



Due to the on-going uncertainty regarding the 2017/18 NI budget the Community Relations Council has had to delay the opening of the Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme. We are in contact with The Executive Office about the budget and hope to have further information shortly.

TEO have produced a newsletter with information about the T:BUC Engagement Forum— to read the newsletter [click here](#)

The District Council Good Relations Programme – embedding an outcomes focus

Paul Killen, District Council Good Relations Programme Development Office



The Programme

The District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) is a key Good Relations Programme funded by the Executive Office (TEO) in partnership with the eleven District Councils here. Its key aim is to support local Good Relations solutions to local issues, and in doing so contribute to the progress of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy (T:BUC).

Outcomes Focused Programming

In recent years TEO has implemented a number of new initiatives within the DCGRP to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme. One new initiative is the process of embedding a focus on outcomes within all aspects of Programme planning, design, delivery and reporting, in order to allow us to answer three key questions regarding the Programme:

- How much did the Programme do?
- How well did the Programme do?
- What difference did the Programme make, in the context of improving relations between and within District Council areas?

Through intensive engagement with Council Good Relations Officers (GROs) and incremental revisions to the application and reporting processes, the process of embedding an outcome focus into the Programme is well advanced.

The District Council Good Relations Programme – embedding an outcomes focus continued

Every element of funded provision within the Programme has at least one defined and measurable good relations outcome linked to one or more of the key aims of the T:BUC strategy.

A couple of following examples demonstrate how individual programmes have incorporated outcomes into programme design and reporting, and how those outcomes are used to inform revisions and improvements in future provision:

Name: Newry Mourne and Down Council

Project: Somme shared history Arts Project

Participants: 250 School children from throughout the NMD area

Outcome: **76%** Increased awareness among primary school pupils of prejudice in society and local diversity. **95%** of primary school pupils whose teacher believes that they have an increased respect for the culture and diversity of other communities.

Link to T:BUC: This project was delivered under the Children and Young People theme of TBUC.

Name: FOCUS programme

Project: Initiative designed to work with young people in Greysteel, looking at prejudice awareness, cultural identity and homophobia

Participants: 42

Outcome: 17% increase of attitudinal change by participants, which now means that on average participants are now open to listening to all who have diverse and opposing opinions 12. % increase change by participants, which now means that on average participants have had experience of collaborating with others to address Good Relations.

Link to T:BUC: This project was delivered under the Our safer Community theme of TBUC.

Further information about the District Council Good Relations programme and OBA contact Gavin King Programme Manager The Executive Office gavin.king@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk or Paul Killen District Council Good Relations Officer CRC pkillen@nicrc.org.uk

Eight Belfast Schools celebrate unique anti-hate and resilience 'Unity Project'

CRIS press release

Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) has been working with eight Belfast post-primary schools for the last year to deliver its unique anti-hate and resilience "Unity Project". The project has been run in schools from North, South, East and West Belfast and has engaged more than 1000 young people aged 13/14.

The Unity Project was originally developed by the Center for Preventing Hate in Maine, USA. It has been delivered here in Northern Ireland since 2011 by CRIS. The project uses a blend of activities including interactive workshops and story-telling to support Young People to move from 'bystanding' to 'upstanding' whenever they see individuals or groups of people being targeted, bullied or harassed.

It is a hard-hitting project that uses the real language of sectarianism, racism, homophobia and other types of bias to support young people to look at the difference between the intention behind and the impact of degrading and derogatory language.

An event at Belfast City Hall brought together 80 young people from the participating schools to celebrate their achievement, take part in roundtable discussions with people who have been directly impacted by the issues explored and join in an interactive musical celebration organised by Beyond Skin and the Orchestra des Réfugiés et Amis.

The Unity Project was supported and funded by Belfast City Council's Good Relations Unit.

In June last year CRIS ran a capacity building accredited 2 day training course for school staff who would be involved in co-delivering the Project. This was supported by a small grant from the Community Relations and Cultural Diversity scheme.

Young person from one of the schools taking part. "I learnt that it is Ok to be me. I learnt that even small words can have a big impact. I gained confidence today. If I see bullying going on I will say or do something about it and not be a bystander".

Darren Ferguson, Beyond Skin "It has never been as important as it is now to empower young people so that their voices will be heard. Events such as today brings young people together with a diversity of artists from all social backgrounds. This is a vital shared process to bring out the best in everyone and engage our collective humanity."

