



**T:buc**

Changing for the better, together

# Delivering T:BUC and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

September 2022



Northern Ireland  
Executive





# Foreword



I am delighted to present this issue of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter. 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.

This meeting of the Forum takes place during Good Relations Week 2022. This year, the theme is 'Change Starts With Us' and looks at Good Relations through a lens of sustainability - an issue I know that is increasingly on all our minds. In line with this theme, the Engagement Forum explores delivering T:BUC in the context of the UN Sustainable Development goals - see page 22 and 23.

For further information please follow this link [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/).

As always, the Community Relations Council is co-ordinating a comprehensive programme for this Forum. We are fortunate to have a number of speakers to highlight the ongoing work to achieve these sustainable development goals from a global and regional perspective, alongside community groups showcasing how their own local good relations work contributes to improved sustainability.

**More broadly, this Engagement Forum will provide participants with:**

- The opportunity to **learn more about T:BUC** and how it is being delivered across NI.
- An **understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals** and good practice being delivered by the local 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.
- An **insight into successful practical actions** that have been delivered to strengthen and embrace the impact of T:BUC in our community.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the return of the Forum to an in-person event. It has been a challenging, unprecedented time since our last in-person Forum in February 2020. On behalf of The Executive Office and Community Relations Council, I look forward to meeting and reconnecting face to face. I hope you enjoy the event and take the opportunity to attend other events being delivered as part of Good Relations Week 2022

**Chris Gardner**

*Head of T:BUC & Good Relations Division  
The Executive Office*

# Looking Back...

## T:BUC Engagement Forum: June 2022 - T:BUC Engagement Forum “Community engaging with business to deliver T:BUC”

On 14th June the Executive Office (TEO) and Community Relations Council (CRC) hosted an Engagement Forum in collaboration with Business in the Community (BITC). The theme was “**Community engaging with business to deliver T:BUC**” and the event focused on showcasing shared examples of community relations practise being delivered by the business community, in partnership with the community and voluntary sector.

The Forum was opened by Gareth Johnston, the Director of Strategic Policy, who confirmed BITC would be sharing some tips on how community organisations can build relationships and noted that going forward involvement with the business sector will play a key role in good relations and community development work. Gareth also provided attendees with an update on the T:BUC Strategy highlighting that TEO are currently working on a review of the Strategy. He encouraged those who had not attended a workshop to provide feedback on the Strategy to either TEO or CRC. The revised strategy is due for completion at the end of the summer, early autumn.

The first guest speaker was **Dr Lisa McIlvenna**, Deputy Managing Director of **Business in the Community (BITC)** who gave a short presentation on the role of BITC, highlighting that BITC’s focus was on the “Three Ps,” i.e., Planet/People/Places and social inclusion, and prosperity, are key driving factors in their work.

Dr McIlvenna highlighted several meaningful initiatives which had been undertaken by BITC recently including the ‘**National Business Response Network**’ which had reached out to over one million people during the course of the COVID pandemic, providing food, technology and support as needed within communities and ‘**Tackling digital poverty.**’

Over 1,000 children benefitted from the donation from businesses of digital devices. A ‘**Strive To Work**’ programme was also co-designed and successfully launched in the North West supporting the long term unemployed to tackle challenges around recruitment.

Attendees at the Forum then heard from **Isobel Loughran** from **Footprints Women’s Centre** who highlighted the positive experience the Centre had found working in collaboration with their corporate partner **Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC)**.

Ms Loughran explained that partnership working with PWC has been strategic in terms of the growth and sustainability of the Centre. PWC supported the Centre in developing networks, digital infrastructure, and ensuring that their Strategic Framework was robust.

One of the highlights of working in partnership with PWC was the opportunity for women at the Centre to be mentored and trained by senior members of PWC staff and the Centre has benefited from PWC’s generosity whereby they now have a professional workspace for staff and a welcoming area for visitors.

The second community presentation was made by **Andrew Dunlop and Carole Kane** from the **Shankill Parish Caring Association**. Mr Dunlop gave an overview presentation on the geographical context and history of the Shankill Parish Caring Association (SPCA) which was formed in 1996, in Lurgan.

Mr Dunlop noted that the initial difficulty faced by the SPCA was the need for a building and facilities to hold services and to address this the SPCA partnered up with the other communities in the town, not just with other churches but with business.

