

T:buc

Changing for the better, together



T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022



Northern Ireland
Executive

Introduction



And lastly but by no means least I would highly recommend that you read the profile of Lynda Whinnery, on page 29 detailing her journey as a cross community youth worker and more recently as the Regional Good Relations Manager from Youth Initiatives NI.

Richard Cushnie

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

I am delighted to present this issue of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter, the fourth edition to be published online. As usual, this issue includes brief updates on the seven T:BUC Headline Actions as well as examples of projects being delivered through various funding streams. It is really great to see that the commitment to the delivery of innovative, interesting and impactful cross-community activities is just as strong as ever.

As always, the Community Relations Council are co-ordinating a wide-ranging programme for this Forum and I hope that you will be able to take the time to attend some of the presentations.

The theme of this meeting of the Forum is 'Engaging with the Business Sector and we are hoping to provide participants with:

- The opportunity to learn more about T:BUC and how it is being delivered across NI;
- An understanding of examples of interventions and good practise being delivered by the business community demonstrating the positive impact they have on society and some of our most challenging community issues;
- The opportunity to understand the issues and challenges for good relations and diversity work in the delivery of T:BUC; and
- An insight into successful practical actions that have been delivered to strengthen and embrace the impact of T:BUC in our community.

Looking back...

T:BUC Engagement Forum: September 2021 – Across the Atlantic

On 21st September the Executive Office (TEO) and Community Relations Council (CRC) hosted an international Engagement Forum in collaboration with Boston College as a flagship event during Good Relations Week.

The theme was 'Good Relations across the Atlantic' and the event focused on showcasing progress made in Northern Ireland to an international audience. The meeting provided an opportunity to hear key note speeches from prominent academics alongside presentations on project delivery from community representatives from both Northern Ireland and the United States. Presentations were 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 for project delivery.

The Forum was opened by Gareth Johnston, the acting Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations in TEO followed by Eamonn McConville, Deputy Director of the NI Bureau in Washington D.C. and Paul Narain the US Consul General. Bill Evans from Boston College presented an overview of community work in the US followed by two young participants from the PeacePlayers NI programme, AJ and Rachel who related a truly inspiring story of positive change.

The first community based session featuring project delivery was provided by Molly Baldwin and Chianta Mack from Roca Inc and Gordon Woolsey from Youthlink who highlighted his work in the delivery of the TRANSFORM project. The second session featured Adrienne Wallace Lawrence from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston alongside Chris Wright a Community Relations Officer from the Irish Football Association who discussed the work of the Connect programme.

Attendees at the Forum then heard from Rev Mark Scott the Director of Violence Protection Division in the Boston Department of Public Health and Gavin King, Head of Good Relations FICT and T:BUC Camps alongside Stephen Hughes from St Peters Youth Centre. The presentations were then followed by an informative question and answer session facilitated by Chris Gardner from TEO which included discussion on youth engagement, collaboration and peacebuilding; and the sharing of ideas to help improve future delivery in the respective countries.

A recording of this Engagement Forum may be viewed on CRC's web site at <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/tbuc-live-videos-good-relations-across-atlantic>

Looking forward...

Here are some notable dates for your diaries

- CRC's **Good Relations Award ceremony** will take place online on 31 March 2022 - tickets will be available soon
- CRC's **Shared learning Forum** will take place 24 March 2022 - to register contact Paul on pkillen@nicrc.org.uk

CRC News stories

- Our Peace Our Stories web resource <https://ourpeaceourstories.com/>
- Ripples of Peace - Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/ripples-peace-community-relations-schools>
- Early Years (children's organisation) on the importance of training and support <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/early-years-importance-training-and-support>
- Shared Housing and the benefits of cultural diversity <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/shared-housing-benefits-cultural-diversity-ni-executive>
- Building Communities Resource Centre (BCRC) launched their book "Voices" which marked 100 years of Northern Ireland <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/bcrc-book-launch-voices-marking-100-years-northern-ireland>
- Park Youth and the effects of a Three-Day Residential with St Columb's Park House <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/park-youth-and-three-day-residential-effect-st-columbs-park-house>
- CRC has launched a new documentary series of interviews with Peacemakers in Northern Ireland to explore their personal journey. They are currently seeking new people to interview - please contact mmcglade@nicrc.org.uk if you wish to participate. The news article is here: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/olive-hobson-peacemaker-series-northern-ireland-community-relations-council> and the full YouTube playlist is here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGpNmOaiE6-T13knUg1F7aR4bsQKOhipi0>

What's Been Happening

T:BUC Camps Programme



Since 2015, 644 Camps have been delivered to around 22,000 young people.