For further information contact CRIS on 07921851601 and info@crisni.org

CRIS Family Arts exhibition

Lisa Dietrich, CRIS

The Houben Community Centre in North Belfast played host to an innovative step in the movement for grassroots peacebuilding in Northern Ireland's schools this month.

The Family Arts exhibition, attended by well over a hundred people, showcased self-portraits painted by the pupils of Edenderry and Holy Cross Nursery Schools of their wee buddies. This longstanding partnership between the two schools and CRIS enables their faculty, pupils and parents to meet, connect, build relationships and shape a new future for themselves and their communities.

Up to 104 portraits were on display for the public to view throughout the day, alongside dozens of photographs taken by the children's parents as part of the 'Life as I See It' theme underpinning the exhibit.

Parental involvement was a key component of the project, with Principal Nuala Gallagher of Holy Cross Nursery impressing that "parents are very much the role models for their children. That is why it is hugely important for the parents to come together, to do things they enjoy, to build relationships, to learn, to learn about themselves, and of course to learn from one another as well."

Marina McLarnon, whose daughters attend Holy Cross Nursery School, was especially appraising of the meaningful and ongoing exchanges between the two schools, denoting the long-lasting friendships of her elder children with their buddies from Edenderry who also took part on the programme.

Keynote speaker, Dr Norman Richardson of Stranmillis University College, repeatedly emphasised the art exhibition's cross-community impetus in his address to the assembled children parents/carers, staff of the two nursery schools, as well as members of the local community, church leaders and other supporters and funders of the programme. Dr Richardson went on to laud the creative methods undertaken to learn how different individuals in the community saw and experienced 'Life as I See It.'

"Life, as I see it," he said "is about discovering new experiences and following them to see where they might lead . . . [it] is about days like this, when we can look back with pleasure and pride on what we have learned and what we have done; when we can recognise how we have grown and changed together; when we can enjoy sharing it with those who have been working alongside us and with others; when we can celebrate together and look forward to the next celebration."

Dr Richardson, a senior lecturer in religious studies and diversity education, has worked closely with a range of campaigners in NI's education sector, as well as having extensively researched and published numerous policy-supporting documents on inclusive approaches to teaching religion in NI's schools. Dr Richardson's input also highlighted the evidence-based case for children's early exposure to different ideas and peoples as part of a more open and inclusive outlook later in life.



CRIS Family Arts exhibition continued

Arts convenor Maeve O'Connor continued on with the positive tone, emphasising the arts' capabilities in fostering intercommunal dialogue: "We first started the project with the idea of checking out each other's community, since it can be quite divisive. I think art's a wonderful way to break out social inclusion, especially on this project, I found that people made wonderful discoveries about themselves and what they and their children are capable of."

The T: BUC (Together: Building and United Community) has identified the 'Buddy-Up: Interschool system,' pioneered by the partnership of three, as a model of good practice that will be "rolled-out" to all state-run nursery and primary schools in Northern Ireland. Such a ruling would signal a significant endorsement of the partnership's work as well as testament to building the ongoing mutual journey of these two communities.

This particular endeavour was funded by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland and the Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme.



For further information contact CRIS on 07921851601 and info@crisni.org



Women on the Interfaces

Taken from the Tell it in Colour [website](#)

There was much energy in the room, as women from interface communities across Belfast gathered to watch a movie about their journey of coming together; their quest to have their voices heard.

<https://vimeo.com/210397182>

Seventy women from 11 communities took part in this Belfast Interface Project. They've been meeting together for months, first separately, then together to dream of and call for change in Belfast.

For Gloria, who's 70, this was the first time she'd taken part in a cross community project & she says it's been life altering.

"We're realising we can have a voice and we must have it together," she enthuses. "It's made such a change to me. You're accepted how you are – where you thought you wouldn't be. Now I've had to get to the age I am now – which is over 70 – to find that out..."

Many of the women who took part told us they want to pass on different ways of thinking to their daughters and the next generation, so that the city becomes a freer place.

Ella from the Short Strand believes that the project is only a starting point.

"It's not that women hate other communities – it's just that we haven't been sure of each other because of the conflict," she reflects.

"I think that's been a big wedge that we now need to break down & get on with changing things."