This led to the funding and building of the Jethro Centre to help deliver programmes and be a hub for the local community. Mr Dunlop noted that the building of the Jethro Centre would not have been possible without the financial help of local businesses.

The Centre acts as a hub for everyday community life. The SPCA host their own groups at the centre, however the spaces are also used by community organisations and small businesses. Money generated from room hire can be then spent back into the local area through targeted pieces of good relations work.

In conclusion Mr Dunlop noted that while the Jethro Centre has seen a positive outcome, it continues to be a challenge meeting ongoing maintenance and staffing costs and there is a pressure to generate income to meet these costs. Mr Dunlop thanked everyone for listening and invited those who would be interested in visiting the centre to do so.

**Amanda Johnston**, the Operations and Membership Manager from **Social Enterprise NI (SENI)** then gave a presentation on what a social enterprise was and confirmed she would be happy to meet with any of the groups should anyone want further information.

Ms Johnson explained that SENI's vision is that social enterprise will be seen as a valuable part of the business economy in Northern Ireland and what businesses do with their profit is what makes the difference. SENI can talk to your business regarding income generating through the trade of goods and services.

SENI would like to build the size and the scale of the sector. SENI would like to see the Social Value Act extended to Northern Ireland and a Social Enterprise Strategy. The organisation want to help service some skill gaps in the sector and work is ongoing with colleges and universities. SENI would also like to see schools promoting social enterprise as a career of choice.

The main difference between a social enterprise and a charity is a social enterprise will generate its profits through the sale of goods and services, in terms of service level agreements or contracts for organisations or public tenders. They then have the freedom to spend that money as they like.

Gareth thanked all the presenters for sharing their expertise and experiences in working with the business sector and noted that they demonstrated the window of opportunities that forming a partnership or becoming a social enterprise can provide, including generating revenue, or creating employment opportunities for local residents.

The presentations were then followed by an informative question and answer session facilitated by Chris Gardner from TEO which included discussion on support for local community groups including those in rural areas and how they might make that initial contact with local businesses or operate as a social enterprise.

Chris noted that there was some untapped potential in linking up with the business sector. He said it was fascinating to hear the presentations made today on how this work is already happening and how the power of social enterprise allows for revenue streams. Chris would like to keep the conversation going and solidify links going forward, adding that TEO will do their best to facilitate that as much as possible.

Gareth thanked CRC for organising the Forum and reminded everyone that Good Relations week will take place from 19th September 2022, under the theme of environmental sustainability. He noted that registration for events was now open and encouraged everyone to participate.



# Looking Forward...



## Here are some dates to note for CRC Funding Schemes:

The Community Relations Council's Small Grants Scheme and Publication Grant Scheme are open for applications. CRC has several more schemes about to open in the coming weeks.

You can find out more info here:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/funding](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding)

### CR/CD Small Grants Scheme

CRC's Small Grants Scheme is now open for applications. This funding can help community and voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland engage in Community Relations work.

Deadline: **Monday 16 December 2022**

Fund out more here: [www.community-relations.org.uk/community-relations-cultural-diversity](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/community-relations-cultural-diversity)

### Publication Grant Scheme

The scheme encourages the production and dissemination of publications that will contribute to greater understanding and better community relations in Northern Ireland.

Deadline: **Friday 27 January 2023**

Find out more here: [www.community-relations.org.uk/publication-grant-scheme](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/publication-grant-scheme)

## Funding Schemes Opening Soon

### Media Grant Scheme

The aim of the Scheme is to commission a media project which focus on the engagement of civil society to underpin peacebuilding. The scheme is available to support a range of media, such as digital content, infographics, television, radio, video, podcasts and more.

Opening soon. Find out more here:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/media-grant-scheme](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/media-grant-scheme)

### Core Funding Scheme

The Core Funding Scheme provides support for organisations which are considered of strategic importance in promoting community relations work across Northern Ireland. The scheme contributes towards salary and organisational running costs.