A further 112 Camps are being delivered in 2021/22.

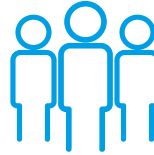


Over £8m has been awarded to the Programme since 2015.



T:BUC Camps Programme 22/23 closed for applications on 31 January 2022 and the assessment process is in progress.

T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme



The Ambassadors Programme provides opportunities for participants of the T:BUC Camps Programme to further develop their leadership skills and gain an accredited qualification in youth leadership.



33 Ambassadors were appointed in 2021/22.



The Washington Ireland Programme developed and delivered a bespoke Community Forum on the subject of mental health to a group of 16 T:BUC Camps and DfC Uniting Communities Ambassadors in January 2022.

Planned Interventions Programme



In 2021 £400k of funding was awarded for the delivery of 107 projects.



The Planned Interventions Programme 2022/23 will launch in March 2022.

T:BUC Trees



This initiative provides opportunities for young people from all backgrounds taking part in the T:BUC Camps Programme to learn more about environmental issues and contribute to tree planting initiatives.



In 2021 600 trees were planted in the Belfast Hills by over 100 young people.



In 2022 a tree planting day, for T:BUC Good Relations Ambassadors, is being arranged for the Stormont Estate on 19 March.





Washington Ireland Programme deliver Community Forum on mental health to T:BUC Good Relations Ambassadors

T:BUC Good Relations Ambassadors from the T:BUC Camps Programme and DfC's Uniting Communities Programme were delighted to take part in a bespoke Community Forum delivered by the Washington Ireland Programme (WIP). These events seek to provide young people with skills to work collaboratively and effect positive change in their local areas. Ambassadors were given the opportunity to choose the topic of their Forum and they chose "Mental Health on the Island of Ireland".

The Forum involved an initial remote meeting followed by full day at Belvoir Youth Centre. 16 young Ambassadors from areas including Larne, Newry, Enniskillen, Armagh, North Belfast, Limavady, Greysteele, Portrush, Bangor, Rostrevor and Portadown took part.

The online session enabled Ambassadors to build their confidence in preparation for the in-person event the following Saturday. WIP led with fun ice-breakers, followed by a 'Walking Debates' exercise using an interactive platform called Mural. The night concluded with an 'Inspiration Session' in which Ambassadors discussed inspirational examples of good practice in addressing mental health issues.

Shauna King from TEO who attended the online event said:

"It was brilliant to hear from such ambitious young people from all different backgrounds be so open and honest with each other, having inspiring conversations! The forum hosted by WIP was such an interactive session and enabled the young people to demonstrate their passion on the subject of Mental Health. This is a great example of effective and innovative collaborative working and is an amazing opportunity for the young Ambassadors!"

The engagement continued the following Saturday with a full day event at Belvoir Youth Club. The young people were delighted to be able to meet in person and there was a real buzz about the place! A further ice breaker session was followed by discussions around how to address issues with mental health that young people face today. Each group was asked to look at one of four areas: Stigma of mental health, the relationship between mental health healthcare providers and the communities they serve, Cross-border initiatives on mental health on the island of Ireland, Technology and mental health. Following discussions, the Ambassadors presented their ideas to a guest panel of judges, including Katie Ní Chléire (WIP Class of 2021, President of Queen's University Belfast Students' Union and mental health advocate) and Chris Mercer (WIP Class of 2021, Ambassador for One Young World and activist for PureMentalNI). The winning innovation promoted a youth census, aimed at gathering data on mental health which could better inform both government and NGO spending on mental health services.