Tell it in Colour claire@tellitincolour.com

Belfast Interface Project info@belfastinterfaceproject.org

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

The Independent Review of Integrated Education

The Independent Review of Integrated Education was published on Thursday evening (2 March). The Review, instigated by previous Education Minister John O'Dowd and released by outgoing Minister Peter Weir, contains 39 recommendations for developing and supporting the growth of integrated Education in NI including reconsidering the official definition of the term and extending the current legal duty to "encourage and facilitate" the development of integrated education to include a requirement to "promote" the model.

To access the report [click here](#)

Launch of Foyle Women's Information Network's (FWIN) book 'Softly Spoken'.

Taken from FWIN website www.fwin.org.uk for more info contact info@fwin.org.uk

Over 100 women gathered at the Holywell Building Derry/Londonderry on the 1st April for the launch of Foyle Women's Information Network's (FWIN) book 'Softly Spoken'.

The book, funded by the Executive Office, is the culmination of months of hard work and brings together the forgotten and untold stories of women during the Troubles.



Speakers at the event included Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Hilary McClintock and Head of Communications for the Commission For Victims and Survivors, Tina McCann. There were also recitals from the book from Kerri-Lynn Cooke and Lynne McCarron.

FWIN Co-ordinator, Catherine Cooke, said: "There are so many stories from the Troubles that we are all very familiar with but more often than not we are hearing a very male centred narrative. With this book we wanted to capture what life was like for women during the conflict, many of whom have suffered in silence for years.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this book, if they had not been willing to share what were at times very painful memories, we would not be having this launch today.

ArtsEkta scoops top Diversity Award

<http://www.artsekta.org.uk>



ArtsEkta, Northern Ireland's leading ethnic arts organisation, has won the Community Award at the inaugural Northern Ireland Equality & Diversity Gala & Awards 2017.

Organised by award winning group Legal Island, the awards is a unique event providing the opportunity for employers and minority groups in Northern Ireland to celebrate equality and diversity in the workplace and recognise those who advocate and drive diversity within their organisations.

Winners were revealed at a ceremony at City Hall on the 31st March. ArtsEkta won alongside Helm Housing, Pinset Masons and Queens University Belfast.

The evening showcased the advantages of equality and diversity to employers and the wider community celebrating success stories of individuals, groups and employers.

Barry Philips, Chairman of Legal Island said 'This was a really exciting event and an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the employers in Northern Ireland that really understand the business and social benefits of embedding strong equality and diversity practices in the workplace'

Nisha Tandon, Executive Director of ArtsEkta, who received the award said 'We are delighted to have been recognised at the inaugural NI Diversity & Equality Awards. I congratulate Legal Island on having the vision to bring such an important and needed celebration of diversity across our community, voluntary, public and private sectors.'

Waste No Time

Karin Eyben, Corrymeela

In light of the local Council restructure in Northern Ireland introduced in April 2015, the old local areas that people and communities identified with suddenly shifted, and new areas were brought into the fold. The Waste No Time partnership of people and organisations, comprising Beyond Skin, Building Communities Resource Centre, Charo Lanao-Madden, Corrymeela and Rural Community Network, believed that this has resulted in a lack of affinity and connection between the public and the new Council identity. They believe that improved relationships between the people and the Council has the potential to improve local areas and result in better decision making. “Imagine the relationship you would like to have with your new Council that could make a difference to your lives.”

The Waste No Time partnership proposed community planning as an opportunity for the council and the community to develop effective ways of working together; community planning gives people the chance to participate in making decisions about the future of their local area.

The project had three aims:

- To creatively engage with people in the new Council area on what living well together means for them within their families, neighbourhoods and wider Council area.
- To grow confidence in our expertise as citizens, curiosity to learn more, and contribute to the existing energy around improving well-being within the new political boundary of the Causeway Coast & Glens Council area.
- To support the development of creative and meaningful citizen participation in community planning.

To do this, they asked people about their relationships with the Council, with community and place, and with each other. They worked with the public across 20 different rural and urban public spaces. They helped people to imagine possible futures for their community.