Opening soon. Find out more here:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/core-funding-scheme](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/core-funding-scheme)



# CRC News Stories



## CR/CD Case Studies

The Community Relations Council has developed series of case studies to highlight exceptional projects that we funded through our CR/CD Small Grants Scheme:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/publications/crcd-case-studies-2022](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/publications/crcd-case-studies-2022)

## Good Relations Award

Live Ceremony - view the full event here:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/good-relations-award-2022-live-ceremony](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/good-relations-award-2022-live-ceremony)

## Fighting Words

Inspirational cross-community project:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/fighting-words-and-other-banana-related-stories-inspirational-cross-community-project](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/fighting-words-and-other-banana-related-stories-inspirational-cross-community-project)

## Droichead Project

Dispelling Irish Language Myths:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/droichead-project-dispelling-irish-language-myths-gaelaras](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/droichead-project-dispelling-irish-language-myths-gaelaras)

## Lyra McKee Writing Competition Award Ceremony

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/lyra-mckee-writing-competition-award-ceremony](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/lyra-mckee-writing-competition-award-ceremony)

## Shared Housing in South Belfast

Innovative Forum Theatre project with Partisan Productions & Clanmil Housing:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/partisan-productions-and-clanmil-housing-present-shared-innovative-piece-forum-theatre](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/partisan-productions-and-clanmil-housing-present-shared-innovative-piece-forum-theatre)

## Young People Building Lasting Relationships

At Youth Initiatives NI summer CAMP summit:

[www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/unique-opportunity-young-people-across-northern-ireland-build-lasting-relationships](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/unique-opportunity-young-people-across-northern-ireland-build-lasting-relationships)




# T:BUC Camps Programme

## Programme Summary

The T:BUC Camps Programme provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 to come together to build positive relationships across divided parts of our community. The camps challenge historic positions, encourage debate and discussion and provide a way for young people to get to know each other, try new experiences, have fun and help to build longer term relationships. Camps are delivered on a cross- community basis.



## Programme News

-  **Funding has been offered to 122 groups** to deliver a T:BUC Camp in 2022/23.
-  **33 young people** are completing their T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme with 21 of them going on an international study visit to Croatia and Bosnia on 21st August.
-  More than **40 Good Relations Ambassadors** from the T:BUC Camps Programme and DfC's Uniting Communities Programme will take part in a joint "marine litter" environmental event on Saturday 24th September to mark Good Relations Week.



The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of TEO, and more background on the Programme can be found at the following website: [www.eani.org.uk/tbuc](http://www.eani.org.uk/tbuc)



# T:BUC Camps Programme



The T:BUC Camps Programme is one of the seven headline actions of the T:BUC Strategy. The Education Authority (EA) as a Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of the Executive Office (TEO). Good Relations learning is at the heart of every T:BUC Camp. It provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 from all backgrounds to come together, try new experiences, have fun and build longer term relationships.



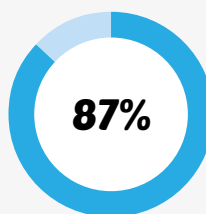
Scan to find out more

## How much did we do?

- 3,352 young people participated in T:BUC Camps in 2021/2022
- 110 Camps successfully completed

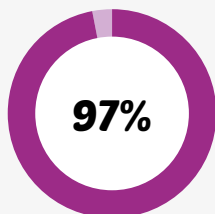


## Is anyone better off?

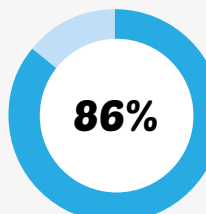


of the participants feel **more favourable** towards people from different religions/ community backgrounds.

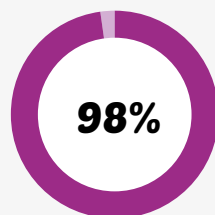
## How well did we do?



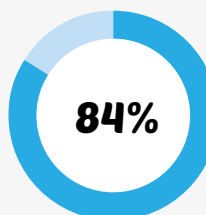
of the respondents stated they had made **new friends** with someone from a different religion/ community background.



of the participants **feel more favourable** towards people from different ethnic backgrounds.



of participants feel they would **like to be more involved in peace building** activities in the future.



of the participants feel that culture and traditions of different background **add to our richness and diversity**.

## What are people saying?

“I learnt so much tonight about the meaning of flags, that I would never have known before.”

“ I would never have met new friends from different communities if it wasn't for this project.”

“T:BUC has really inspired me to go on in life and always try new things.”




