

Derry City & Strabane District Council PEACE IV Programme Newsletter Spring 2018

Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

PEACE IV funding benefits local Communities



Spring is not just in the air; many projects and communities also have a spring in their step as the PEACE IV programme starts to positively impact local people and places. At our first local networking event in March, the opportunity and enthusiasm to make a real difference to peace and reconciliation was very clear.

Since securing £6.2 million funding from the Special EU Programmes Body in June 2017, most of our 22 headline projects are now up and running. The New Year saw smiles on the faces of 12 community

groups from Faughan to Foyle, Glenderg to Galliagh and Clooney to Creggan, with £394,255 allocated to them through the small grants programme.

The local community sector also bid competitively for many tenders. To date nearly £2 million has been allocated in 13 tendered contracts with organisations such as The Junction; Lettershandoney and District Development Group; YouthActionNI; Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership; St.Columb's Park House; Bogside and Brandywell Initiative (above

image); Holywell Consultancy; Towards Understanding and Healing; Rural Area Partnership Derry; An Gaeláras, MW Advocates and the Nerve Centre now actively leading on projects.

Council leads on 12 projects spread across the 3 themes of 'Children and Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building positive Relations,' and totalling £2,820,103.

So, how are you getting involved? Projects need participants! Contact us and get on board!



“Peace is a positive for our economy” A word from the PEACE IV Chair

Our local programme is steered capably by our PEACE IV Board - a cross-community group of 32 individuals including councillors, statutory agencies and social partners (community groups). Catherine Cooke of Foyle Women's Information Network and myself are the incoming co-chair and chair for 2018 and although the key focus of the PEACE IV Programme is cross-community programmes around peace and reconciliation, we're delighted to note the positive economic impact that roll-out of the programme is already having. In our first 6 months, £5,164,272 was allocated to local projects in the council area. This is

highly significant in terms of the opportunities it gives to residents to engage for free in community relations programmes.

Furthermore, with at least 17 jobs so far directly created as a result of the funding, and extensive paid employment opportunities in facilitation and other aspects of delivery, the programme is a definite economic boost. All of this ties in well with our Strategic Growth Plan and Local Growth Plans in the Community Planning process.

Cllr Caoimhe McKnight, Chair



Quick out of the blocks

Council's sports and identity project was fast off the start line in the Autumn. 'Our project focuses on rugby, gaelic, soccer, hockey, boxing and cricket,' explained Paul Simpson. 'We're thrilled at the uptake and participation of groups so far.' Contact paul.simpson@derrystrabane.com for further information.

Hot on their heels the 'Patriarchy' project (on gender justice and the role of women in peace-building) and 'Valued Voices' (a project working with those most impacted by the violence of the Troubles), were amongst some community led projects to kick off in 2017. To find out more about these projects contact mhetherington@thejunction-ni.org or eamonn.baker@thejunction-ni.org



'JustUs' (Gaslight Media Trust)

Train the Trainers project

'Engaging,' 'Inspiring,' 'Thought-provoking,' and 'Positive' – four words I'm hearing repeatedly as a 'fly on the wall' observer of the mid-way reflection and feedback session on our 'JustUs' Youth and Schools train the trainers project.

A cross-community group of leaders (community facilitators, youth workers and citizenship teachers) who work with young people aged 11 - 20 years across our council area completed training in the Autumn 2018 in Gaslight's multi-media resource tackling contentious issues like the Legacy of the conflict, migrant workers, sexual orientation, sectarianism, racism and human rights. Has their experience of the course content and their steps to roll-out the programme in the community influenced theirs or others' perspectives?

'It's not often the young people I work with say 'Can we just keep going?' They loved the videos. You could tell they were thinking about things they hadn't thought about before,' enthuses one participant.

'The boys challenged each other. Some were very set in their beliefs - what they've been told by their parents, what they've learnt from peers. It was good to see their reactions to showing them different beliefs and traditions,' responds a community youth leader from a local estate.



'I was really inspired by it. One of the lads made connections with the human rights declaration,' articulates a facilitator working with young adults who've dropped out of education.

'I'm more confident now in facilitating this as I test the waters. The videos are fantastic. The introduction was brilliant and they love the history and everything,' explains another participant.

The transformation the materials can make was well summed up by one community worker - 'A young man came into the programme with very explicit, disrespectful language on the topic of migrant workers. The way he expressed his opinion changed. There was an appreciation for working through conflict. I was impressed by how the materials brought out a level of maturity in participants. The approach is engaging and empowering.'