In support of this, the Waste No Time team experimented with three civic activism tools:

- **Pop-up democracy** – Giving people the opportunity to participate by going to them. The Waste No Time team ‘popped up’ in random places across 20 local areas.
- **Community visioning** – Community visioning is a process of creating a ‘vision’ or mission statement outlining what a community would like to look like in the future and what improvements need to be made.
- **Forum theatre** – The team used this tool as a means of communicating the key issues that emerged during the pop up democracy and community

Waste no Time continued

The team used these tools as approaches to engaging with people who were out and about in everyday situations. These tools fitted the idea of purpose of the project - offering a different experience outside of the usual ways in which people interact with their local council. The Waste No Time team wanted to experiment with playful and fun engagement, looking to 'harness the power of surprise', to make people curious both about the activity and the future of their local community. To reach as many people as possible, they went to where people were in the community and ensured they were visible and easy to access.

What worked well

The team managed to overcome some geographical barriers to get to remote communities in physically tricky to access locations; for example, bringing the project to Rathlin Island. It is clear that special resources are needed for reaching people in particularly rural places.

Ensuring that playfulness and surprise lay at the heart of the project meant that all project partners had fun on the project, which they felt was very important in connecting with each other and the work.

Having a diverse partnership was a real strength, because each brought their own skills and there was a shared understanding of purpose across the team.

Expectations were exceeded; with 600 people engaged with across 21 sites.

More information

The Civic Activism Toolkit can be found at <http://civicactivism.buildingchangetrust.org/>

The Building Change Trust was established in 2008 by the [Big Lottery Fund](#) with a National Lottery grant of £10 million, as an investment for community capacity building and promotion of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. This funding will be both invested, and spent, in full by the end of 2018.

Corymeela, founded in 1965, has been working with individuals and communities to promote and enable the healing of division and conflict in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the organisations and the project:

<http://www.corrymeela.org/>

<http://www.buildingchangetrust.org/>



AmplifyNI: Helping build stronger, fairer communities

Rebecca Watterson, Project Officer, Amplify NI

At Amplify NI we go on a journey with people to take action together to create fairer communities where everyone can thrive.

What drives us is that we spend valuable time with people in their own place, listening to their ideas about what can be done that will make a positive difference to their daily lives.

Telling the human side of their stories and encouraging them to network and to get in touch with people who have already developed solutions that work is what we do. Advising on the pros and cons on how to grow their ideas into projects which can impact on the benefit of the community is our reason to exist.

It is an approach which is not just working here in Northern Ireland but is now spreading across the world.

Amplify NI is powered by the Young Foundation and funded by national lottery players through the Big Lottery.

We've already worked with a wide variety of organisations in Northern Ireland, including the St. Columb's Park House in Derry/Londonderry, Tell it in Colour that promotes strong relationships between diverse communities through storytelling, and the Thinking Cup and Book Reserve, a café and bookshop run by young parents who have offended.

Amplify NI runs the unique Accelerator programme to help anyone with an idea for social change. The five one-day workshops will support you and your group to refine your model, establish wider support and backing from your communities and take the next steps.

Please check out our website <http://www.amplifyni.org/> for inspiring stories from some of the people we have worked with. Getting people to act together we can help make our communities better places in which to live, work, and grow up. For more information contact AmplifyNI at amplifyni@youngfoundation.org

Special Collection of essays on the impact and legacy of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement—Call for papers

April 2018 will see the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, the central protections of which are currently under threat from the Brexit negotiations, special elections and the RHI Scandal. This special issue will discuss the impact and legacy of this Agreement on social, political and cultural life in Northern Ireland. The Agreement has proven strangely resilient. It has suffered many challenges, from inside and out, for the last 20 years but at the time of writing remains enshrined in UK and Irish law.

Culturally, engagements with the agreement itself have been rare, as artists prefer instead to seek out depictions of a 'post'-Peace Process society or to excavate the past for their subject matter. Some writers have found themselves freed from the subject matter of the troubles, and this has led to a rise in genre fiction. There has also been a relative explosion of visual art, drama, poetry and plays by women and people who identify as LGBTQ. However, the place of race and disability in this 'new' Northern Ireland has not been widely explored in culture or scholarship, and the editors would particularly appreciate critical essays on this topic. The aim of this OLH Special Collection is to draw out those perspectives which were not widely heard during the Agreement negotiations or subsequent responses.

For many outside Northern Ireland, the Agreement is framed as a 'bookend' to the conflict, a neatly wrapped peace accord ending the violence. This false bill of goods allows for the conflict to be pitched as the ideal model for 'talking to terrorists' rather than acknowledging the Agreement as one of many on the path to peace. Existing volumes on peace-building often prioritise an economic model of "peace dividends". In political science, the concepts of peace and prosperity are held to be mutually reinforcing. The reality, however, is somewhat different. Those on the margins of society – often due to class, gender and race – are obscured by the growing expectation that international economic aid is an essential underpinning for peace processes. As Colin Graham has argued in relation to the gulf between the agreement and the people it putatively represents, it sets in train a means for 'the already marginalised to become more marginal still'.