Mandy Jones (TEO) who attended the event said:

"I was very lucky to be able to join the Ambassadors at this event. I could tell from the minute I arrived that there was a lot of enthusiasm for the day ahead and that they were all absolutely delighted to be able to meet face to face! I have to commend the organisers from EA, the leaders who came with the Ambassadors and the team from WIP for organising and delivering such an interactive, worthwhile and engaging day. The Ambassadors approached the day with maturity and showed great sensitivity when discussing the issue of mental health with one another"

Feedback following the sessions was exceptionally positive with 71% of the Ambassadors rating the Community Forum as excellent and 29% rating it as very good. Reflecting upon their experience, some of the Ambassadors' comments included that:

"it has improved my self-confidence with others. It also helped my ability to consider other ideas"

"it has impacted my ability to interact and listen to others opinions"

"it has helped to remind me of the enjoyable experience of working together in a group and being able to have a healthy debate"

"definitely increased awareness of other opinions and helped my public speaking skills"

This was a really exciting and challenging Forum which encouraged and inspired the Ambassadors, and provides a platform for more collaborative work with the WIP in the future.

T:BUC Camps participants joining together for the final tree planning ahead of new T:BUC Trees initiative.



aims to provide T:BUC Camps participants from all backgrounds with an opportunity to learn about current environmental issues and make a contribution to existing tree planting as part of their camp experience.

Three tree planting events took place on the Belfast Hills during November and December, Shauna King, a placement student in TEO's GR, FICT and T:BUC Camps Branch, was at the third event and talks about her day.

"Over 50 young people and their leaders braved the cold (along with myself) and took to the Belfast Hills on the final of three tree planting events on Saturday 4 December."

"The pilot events were organised with the Woodland Trust NI and the Belfast Hills Partnership and have paved the way for many more potential events to come as part this new and upcoming initiative."

“Luckily, there was no rain in sight to dampen our spirits on Saturday morning.”

“As soon as the young people got to the top of the steep hill on the Glas-na-Bradán site, they wasted absolutely no time getting stuck in and had a great laugh while doing so.”

“Their passion and enthusiasm was evident, and was reflected in the speed of their tree planting, constantly asking for more trees to plant.”

“The young people felt a strong sense of achievement and should be very proud of their hard work.”

Gavin King, Head of GR, FICT and T:BUC Camps said:

“Everyone involved with the development of the T:BUC Trees Initiative should be very proud of this success, and I am excited about working with our partners to develop the Initiative further in 2022.”

“When chatting to the young people they told me how passionate they were about caring for the environment and how concerned they were about climate change.”

“Throughout the course of the day, over 200 trees were planted.”

“It was brilliant to finish the pilot events on such a high with a fantastic number of trees planted.”

“Over the course of the three pilot events, over 100 young camp participants and leaders planted over 600 trees, contributing significantly to the aims of the Woodland Trust and Belfast Hills Partnership on the site.



To find out more about the T:BUC Trees Initiative, visit the Education Authority website:

<https://eanifunding.org.uk/tbuc/trees/>

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



The T:BUC Uniting Communities programme has commenced in the new areas of Botanic South Belfast and Lurgan/Portadown. Co-operation Ireland have recruited over 50 young people aged 16-24 that will take part in the Young Leaders Training and Ambassador programme element. Todds Leap in South Belfast and Scotch Street in Lurgan/Portadown will deliver an intense programme of sport, creative and good relations activity for 11-16 year olds.



T:BUC Uniting Communities and T:BUC Camp Ambassadors Collaborative Working Group meetings with TEO continue and have proven to be a great way to discuss opportunities for shared learning and collaboration. Future opportunities include attendance at the upcoming TBUC Trees Initiative in Stormont and the Washington Ireland Programme.



The T:BUC Uniting Opportunities Grant Scheme 21/22 was launched. 21 applicants were successful. Letters of Offer issued in November and all of the projects have now commenced and will be delivered by 31 March 2022.



Four of T:BUC Uniting Communities Ambassadors have been selected to take part in the One Young World summit taking place in Tokyo in May 2022. This will provide a great opportunity for the young people to meet other young leaders from around the world as well as providing positive promotion for our Programme.

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>

Odyssey Ice Academy returns to the home of the Belfast Giants

A group of 15 local young people laced up their skates for the first time at The SSE Arena, Belfast this week, as the fourth Odyssey Ice Academy officially got under way with the Stena Line Belfast Giants.

The Ice Academy launched in 2018 and provides young people that have been in care or suffered from mental health challenges a unique opportunity to learn through leisure and recreation to work together to overcome challenges, supporting wellbeing and improving good relations.