# Planned Interventions Programme



## Programme Summary

Delivered annually as part of the Executive's wider "Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy", the Executive Office's Planned Interventions Programme provides funding for community activity to divert young people from anti-social and potentially criminal behaviour around contentious parades and public assemblies, and to deal with heightened tension around interfaces during the summer period. The Planned Interventions Programme is administered by the Education Authority.

## Programme News

-  **77 interventions** were awarded funding for delivery this year (22/23).
-  TEO and EA are currently **developing shared learning forums for groups** assist networking and sharing of best practice.
-  Work is underway on **development of the Programme for 2023/24.**

The infographic on the next page details the positive impacts of the Programme in 2021.

## Outcomes 21/22

# Planned Interventions Programme

The Planned Interventions Programme seeks to provide young people from all background with alternative activities at times of heightened tension and reduce levels of anti-social behaviour. It is delivered in partnership with EA and DE as part of the wider T:BUC Strategy.

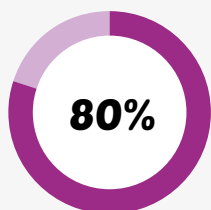
Scan to find out more



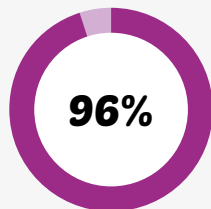
### How much did we do?

- 1,300 young people engaged in PIP during July and August 2021
- 108 diversionary projects were funded
- £400,000 in funding provided to groups to deliver projects

### How well did we do?

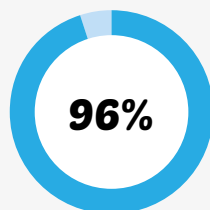


of young people felt **more favourable** towards people from a different religious/ community background.

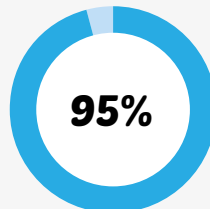


of young people felt **more favourable** towards people from a different ethnic background.

### Is anyone better off?



of young people said due to the impact of their projects, there were **less likely to be involved in negative behaviour**.



of participants indicated **increased confidence** and increased skills after participation.

### What are people saying?

“The programme was good and insightful. I learned a lot from taking part in it. I hope that going forward I can make better decisions.”

“I realise how my actions within the community can impact on my family and friends but also affect my employment and travel plans in the future.”

“They began to see that their behaviour has consequences on themselves and on the community. Sometimes that can enforce fears that people may hold.”



# 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 **TBUC Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity programme continues to be rolled out** with Scotch Street Youth and Community Centre leading the programme in Lurgan/Portadown and Todds Leap in South Belfast.

The second of three scheduled 10 weeks of activity has commenced for participants aged 11-16 in both areas. In Lurgan 46 young people are engaged on the programme and in Portadown 53. The participants came together for an exciting event on the 4th July at South Lakes for a session themed around American Independence.

Todds Leap have been engaging over 100 young participants from a diverse range of backgrounds. All participants are taking part in regular sport, creative and good relations activity.

In addition Co-operation Ireland are **engaging over 50 Young Leaders** across both areas with an opportunity to complete a training package that includes the accredited OCN Uniting Communities through Leadership level 2 Award.

The DfC Uniting Communities and TEO Camp Ambassadors continue to collaborate on a range of shared learning events. One of the TBUC Ambassadors availed of the chance to represent the voice of young people on this year's Good Relations Week 2022 Co-design Steering Committee, providing an opportunity to help shape the theme and design of the programme.

T:BUC Ambassador represents voice of young people at Good Relations Week this September

Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) branch are delighted to continue to represent DfC through ongoing membership on the Good Relations Week (GRW) Co-Design Steering Group Committee.

This group is coordinated by the Community Relations Council and includes representation from one of our very own T:BUC Ambassadors, Nora Sullivan, who has completed our bespoke Leadership Training package.

Through this, Nora has gone on to be an advocate for the very positive outcomes that can be achieved through engagement on our Uniting Communities through Sports and Creativity programme.

### Nora states,

"It's been really great to be involved in the Steering Committee for this year's Good Relations Week. I've enjoyed connecting with others who are all passionate about promoting good relations and I've enjoyed working together to select this year's theme and design".



Nora has proven herself to be an inspiration to other young people and encourages those she engages with to make positive changes both in their own lives and within their own community.

The group **involves a collaborative effort and includes representation** from The Executive Office, Department of Justice, Education Authority, Cathedral Quarter Trust, The Nerve Centre, The Rainbow Project, Volunteer Now, Another World Belfast, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and NI Environment Link.