By returning to the negotiations for peace this special issue seeks to redress this balance – exploring how the peace process evolved to create a document that has occluded much of Northern Ireland, while also giving voice to those silenced by the process.

We seek contributions for 7,000-8,000 word articles by 15th August 2017 (as we seek to have the special issue out around the time of the 20th Anniversary).

Call for papers continued

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- The social, cultural and political legacy of the Agreement
- New perspectives on the politics of 1998 and beyond
- The consequences of the Agreement from different perspectives e.g. gender, race, sexuality and disability
- How literature and culture have changed in Northern Ireland in the past 20 years
- Decommissioning and paramilitarism
- Brexit, Borders and Renegotiations
- Language (Irish and/or Ulster Scots)
- Legal Ramifications of the Agreement
- Representations of the Agreement, Peace Process or 'post'-conflict moment in the arts (broadly defined)
- Perspectives on the Agreement from within and without Northern Ireland
- The impact of peace-building initiatives and reconciliation organisations

Research articles should be approximately 8000 words in length, including references and a short bibliography. Submissions should comprise of:

Abstract (250 words)

Full-length article (7,000 – 8,000 words)

Author information (short biographical statement of 200 words)

The deadline for submission is 15th August 2017.

<https://agreement20.wordpress.com/2017/02/28/special-collection-cfp/>

African-Caribbean Sports Forum NI (ASFNI): Titanic Inter-Community Sports Project.

Adekanmi Abayomi, African-Caribbean Sports Forum NI

African-Caribbean Sports Forum Northern Ireland (ASFNI) had the first edition of its inter-community table tennis event tagged Titanic Inter-Communities & Families Table Tennis Championship 2017 on the 21st of January 2017 at Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre, Belfast in partnership with Ormeau Table Tennis Club of Belfast.

Fourteen (14) communities participated in this year championship. Northern Ireland as the host nation was represented. The championship also featured Nigeria NI, Ghana NI, Zimbabwe NI, Iran NI, Sri Lanka NI, Algeria NI, Eritrea NI, Botswana NI, Malawi NI, Trinidad & Tobago, Sudan NI, Somalia NI and China NI. We also had women and men from different families who participated in the inter-family categories - women's and men's singles.

The championship was declared open by the Lord Mayor of Belfast – Right Honourable Alderman Brian Kingston. Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA was also in attendance to support us. She presented the trophy and medals to the women's champions.

African-Caribbean Sports Forum NI (ASFNI): Titanic Inter-Community Sports Project. continued

Nigeria NI won the first edition of this championship while China NI was crowned the first runner up. Northern Ireland (NI) and Sudan NI are joint second runner up. All the participating communities and families were decorated with medals.

ASFNI's Titanic Inter Communities & Families Table Tennis Championship 2017 was not about table tennis alone; it also used the medium of table tennis to promote cultural diversity and multiculturalism. It was a full day of music, dance and drum workshops, family reunion, food tasting, face painting, balloon modelling and games. This championship is designed as an annual event; second edition comes up next year January. It is aimed to use table tennis to promote good relations and active lifestyle among communities and families in Belfast and NI, to promote NI as a multicultural nation.

The second edition of ASFNI's Sports-Cultural Festival is in August 2017. This will feature Titanic inter-community football competition among nine communities in Northern Ireland. The following communities have signified interest in the football competition: Nigeria NI, Ghana NI, Zimbabwe NI, Somalia NI, Sudan NI, Libya NI, Romania Roma NI, Poland NI and African francophone communities will present a team. It is an eleven aside football league. The final and the third-place matches will be hosted during the grand finale of the sports-cultural festival. This festival will not only afford minority communities in NI the opportunities to play inter-community football but it has a great role to play in tackling isolation, breaking down cultural barriers, bringing communities and people together' and creating shared space. Titanic Sports-Cultural Festival is a platform where Africans and Caribbeans with their friends, other minority groups, Northern Irish people and tourists come together to celebrate and experience not only the contemporary and native African and Caribbean music, food and culture but also an avenue to showcase the peculiar way in which Africans and Caribbeans socialise and integrate. The festival shall feature live musical performances and DJs, dance and drum workshops, performing arts, fashion, food tasting and iconic cultural personalities.