What is clear from this first cohort of participants is that the

'JustUs' cross-community training opportunity is providing influencers of teenagers and young adults with the confidence, materials and support networks to take on demanding topics in their various community settings. 'It gives you a platform to jump off, a foundation before you dive into deeper waters. The material gives them permission to speak freely.'

And yes, it has challenged the leaders themselves too. 'I've got more reflective. It helped me see perspectives where people are coming from,' says one. 'The idea that conflict is normal... but it's about how we interrogate that. It's been an interesting personal development experience.'

This group are only mid-way through their programme, but if you're interested in learning more, there's a second cohort of training starting in Autumn 2018.

Contact peace@derrystrabane.com for more information or visit www.justusproject.net



Granted!

12 Groups celebrate £394,255 in funding

In our rural areas we've been delighted to fund Aghyaran Development Association £24,760 for a 'Cross-Community Cross-Border Youth Programme' for thirty 16-24 year olds living in the Glenderg and Gleneely area. Churchtown Community Association's 'One Town' project received £25,000 for a history and reconciliation cross-community programme in Castlederg for adults over 45.

RAPID (Rural Area Partnership Derry) have £24,950 for delivering their 'Connecting Rural Communities' history and cultural diversity project for older people in Faughan and Sperrin. Adults from across the entire council area can opt to participate in the Churches Trust £25,224 'Celebrating Commonality: Celebrating Difference' project focused on faith and diversity.

Three local groups will be taking on the contentious issue of so-called 'punishment' attacks via creative arts and community educational and dialogue projects. Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership's 'Changing Perceptions' £19,776 project will undertake a one year programme to research and develop community educational materials to tackle the issue.

Greater Shantallow Community Arts emotively titled 'Don't Shoot My Wane, Shoot Me!' will use its £49,991 for a creative arts performance based project to bring unique insight to the issue and stimulate debate.

Rosemount Resource Centre have been funded £49,870 for their 'Time2Choose' youth project exploring the issue with 60 young people through teambuilding, discussions, seminars, day events, talks and residential.

Youth projects were popular amongst applications. Steelstown (Brian Og's) GAC secured £49,340 for their cross-community/cross-border multi-sports 'Integrate Sport Initiative' for ninety 6-14 year olds. The 'Uniting Community Cohesion' project earned £19,111 for Clooney Estate Residents Association teenagers project exploring history and shared social issues in partnership with Shantallow.

A PEACE IV project for the Playhouse will use £30,000 to engage 12-14 year olds from Enagh / Strathfoyle, Drumahoe, Ballymagroarty and Raphoe areas in a community relations and creative arts project; whilst Galliagh and the wider city will benefit from the Rainbow Child and Family Centre's securing of £26,233 for a cross-community project building trust, developing relationships and breaking down barriers through workshops, trips and residential.

A £50,000 council-wide 'T.A.S.K Project' by REACH Across will recruit 90 young people (14-17yrs) and deliver a range of activities, courses and events to tackle prejudice and promote cross-community contact.



Teaming up together

Castlederg's cross-community enthusiasm for peace

The heart of Castlederg took many a knock during the 'Troubles,' but today its communities are gearing up together for peace. Council has teamed up with two sports clubs, Dergview FC and St. Eugene's GAC, as well as wider community representatives in a unique PEACE IV project hoping to not only physically create a new 'shared space' but also contribute to transforming community relations.

Central to the project is bringing communities together to develop a shared vision for how green spaces in and around the two clubs, the town and river should develop for public use. Council and local leaders will collectively plan and deliver a shared activity programme based on community needs and aspirations.

RAPID (Rural Area Partnership in Derry) will engage with all relevant groups, organisations and individuals in the area over the coming months. This will shape what goes into the peace and reconciliation cross-community activity programme, ensuring that it meets current needs and gaps in provision and caters for a broad range of interests. The agreed programme will be implemented from early 2019 onwards but the project is keen to get local people involved now.

"RAPID are delighted to be a part of this exciting community-statutory initiative. The 'bottom-up', community-led approach is a key driving force at the heart of the project," explained RAPID Chairman, Mr Jim McColgan. "We've used this approach successfully before and we know it works."