Together the GRW Co-Design Steering Group helped devise the theme for this year's celebration, 'Change Starts With Us' as well as the eye-catching logo seen in all advertising and branded materials for the event. The theme will focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and shines a light on local communities taking action to build a stronger shared society and a more sustainable future.

**Back row, left to right:**

Mark Maher, The Executive Office; Martin McDonald MBE, Community Relations Council; Chris Gardner, Head of Good Relations and Governance at NICS; Deborah Evans, DfC; Nora Sullivan, T:BUC; Rory Campbell, Community Relations Council; Jacqueline Irwin, Community Relations Council; and Michael McDonnell, Community Relations Council.

**Front row, left to right:**

Becca Bellamy, Another World Belfast; James Day; Connor Kerr, Another World Belfast; Rosa Day, Nisha Tandon, Community Relations Council.

# United Youth



## Programme Summary

United Youth 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.

## Programme News

-  **400 programme participants** currently on Phase 2 of the Programme.
-  **Over 7,000 participants** have completed the programme (*subject to verification*).
-  Over **3,200 programme participants** have received an incentive payment.
-  % of participants surveyed who **achieved a qualification in at least one area** during their time on the programme:
  - 28% citizenship qualifications
  - 33% good relations qualifications
  - 36% personal development qualifications.

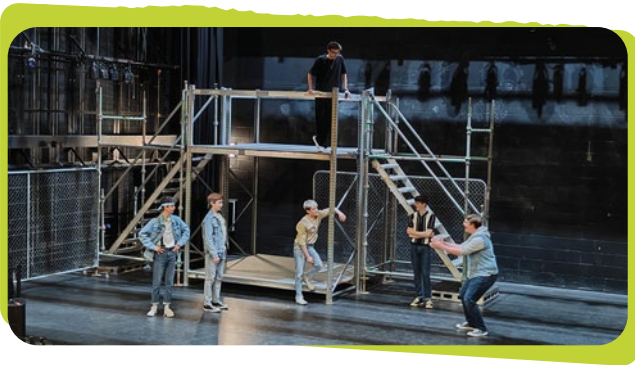




## T:BUC Headline Action Updates

# Golden Apples Players

David Hawkins from TEO visited a T:BUC Camp organised by the Golden Apples Players based in Omagh, exploring Good Relations through acting and drama.



The T:BUC Camps Programme, funded by The Executive Office (TEO) is a headline action of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy, also known as T:BUC. **Camps aim to bring young people from different backgrounds together to make friends and learn more about each other's cultures and traditions.**

I had the privilege of visiting a Camp organised by The Golden Apples Players in the fantastic and modern setting of the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh. **The Golden Apples Players offers young people the opportunity to train in the performing arts** and to stage high quality amateur stage productions.

This novel and innovative Camp explored issues of Good Relations through studying Romeo and Juliet and West Side Story, and how the re-telling of these stories in a local context might assist the young people to learn about and understand others from different communities.

The first group session discussed the two romantic tragedies and how they both continued to speak to and resonate with audiences to this day. The group discussed the theme of love transcending strong and bitter divisions within communities. From an early stage it was very apparent how passionate and knowledgeable the young people were about the plays, and how engaged they were in relating them to local circumstances.

The second part of the group work involved adapting West Side Story to the recent past of Northern Ireland. The smaller groups of young people combined their collective knowledge and imagination to create dramatic and fascinating adaptations of the musical.

The final group session involved a discussion specifically on Good Relations. These discussions included relations in the local area, as well as how the camp helped them to explore themes of good relations and different communities. The young people spoke with courage and honesty about both physical and 'invisible' barriers they still encounter in their lives.

However, they also **spoke very highly of how spending time with other communities really helped encourage and facilitate understanding.** Perhaps most interestingly, the young people talked of how taking on the roles of different characters in a performative context helped promote understanding of another person's perspective.

After the group sessions had finished, I had the opportunity of watching some rehearsals days before the group were to give performances to live audiences. The talent and commitment of the young people were very evident, and I am in no doubt the live performances were very successful!

**Article by David Hawkins, TEO**



# Building our safe and connected community

## Urban Villages Initiative



### Programme Summary

The Urban Villages Initiative is designed to support communities and to work collaboratively across government departments, councils, and other interested parties to achieve positive outcomes for each Urban Village area through a series of capital investment and community-led projects.