African-Caribbean Sports Forum Northern Ireland (ASFNI) is a charity, independent, non-profit and non-partisan organisation founded in May, 2016 by some sports enthusiasts from different cultural backgrounds in Northern Ireland. It is a Belfast-UK based sports-cultural organisation. It works to unify communities and cultures through the medium of sports.

We are strongly willed to play a pivotal role in promoting cultural heritage and multiculturalism via the means of sports, diversifying Northern Ireland culturally, building togetherness and a united Northern Ireland, promoting cross community participation, showcasing and institutionalising African and Caribbean cultures, cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity in sport, unlocking sports opportunities, discovering untapped talents, nurturing sports potentials and helping members to achieve their dreams not only in sports but also in all aspects.

African-Caribbean Sports Forum NI (ASFNI): Titanic Inter-Community Sports Project continued

This organisation was officially launched, by the Lord Mayor of Belfast - Right Honourable Alderman Brian Kingston on 6th day of August, 2016, during its maiden Sport-Cultural Festival 2016 where a friendly football match was held between Nigerian community and Ghanaian community in Northern Ireland. The formation of African-Caribbean Sports Forum NI (ASFNI) is premised on a serious urge for a platform where people from minorities and multi-cultural backgrounds in Northern Ireland can use sports and culture to tell their stories and integrate.

<http://asfni.org.uk/>

Community Relations Media Initiative

If you would like to contribute to NVTV news on Focal Point, longer current affairs discussions for Focal Point Extra and have ideas that could be pursued with regard to documentaries on community relations subjects - please contact

feedback@nvtv.co.uk

NVTV is broadcast on Freeview 7 to the greater Belfast area and on Virgin 159 throughout Northern Ireland.

It is also available online at www.nvtv.co.uk

Events

The Reformations Then and Now

The Junction

You are cordially invited to the book launch of

The Reformations Then and Now

by

JOHNSTON McMASTER

10.30 am 7th April 2017

Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts

Duncairn Avenue, Belfast BT14 6BP

This publication is about a long lasting revolution in modern European history. What happened in the sixteenth century changed Europe and the legacies endure. The most bitter wars in Christian history were fought at this time. The religious map of Europe took shape. Ireland experienced the Reformations, Anglican, Reformed and Catholic, producing a bitter, sectarianised and violent history.

We no longer live in the sixteenth century and our twenty-first century questions are different. In a declining West, we are now faced with challenges to reform our political, economic and cultural systems and institutions. For Christian faith communities in relation to other globalised religions, what will 'reformed' theology and ethics look like?

This publication is part of the Ethical and Shared Remembering Project's second phase dealing with events between 1917-1922, within a more global context, offering an overview with some contemporary challenges. Dr Johnston McMaster is the Senior Research Writer and Educator with the Ethical and Shared Remembering Project, The Junction, Derry Londonderry.

Events continued

The Corrymeela Community is delighted to invite our first annual Carafest which will take place over Easter Weekend 14–17 April 2017, at our stunning location in Ballycastle.

We will celebrate Easter Sunday with the dawn of the new day at a service on the cliffs overlooking Rathlin Island and the Mull of Kintyre. There will be theology, politics, music, film screenings, poetry and endless amounts of tea and coffee. If you ever wondered what happened at Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation centre then this is the place for you. The weekend will be led by Community Leader Pádraig Ó Tuama with inputs from the Corrymeela programme team and an array of musicians, poets, storytellers, writers and thinkers.

The word reconciliation means 'to become friends again' and so we've chosen the word 'cara' (friend in Irish and Scots Gaelic) for our festival of faith and reconciliation. For more information www.corrymeela.org/carafest

'Picnic in the Park'

An afternoon of free family fun and entertainment will take place in Forthill Park, Enniskillen on Easter Monday, 17 April 2017 from 2 pm – 4 pm.

The 'Picnic in the Park' event, which is organised by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, will include an Easter egg trail; real Easter chicks and rare breed hens. There will also be face painting; balloon modelling and music.

Admission to the event and its associated activities are free of charge.

This event aims to create a sense of belonging across the new Council area, enabling people to meet their neighbours and take part in activities aimed at creating a sense of place ensuring that council owned public spaces feel shared and open to all.