Over the next three months, the young people will develop a wide range of new skills that seek to improve their life chances. The Ice Academy programme includes ice sessions with the Belfast Giants, coupled with professional 'off the ice' training, including sessions in communications, fitness, volunteering, diversity, teamwork, and skills training. At the end of the Academy, the students will graduate, as they are officially recognised as Community Giants - class of 2021/2022.

The initiative has been funded by the Odyssey Trust and the Department for Communities (DfC) as part of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy. Project partner, Include Youth provides ongoing mentoring support to help build self-esteem, confidence and resilience as the young people transition into adulthood. The programme is one of several initiatives supported by the Belfast Giants community outreach partner, Belfast Harbour.

Regarding the launch of the Odyssey Ice Academy Deirdre Hargey Minister for Communities said:

'I am delighted that my Department is funding the Odyssey Ice Academy for a fourth year. The young people who have taken part in previous years have benefitted tremendously from the project and I'm sure that the new participants will be no different. I look forward to seeing the progress these young people will make over the coming weeks.'

Jeff Mason, Assistant Coach for the Belfast Giants said:

"It has been a pleasure to be a part of the Odyssey Ice Academy since we first started it back in 2018. Since then, we have brought young people from across Belfast and its surrounding areas together to access skills that will help further their future. We are confident that we will be able to deliver another fantastic programme which will lead onto new opportunities for the young people joining us this year."

Paddy Mooney, Director of Include Youth said:

"The Odyssey Ice Academy is something that the young people of Include Youth look forward too and it's fantastic to see it return for 2022."

"The feedback from the young people on the programme has always been so positive and the skills and friendships they have learned over the course of the programme have stood by them."

"Each year the programme just gets better and better and 2022 will undoubtedly be great year for the new participants."

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



In addition to the ongoing range of community led, cross cutting and capital projects to improve good relations outcomes in the five Urban Village areas, this year additional programmes to support COVID recovery and address educational underachievement were delivered in partnership with the Public Health Agency and Department of Education.



This year, a number of significant capital projects will also see the submission of planning applications or ground works beginning with others completing in the coming months, providing communities with transformative shared spaces now and for future generations.



Urban Villages has also continued to partner with BITC and is currently working to develop a programme of activity to support communities, strengthen capacity and continue to create more meaningful partnerships.

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>

Businesses forming firm connections to support communities in Urban Village areas



Local business representatives from Allstate, Arthur Cox, Coca-Cola HBC, George Best Belfast City Airport, Henry Brothers, Portview Fit-Out, PwC and SHS Group visit Footprints Women's Centre in West Belfast, one of the many projects to benefit from the Healthy Summer initiative.

Business in the Community (BITC) started working with the Urban Villages Initiative in the summer of 2019, when a new partnership between local communities, government and businesses provided a healthier summer for children in Urban Village areas.

The Healthy Summer Project was a pilot approach to help community groups in the five Urban Villages areas spanning Belfast and Derry-Londonderry; by supporting families that would mostly access free school meals during term time.

Twelve companies in Northern Ireland, all members of BITC made donations totalling £28,000 and this was matched with £30,000 from the Urban Villages Initiative, to provide

30,000 meals through a diverse range of community-based initiatives.

This successful partnership continued the following year during the pandemic, with the Keeping Healthy Staying Safe Programme. Match funding provided £10,000 to each Urban Village area to support community led projects. This supported those most in need, adding value to existing projects to help children, young people and wider family member's with essential nutrition, PPE and health & safety guidance in the community.

Links between BITC and local groups have strengthened as Urban Villages local teams have facilitated connections for businesses to send volunteer teams to work with local groups, and they have offered pro bono work for groups on issues such as digital marketing and landscape design.

The partnership with BITC continues this year as the Urban Villages Initiative are currently developing a joint programme of activity to support communities, strengthen their capacity and create meaningful business partnerships for the longer term.

BITC is a charity helping the business sector to work with communities to tackle social issues. It has over 260 members in Northern Ireland. The Urban Villages team has been working with BITC to better align the corporate social responsibility focus of this network with the Urban Village Initiative.

Businesses that have made donation include Allstate; Arthur Cox; Belfast Harbour; Coca-Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland; DuPont; George Best Belfast City Airport; Henry Brothers; Learning Pool; Portview; PwC; SHS Group; and Spar.