Chairman of St. Eugene's GAC, Mr Brian Meehan added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for all sections of Castlederg to come together to interact on shared interests. Together we can collectively inform the future development of green space in Castlederg to make sure everyone benefits. Castlederg has had its fair share of problems in the past and this project presents a significant opportunity to bring people together from all parts of society to move forward collectively."

Chairman of Dergview FC Mr Roy Lecky added: "Dergview FC are delighted to be a partner in this exciting but challenging project which we hope will go some way to improving community relations in Castlederg. This project is really innovative in seeking to transform green space as a catalyst for positive physical and social change."

To get involved or to find out more contact:
jonathan.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Calling all youth!

Get involved with Derry & Strabane District Youth Council by Reitind Doherty (16)

YOUTH IS THE KEY

To the young people of the Derry and Strabane district! There's an exciting new development that you definitely want to get involved with, 'Derry and Strabane District Youth Council'. This new project, funded by Peace IV is setting up a Youth Council to accelerate the voices of young people in your area.



On January 31st, seven members of the Youth Council's steering group welcomed local and regional youth groups at Melvin Sports Centre, Strabane. Caolan, William, Rossa, Adam, Ryan, Amber and Kayleigh captivated their audience with an engaging, informative and interactive presentation which highlighted the plans for the local Youth Council. Their hope, is to "act on behalf of young people in Derry, Strabane and other local rural areas by being our voice and advocate for our rights and opinions."

The participating audience took part in a number of fun icebreakers led by Adam and Caolan. Their competitive and hilarious game of hovering bunnies made sure we were all well acquainted and feeling at ease before we got down to the detail of local governance.

The welcoming group's presentation began with Amber and Adam explaining exactly what a council does and what they're in charge of. They questioned the audience for their ideas on the role of a Youth Councillor and the skills and qualities a Councillor should have. The overall consensus of the group was that a youth councillor should be friendly, a person who can confidently put forward ideas and debate issues effecting young people.

Rossa took to explaining how council expenditure works by opening it up for the audience, tasking them with the decision of what to do as a council with £1 million - a great way of making the tedious subject of finance a lot more fun!

Both groups allocated the money across services like homeless shelters, mental health projects, flood defences to improved Wi-Fi and new parks for young people.

The youth council demonstrated their hopes. It aims to engage with other young people to represent their views and to make a difference in local areas. Through cross-community projects they hope to develop peace and reconciliation and to promote diversity and equality across the Derry and Strabane district.

The presentation ended with an encouraging plea for young people to join the council and contribute ideas to help create the 'Youth Council Manifesto'.

Impressed audience members were left eager to join, there were a number of new recruits on the night. There are many opportunities for young people to be involved in a range of Council business and 2019 has been named the Year of Youth where funds have been dedicated to young people and young people are using their voices to advocate for programmes and projects where this money can be used.



So, if you're a local young person who is interested in using your voice, making new friends, learning new skills and developing confidence - not to mention fun and pizza, everyone is welcome to apply no matter your background, ability or interests.

If you'd like to apply, visit the Derry City & Strabane District Council website at
www.derrystrabane.com/youthcouncil
or email **claire.lynch@derrystrabane.com** for more information and to find the application form.

Launched!

So much work even goes into getting lift off on a project. Here are just some of the PEACE IV local projects launched so far.



CultureFuse



Beyond Tokenism



Peace Tourism



The Beacon Project



Waterside Shared Village



Decade of Commemorations



In the pipeline...

Council expect to hear soon on their bid for an additional £0.5 million under the PEACE IV programme. We hope to put £50,000 each into 4 new 'Shared Space' projects. Three are for towns and their surrounding rural areas – Castlederg, Strabane and Newtownstewart, and the fourth is for the Bonds Street/Triangle/Shepherds Glen area of the Waterside. The timescale will be that hopefully these contracts will be advertised by public tender in May 2018.

Under our Children and Young People theme we hope to secure 6 lots of £55,000 each for running 6 cross-community youth and children's programmes. These will be split into 3 geographical areas (Derry-Londonderry; Faughan DEA; Sperrin and Derg DEA's including Strabane town). Each area will have a programme for young people aged 8-11 and another one for 11-13 year olds. All contracts will be advertised publicly (potentially in August/September 2018) and information will also be carried in our monthly e-newsletter..

Want more information?

If you would like to receive regular e-newsletter updates please sign up on www.derrystrabane.com/Peace-IV where there is also more detailed information on the programmes.

The PEACE IV Team can be contacted at:

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