For further information please contact Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 0300 303 1777.

This event has received financial support from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Good Relations Programme assisted by The Executive

Belfast Local Development Plan

6 April 2017 -
10:00am to 12:00pm

NICVA will host a seminar with Belfast City Council on the and how it links to the 'Belfast Agenda' Community Plan.

Belfast City Council is committed to developing a local development plan for Belfast that creates a place that works for everyone in the city. The Local Development Plan and the Community Plan across the nine council areas in the region have a statutory link between the two ensuring the place citizens want to see informs their local space.

This event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the context in which the Local Development Plan is being developed, the statutory link between the two plans, how planning can work for you and your organisation, and how voluntary and community organisations can inform both the content of the plan and its ongoing implementation.

<http://www.nicva.org/event/planning-an-inclusive-and-sustainable-belfast>

Events continued

Facilitating Good Relations Accredited Course Level 1 – 1 Credit

Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT48 7ER

Thursday 27th April 2017—9.30am – 4.30pm

Cost: £50.00 (includes NI OCN accreditation fee, sandwich lunch and a copy of Michal Doherty's *The Peace Builders Handbook*)

This programme is designed for those who work with diverse communities and want to enhance their skills in facilitating Good Relations programmes.

The workshop is delivered through an experiential learning process that will include tutor input, group activities and discussion.

The programme will give participants the skills and knowledge of what is required to deliver and initiate good relations programmes with diverse groups.

Participants will explore ways to develop group cohesion by looking at the difference between ice-breakers and trust exercises, how groups develop and ways to evaluate different types of programmes.

The background to key developments in the Northern Ireland peace process will be explored to help participants prepare their own Good Relations programme.

Each participant will receive a copy of the tutors resource book 'The Peace Builders Handbook'

Places on this workshop are limited to 10 so early booking is advisable

For further information email; michael.doherty@mediateni.com or Mob; 07714494258

Accredited Conflict Management and Mediation Skills Workshop

Northern Ireland Open College Network (Level 1 – 1 Credit)

Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT 48 7ER. Tel; 02871 365636

2nd May 2017 - 9.30am – 4.30pm

Cost £100.00 (includes NIOCN registration fee and course workbook)

**Earlybird Registration Register before 21st April 2016 £80.00*

This course is designed for solicitors, Police Officers, Social Workers, Probation Officers, School Teachers, Good Relations Officers, Project Officers, Health Officers, Care Workers and facilitators who work in group settings

(This course may qualify for CDP points under self-notification)

Events continued

Workshop Aims

- To introduce participants to the principles of Conflict Management and the use of Mediation as tool for resolving conflict.
- Explain to participants that Mediation is a process, which helps people in dispute to have a difficult conversation with each other that enables them to work through their issues and hopefully reach an agreeable outcome.
- To give participants an overview of the Learning Outcomes for the course and explain the Northern Ireland Open College Network Accreditation procedure.

Objectives

At the end of the Workshop the participants will be able to:

- Identify different ways people deal with conflict
- Be aware of the skills of a mediator
- Have an understanding of how mediation works in practice
- Help disputing parties create their own agreements
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of co-mediation.

Accredited Conflict Management and Mediation Skills Course

Northern Ireland Open College Network Accredited Course at Level 2 – 2 Credit

Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT 48 7ER 02871
365636 1st 2nd June 2017 - 9.30am – 4.30pm both days
Cost: £200 (includes NIOCN registration fee and course workbook)

This course is designed for solicitors, police officers, social workers, probation officers, school teachers, Good Relations Officers, Project Officers and facilitators who work in group settings.

(This course may qualify for CDP points under self-notification)

Learning Outcomes: by the end of the course participants will be able to;

- Understand the legal framework of mediation as a conflict Management tool.
- Identify different ways people deal with conflict
- Differentiate between Mediation/Negotiation/Arbitration/Litigation
- Be aware of the skills of a mediator
- Have an understanding of how mediation works in practice
- Be able to understand the difference between Facilitative, Evaluative and Shuttle mediation processes
- Help disputing parties create their own agreements
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of co-mediation.

Duration: The course will be delivered over two days that will include an experiential learning process involving tutor input and practical case studies that will be supplemented by a course workbook and hand-out material.

The course is restricted to 10 participants and early booking is advisable

For further information email michael.doherty@mediateni.com or phone 07714494258