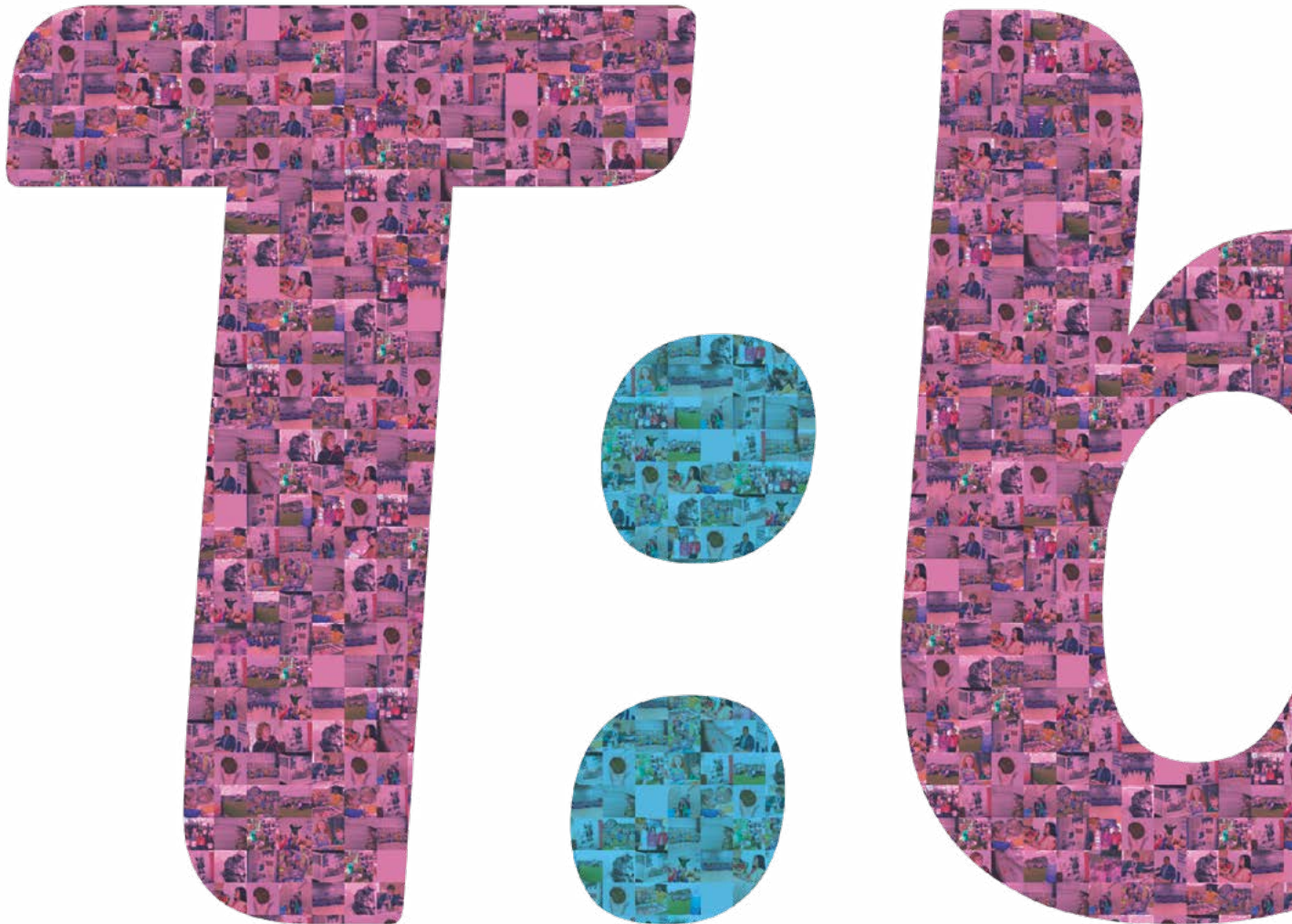
What is it?

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

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

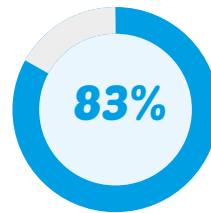


1,700 programme participants currently on Phase 2 of the Programme.