### Programme News

#### Capital Funding



Of the **72 capital projects progressing through the Urban Villages** capital pipeline 51 have now been completed. A further 17 projects have secured business case approval, leaving 4 projects at business case development stage.



Páirc Nua Chollann is a **£6m transformation of a vacant 17 acre site** into a high quality destination park in the Colin area of West Belfast and will complete in September 2022.



The **purchase of the former Donegall Pass PSNI station**, which took place in April 2022, was the first step towards creating a transformational multi-use development, including a good relations community hub in the South Belfast Urban Village area.



**Construction on Marrowbone Millennium Park in North Belfast has started on site.** Plans are progressing in relation to both Ballysillan Playing Fields in North Belfast and Pitt Park in East Belfast.



To date, there has been a **total investment spend of £29million** (including £7m of partnership funding) on capital projects in Urban Village areas.



Construction is also underway in Derry/Londonderry to reconfigure the New Gate Arts and Culture building. **This £1.7m investment will create a state-of-the-art performance space** that will support a variety of arts and cultural activities.



**Capital expenditure for 2022/23 is c£7m** (£4.5m UV and £2.5m partnership funding) and will contribute towards circa 18 Capital Projects that are currently underway or construction is due to start in 2023/23

#### Revenue Funding



**Revenue budget for 2022/23 is £1.8m** and will contribute towards supporting a range of 36 community led and 10 cross cutting projects in the 5 Urban Village areas.

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

If you want to know more about these projects, check out the website: [www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/urban-villages-initiative](http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/urban-villages-initiative)





# The Colin Heritage Project

## Project Summary

The Colin Heritage Project has been created by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership with the support of Ulster University, and is funded by the Urban Villages Initiative and the Department for Communities.



The initiative was unveiled on 26 May 2022 and **showcases the history of the Colin area of West Belfast**, creating a tourist trail designed to attract visitors to the district. The project has delivered a visitor trail, street signage, a series of videos, a new website, and some new historical research into the rich history and associations of the Colin area.

The **aim of the initiative is to develop a local understanding of Colin's history and generate tourism**, including plans for guided historical tours, as well as creating jobs for local people. Street signage has been installed representing key historical figures and places in the district, which will be combined into tours of the area. From pre-Christian settlements on the slopes of Colin to the Norman conquest, the Plantation of Ulster, Penal Times, the 1798 Rebellion, the Victorian era, the Troubles, the rise and fall of DeLorean, and much more – all these and other stories are being told locally for the first time.

The project is part of the wider development of the **Colin Urban Village area with major investment from the Urban Villages initiative including a futuristic Transport Hub**, a Town Square and a new park due for completion at the end of the summer and much more.



**Gareth Johnston**, Director of Good Relations and Inclusion, took part in the launch event, commenting:

"This project has provided the opportunity to engage local people, stakeholders and other interested parties in a participatory process to harness the potential of tourism in the Colin Urban Village Initiative area."

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership Manager **Annie Armstrong** said:

"As the Colin area goes from strength to strength, it's important to underline its incredibly rich history. We also believe learning about and understanding our shared history will also foster better community relations."

# Cathedral Youth Club



## Project Summary

Cathedral Youth Club (CYC) have recently completed an Urban Villages capital project with funding from the Department for Education and The Executive Office to refurbish and enhance the service provision for community and youth in the Fountain area of Derry/Londonderry.

The fit for purpose facility will enable Cathedral Youth Club to recruit more young people and **offer more courses, training and opportunities to the youth and community in the area**. With the building there is now a family offering between and within communities with an inter-generational approach.

In 2021 CYC completed their Summer Scheme with in excess of 80 participants. The facility enabled them to access many more interested families, children and young people. CYC have offered several family led events to introduce the new facility to the area and develop the offering to include and focus on community engagement both within the Fountain.

Furthermore the new café style hospitality as you enter the centre has **greatly improved footfall** and the need to have proficient equipment to enable families to pop in and enjoy breakfast/ lunch/ dinner or a coffee.

Jeanette Warke, who founded the Cathedral Youth Club with her husband the late David Warke, prepares to play air hockey with ten year old club member Lillie Frame at the official opening of the refurbished and extended Cathedral Youth Club in Derry/Londonderry's Fountain Estate.



