builds and expands cross-community relations and contact of 100 young people from Coleraine, Ballymoney, Greysteel, Ballykelly, Upperlands, Garvagh and Kilrea.

The 100 participants from the above areas would not normally engage or interact with each other and are specifically chosen to be from different laterals of the NI community. The project provides them with an opportunity to take part in martial arts with a good relations focus, through bonding events and informative practical workshops which include: cross-community classes (online); certificate of merits (online); good relations workshops (online); competitions; and quarterly quizzes. (Parents also took part in the quizzes, providing good relations to indirect participants.)

A celebration event was held at the end of the project and included presentation of awards to the participants, for example for best attendance and best promoter of Good Relations.

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

The following comments from participants show the “real” impact that the funding is having:

“We had only moved to the area before the pandemic and my son joined classes in September. It has become one of his most social hours of the day, and he has made lots of new friends from where we live but also friends from other community backgrounds, especially during the club’s quiz nights”.

“The classes have been one of the most consistent things in my daughter’s life since the pandemic, and the Good Relations information and sport discipline given has been more impactful and important than school teachings online!”

“Before starting the project my daughter’s behaviour was becoming increasingly worrying as she was interacting with a “negative crowd” which would have participated in bullying of others. Since starting the project these incidents in which my daughter is involved, have decreased dramatically, and I am very thankful - I am pleased my daughter is learning to respect others.”

The MAP-BC project, although not conducted in the way that Zanshin had planned or expected due to COVID, was able to sustain its participants and deliver on all aims and objectives set out during the project development stage. The group adapted well and focused on ensuring that their participants received just as good of a project online as what they would have done in person.

Many have reported that the consistency and stability of the classes and teachings was a saviour during lockdown. The children learnt more about others during this project than any other as there was more time to communicate and interact throughout the year via online platforms.

The changes in attitudes is evident throughout the project through the development of unlikely friendships, increased compassion and specifically the eagerness to learn about their.

The project’s enrolment did not drop under 95 throughout the whole project which was a huge boost for Zanshin as their reputation for good relations, cross-community work and yearly karate projects continues to grow.



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



All DCGRP Letters of Offer have been issued for 2021/22.



TEO has awarded £3.05m to the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland to deliver 133 Good Relations Programmes across all Council areas targeting approximately 105,000 participants.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's Children and Young People Formative Years Project

The Good Relations Audit suggested that schools provide opportunities for children and young people to engage, build relationships and integrate with each other, thus playing an important role in supporting good relations work.

The Mid and East Antrim Good Relations team developed the Formative Years project, which is a cross-community programme funded through the District Councils Good Relations Programme, aimed at nursery school children. Research has shown that opinions and prejudices are formed in the formative years and this programme was developed in an age-appropriate way to form positive relationships at an early age. In 2021, it was professionally re-designed into an on-line, remote teaching model of creative learning and play which meet strict Health & Safety guidelines, including the ability to deliver through home schooling. The programme was fun, educational, age-appropriate and directly engaged teachers and parents, as well as pupils.

Three nurseries from across community backgrounds (212 children and 8 teachers) participated in this programme which was delivered in partnership with Artsekta. The

programme involved story-telling from around the world as well as each pupil receiving a cultural activity box which contained activities introducing them to cultures from around the world. The activities could be undertaken both in school and also at home with parents. This has been a very successful programme and although data in regards to outcomes are still being analysed, below can be found some quotes from participants:

"She really enjoyed the arts and crafts that was provided."

"Kids really enjoyed the activities. We do appreciate these kind of initiatives so that children can learn about other cultures and diversity. We would definitely recommend and would love to participate in future."

"Brilliant set of resources! My child loved learning about different cultural traditions and has been playing with all context of the box since receiving. Well done, and thanks to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council."

"Provided a lovely opportunity to help me learn more about cultural backgrounds in an engaging way."

"A very useful programme which helped the child to learn more about diversity."

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
District.CouncilGR@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Meet...

Marie-Louise McClarey, Building Communities Resource Centre (BCRC)



Q1. Tell us about your journey in delivering good relations work.

I volunteered for a local village group at the age of 19, at a public meeting of a DoE CRISP project - I was the only young person to do so at the time. I had an interest in developing the local area and improving lives in the local community during the Troubles. The village was predominantly single identity however the Board was cross-community. This started my journey of actively collaborating with different people from different backgrounds to better the village and provide amenities.

I left the group to go to Uni - when I was there I volunteered as a student representative of a wide range of UK and international students, lobbying for improved course developments.