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



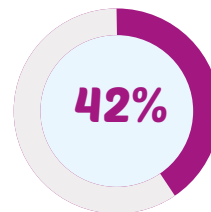
Over 3,600 Phase 2 participants have completed the programme.



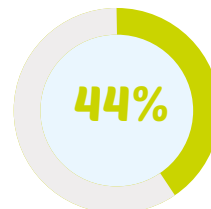
to education/training



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



Peace IV and Peace Plus

Programme News



The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the EU for which the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB) is the Managing Authority. It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. In addition to supporting PEACE and Reconciliation the ERDF also contributes to the promotion of social and economic stability, in particular through actions promote cohesion between communities. The PEACE IV Programme receives 85% of its funding from the EU Commission with the remaining 15% match funding from NI and ROI departments.



A number of Local Authority Action Plans and Regional Building Positive Relations Programmes have successfully completed over the last few months. Closure events and promotional material have been supported and acknowledged by Ministers to highlight and pay tribute to all those whose participation has made each Programme a success



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 2021 and closed on 12 May 2021. Feedback from the consultation was considered and any necessary amendments to the Programme were made. During October 2021, the draft Programme was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the North South Ministerial Council. The draft PEACE Plus Programme is now in the process of submission to the European Commission for its review and approval. It is currently anticipated that the programme will be agreed in early 2022 with the first Calls for Applications in the next 6 months.



Over the lifetime of the PEACE IV Programme, which is due to complete at the end of 2023, TEO will provide SEUPB with approximately €13m in match funding, the overall budget for the Good Relations element of PEACE IV is €110m



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.

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 procurement of the Integrated Supply Team re-launched in January 2022 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 the Department (DE).

Construction continues on 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. Both the staff and pupils of each school are excited to see the project taking shape with the new shared facilities including a new high-tech building for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and a new study and common rooms for careers, drama, media and sixth form pupils.

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. We expect all building work on the Limavady High School's STEM building to have completed by April 2022 and the works at St Mary's Limavady to have completed by April 2023. The project represents an investment of over £11million by the Department of Education with funding allocated through the Fresh Start Agreement.



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



£16.8m of Fresh Start funding was made available to the Shared Housing Programme for the 2021/22 programme year. This includes £2.4m for Good Relations Support.



59 shared housing developments totalling 1733 homes to date are now being delivered across NI as part of the Shared Housing Programme.



23 Advisory groups have been established to support the 'shared' ethos and the schemes' Good Relations Plans. Some Advisory Groups support more than 1 scheme.



950 households are now living in a shared environment as a result of the programme. Both shared community residents and residents within a 5 mile radius participate in Good Relations projects and events.

Shared Housing Supports Banbridge Students as They Consider Future Career Opportunities

More than 350 school students have been exploring a range of career options at an event in Banbridge supported by Clanmil Housing Association.



The 'Shared Education Careers Fair', which took place in Banbridge Leisure Centre on Wednesday 9th February, was an opportunity for year 12 and 13 students from Banbridge High School, St Patrick's College and New Bridge Integrated College to meet more than 30 local businesses and learn about potential employment paths.

Students also met with colleges and universities to learn about what qualifications or further study they will need to pursue their chosen career.

Some of the organisations who attended included Almac, Moy Park, First Derivatives, and the PSNI, while representatives from Queen's University, Southern Regional College, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and the Department for Economy's Careers service were also there to meet students.

The young people were invited to share their reflections on what they learned at the event, and these were recorded by a videographer, and will be shared during follow-up workshops and discussions with the students.

Austin Kelly, Community Cohesion Officer with Clanmil Housing said:

“One of our aims at Clanmil is to reach, connect and collaborate to strengthen communities and we are delighted to support this initiative to help young people achieve their full potential in education and the world of work.

The careers event is one of many projects we have supported in the Banbridge area, as part of our commitment to community engagement from our development of the Hawthorn Gardens shared housing neighbourhood.”

Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Alderman Glenn Barr attended the event and commented:

“I would like to congratulate Clanmil on this initiative as part of the Shared Education Partnership; bringing together an array of different types of employers allowing the young people to be able to see first-hand the different types of employment that’s out there and to help them make an informed judgement on their future careers.”