On leaving tertiary education, employment was difficult - this was pre-Ceasefire - so I volunteered again in 5 different groups. One was a festival committee where I worked with people from different backgrounds to deliver a

week-long festival - CRC funding was my first introduction to funding and my first introduction to trying to deliver outcomes on the ground to improve good relations, with music as the connector. We rolled out different drums training, instrument making, understanding languages and Scots and Irish traditional music. My experience with CRC funding and my volunteer experiences led me to applying for local community jobs around the time of Peace I. I eventually secured a job as a funding officer with a NI-wide organisation which opened the window of trying to tackle segregated housing, education, church etc. It was my job to assist with the funding of 450 groups to help bring people together or enhance single identity areas through housing, environmental, social and economic projects.

This was the launchpad for other EU Peace projects and I have been salaried and funded from Peace I, II, II Extension, III and IV and also an Interreg III project including cross border and international work.

Q2. Tell me one thing about yourself your colleagues wouldn't know, and some things you like doing outside work.

My colleagues may not know I'm learning Irish. Outside work I like to draw with chalk pastels.

Q3. Briefly describe the good relations project(s) you are involved in.

Currently I'm involved in 2 projects as the manager of staff delivering at the coalface. I oversee the Minority Ethnic development work and the Community Relations Outreach project. I support the staff and get involved in some of the recruiting, PR, strategic development, programme development, research, community engagement, Zoom meetings, face-to-face meetings etc. My favourite time is engaging directly with the community and I wish I could do more.

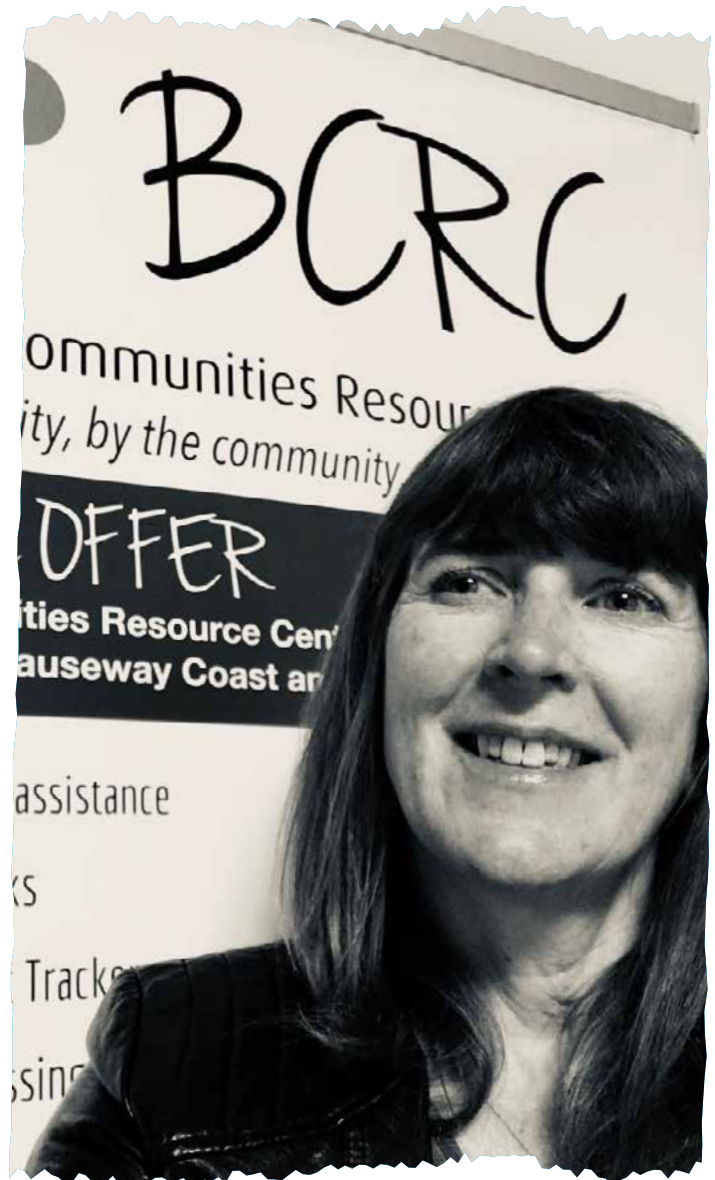
Q4. How have you found working with TEO / CRC on the project(s)?

Both TEO and CRC are excellent – they are great teams to work with and help us in so many ways – advice and guidance, PR, support meetings etc.

Q5. How has focusing on outcomes helped inform the design and delivery of good relations projects you have been a part of?

I have always been outcomes-focused and driven as a community worker – you want people to learn more about each other and share views and histories in order to alter their perceptions of others – and I try to be mindful of where people are coming from and moving to, with changed attitudes, including myself. We are learning all the time about the people we live side-by-side with – it is in acceptance of the diverse nature of society and increased knowledge of each other that we gain confidence in ourselves and understanding with others.

I always recommend that there should be a time away from NI for everyone.



Further information
If you would like to know more about the projects Marie-Louise mentions, you can contact the The Resource Centre at www.theresourcecentre.org



T:BUC - in pictures





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

T:buc

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