Banbridge High School and St Patrick’s College are part of a Shared Education partnership and together with New Bridge Integrated College, the schools are part of the Banbridge Area Learning Community which promotes shared resources in education and training.

Katy Feeney, Principal of Banbridge High School commented:

“We are delighted to be able to work in collaboration with Shared Education and our partner schools in the Banbridge Area Learning Community with the support of Clanmil Housing to engage our young people in investing in their future. To be able to attend an event with over 30 businesses and organisations is a fantastic opportunity, and will help the young people understand the needs of the marketplace, qualifications and potential routes from employment, so that they can make informed choices about their futures.”

Clanmil Housing allocated £4,200 to the project as part of the Hawthorn Gardens shared housing development’s five-year Good Relations Plan. Hawthorn Gardens is one of the initial 10 Together: Building a United Community (T:buc) shared developments, which were a headline action in the NI Executive T:buc Strategy. The strategy reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. The shared housing development is also supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The Hawthorn Gardens Good Relations Plan includes ‘Bridging’ events which are delivered to the wider community to encourage a range of good relations outcomes which include Health and Wellbeing, Education and Training. Clanmil Housing continues to work in partnership with the local Advisory Group stakeholders, and with residents to develop and deliver the scheme’s Good Relations Plan.

Approx. £2.4M has been invested in the shared housing development and its associated Good Relations Plan. This includes Housing Association Grant of £2.1M and Good Relations Support of £300K.

Clanmil Housing Association currently has five shared housing developments across Northern Ireland and is promoting a further three shared schemes.

Contact:

For more information about the Shared Housing Programme please visit:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/shared-housing-programme>



Clanmil Housing Association Deliver Sports and Life Programme to Local Schools in Newcastle

Pupils from two primary schools in Newcastle are taking part in a ten week 'Sports and Life Skills' programme that is being supported by Clanmil Housing through the Department for Communities and Northern Ireland Housing Executive Shared Housing Programme; 'Housing for All'.

80 children from the St Mary's and Newcastle Primary Schools are taking part in the initiative to help boost their confidence with the 'Honour Roll Schools Programme' which is delivered in partnership with the United States and Northern Ireland-based charity, Sport Changes Life.

The project incorporates a multi-sport programme with inspirational workshop discussions to help with the transition from primary to secondary school. Each weekly session lasts 90 minutes and uses sport to connect young people, focussing on different topics that equip them for life in secondary school. The workshop topics include 'Hopes and Fears', 'Bullying', 'Staying Safe Online', 'Healthy Lifestyles', and 'Goal Setting'; all of which are overlaid with the theme of understanding and supporting diversity and good relations.



Clanmil Community Cohesion officer, Philip Whyte, said:

"We are delighted to support this important programme as it will help these young people learn new skills and develop confidence as they prepare to move from primary to secondary school. Clanmil is committed to working with people of all ages and from all backgrounds in the Newcastle community, and initiatives such as this are part of our ongoing community engagement and outreach work in the area."

Aimee O'Higgins, Sports Mentor with Sport Changes Life, said:

"It is fantastic to be working with Clanmil to deliver the Honour Roll Programme in the St Mary's and Newcastle Primary Schools. I can already see how the young participants' levels of confidence have grown, and this is so rewarding for us as mentors. The workshops teach young people vital life skills through team-building skills and through a variety of sports. This approach supports and enables the participants to be confident and 'open up' in group discussions, sharing hopes and fears about their futures."

Clanmil's new housing site on Castlewellan Road is part of the Department for Communities and Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Shared Housing programme - 'Housing for All'. The development has attracted an investment of approx. £1m, providing 11 three-bedroom family homes. Clanmil is currently working to establish the shared housing development's Advisory Group who will advise and support the development and delivery of a Good Relations Plan for the new shared housing development and the wider communities.

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 CGRF has awarded £3.6m to 125 good relations projects including several projects under the small grants scheme, the largest number in a funding period since the programme commenced.



The 2022/23 CGRF programme closed for applications in January 2022, receiving 209 applications requesting approximately £8million of funding. The assessment process is underway and it is hoped the outcome will be announced in April 2022.

Greater Shantallow Community Arts - 'New Hope - New Home'

The 'New Hope - New Home' project, delivered by Greater Shantallow Community Arts (GSCA) is a great example of the important role that the arts can play in breaking down barriers and bringing people from different community backgrounds together.

GSCA was awarded £65,602 in 2021/22 by TEO's Central Good Relations Fund to deliver this important cross-community good relations project which is contributing to the T:BUC Strategy's Shared Space Priority. Studio 2 in Derry-Londonderry was used to create a shared space in which residents, visitors and members of other communities can feel comfortable sharing their religious background or cultural traditions.

Through community arts activities, community relations were developed and isolated and marginalised people from all backgrounds benefited from a welcoming shared space. Over 160 participants took part in a programme of

weekly workshops in which they developed new skills in oil painting, arts and crafts, singing, tin whistle, dancing, drama and creative writing. Participants had important opportunities to build new friendships and increase resilience in responding to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The highlight was a celebration event held in Studio 2 on 4 February and attended by around 120 people, at which representatives of five project activities showcased their work.

One participant from the 'Crafty Owl' Arts and Crafts women's group commented: "It has been a very good experience meeting with people from a different community. This is the first experience of this type of thing. I have been treated extremely well and have enjoyed it immensely." And a member of The Hub/Day Opportunities group who took part in Good Relations arts and crafts and drama workshops said: "I really enjoyed my time going to Studio 2... I would love to go back to Studio 2 and do more acting and drama."



During the course of the project, GSCA produced a short promotional video project which can be viewed on Youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AHiptbMwQo>

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...

Lynda Whinnery, Youth Initiatives NI



I have been working for Youth Initiatives for 14 years as a cross community youth worker and more recently as the Regional Good Relations Manager. Growing up in East Belfast, I got involved in youth work with Youth Initiatives when I was 14 as part of their pilot cross community arts program. I met my future husband on the first day of this program and we now live in Lisburn raising 3 kids, negotiating our sometimes different, sometimes similar values and cultural norms in an ecumenical marriage. I am passionate about raising a generation of young people who feel approved of and championed for who they were created to be. Who are invested in long term and equipped to ask questions, engage in challenging conversations across community divides, embrace the richness of diversity and raise a standard of loving people well regardless of their story.

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

I began volunteering as a teenager and would have supported the youth workers facilitating the good relations workshops. I realised I was passionate about seeing people overcome their prejudice and dispelling cultural myths and discovering significant friendships with those they may not have otherwise have met. I studied Social psychology, focussing on conflict resolution in my final year. When I later came on staff with Youth Initiatives and was delivering training myself, I was able to talk from personal experience of marrying someone from the other community and dealing with the conflict that arose within family because of the perceived religious and cultural differences between us. The hardship of this later became a blessing as while I was delivering material that concentrates on identity, values, beliefs, conflict resolution & forgiveness, I could speak from a place of personal experience of conflict and reconciliation. I have taken teams of young people on good relations themed trips to Israel and the Palestinian Territories where we have met, served, and heard the stories of those living on both sides of the conflict there. I completed a qualification in education and training and I continue to write and deliver training to staff, volunteers and young people across our regional hubs and other organisations.

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

My work colleagues know me pretty well, some have worked with me the entire 14 years I've been in YI so there's not much you don't share after 14 years of residentials, international service trips, camps and youth programs. We get the best and the worst of each other in our team. Nothing beats good food and good friends - I love getting together with friends and the wonderful chaos of the kids all going wild. I like swimming and I've also become a bit of a Joe Wicks fan over Covid and rediscovered the sporty side of me!

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

I co-ordinate the Crosslinks youth arts program which brings young people together from the Catholic, Protestant and BAME communities in Belfast, I co-ordinate our TBUC camps and I also support our staff delivering the good relations aspects of our yearly programs such as our Peace IV programs, volunteer training and staff training.

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

Working with TEO and CRC over the years has helped us sharpen up our evaluations and financial and procedural processes. The staff have been approachable and excellent in supporting our delivery of the work.

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

The outcomes have helped us focus on the learning we want our young people to achieve and given a framework to our creativity in designing the program with our youth volunteers. Over the past years, focusing on the outcomes has really helped us sharpen up on our evaluation and monitoring processes so that we can capture what we are doing well and enable stories to be shared well.



Further information

If you would like to know more about the projects Lynda mentions, visit www.youthinitiativeNI.com

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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