# Marrowbone Community Hub

## Project Summary

The Marrowbone Community Association developed plans to attain community ownership of the site and with initial funding support from Belfast City Council and Department for Social Development were able to purchase the site from the parish and renovate an adjacent modern wing.



The Marrowbone Community Hub was formerly the Sacred Heart Parochial Hall located in a prime position on the Oldpark Road in the heart of the “Bone” neighbourhood. Built in 1924 in the wake of large scale conflict and civil unrest almost a century ago, the hall became the focal point of parish and community life over successive generations.

Sadly the hall became derelict over time and fell into a state of neglect and disrepair and for years lay vacant, save for a space used to store building materials for a local builder.



**With the support of Urban Villages, the Association redesigned the shell of the old hall to meet the needs of the revived local Sacred Heart Boxing Academy, Marrowbone Youth Club, Surestart, numerous Women’s groups, Advice services and a Health and Well-being Shed. The building is now a thriving, busy place, a hive of community planning and endeavour and a huge source of community achievement and pride.**



# Crescendo Project

## Project Summary

Crescendo is a community-led intervention project funded by the Urban Villages Initiative which has been inspired by the El Sistema music initiative that began in Venezuela. The project is delivered in partnership with the Ulster Orchestra, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Shankill Children's Zone and the Innovation Zones at Queen's University Belfast.

Crescendo uses **music within an educational environment to improve social/good relations and emotional outcomes** for young children in disadvantaged areas, as well as delivering positive social benefits for their families and the wider community.

Students from Primary 3 to Primary 6 from the four Crescendo primary schools (Good Shepherd, Holy Evangelists' Malvern and Wheatfield) performed alongside the full Ulster Orchestra at an event on 14 June 2022.

Feedback from the children involved demonstrates how much they are enjoying the experience of working with Ulster Orchestra:

"It's fun as we get to experience playing different instruments...I like the experience for when we are older and we are applying for a job or applying for University we can put that down that we can play an instrument."

The weekly sessions consist of 30 minute lessons delivered by the Ulster Orchestra, supported by a classroom teacher. The pupils also receive visits from Ulster Orchestra musicians who demonstrate their instruments and perform pieces of music which link in with lesson themes.



Parents of the children involved have highlighted the positive impact of this initiative:

"Crescendo makes my child happier and I know she enjoys school more because of it...my kids come home from school and talk about what they have done and sing the songs in the car...I would love to join the Crescendo choir myself if that was an option."



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



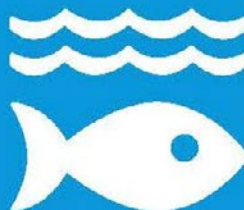
**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



# LE NT GOALS

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS





# St Cecilia's Recovery & Recognition Project

## Programme Summary

St Cecilia's was one of eleven Post Primary schools across all 5 Urban Village areas to receive funding through the Creative Schools Partnership in September 2021.



This initiative, backed by Arts Council Lottery funding, Urban Villages funding and delivered by the Education Authority, is **designed to encourage schools to embrace the benefits of the arts by injecting more creativity into the classroom** and improving educational outcomes for students, including better engagement, increased attendance, improved results, growth in confidence, self-esteem and positive mental health and well-being.

**Tanya Wakeley**, lead teacher on the project at St Cecilia's College, said:

"We asked the students to focus on lockdown and how they coped with isolation from their peers and not being able to come to school. It's given the group an opportunity to come together to talk about their mental health in a really positive way and also to be in control of their own learning. The project has been so successful we are already planning how we can build upon it to take it out into the community."

Working with professional artists from Bounce Culture, students have written scripts, conducted interviews, learned technical skills and created their own music soundtracks for the project which has involved 24 Year 8 girls.

**Kwame Daniels**, Creative Director at Bounce Culture, commented:

"The students have been really enthusiastic and the work we've done here feeds into other aspects of their school life, like building literacy and numeracy skills, teamwork and learning to think creatively. To be able to take ownership of each stage of the creative process has been incredibly powerful for them."



# 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 Shared Education Campus (SEC) and the procurement of the Integrated Supply Team re-launched in January 2022 for the Ballycastle SEC with the appointment anticipated in late 2022.



The **primary school projects are also progressing** 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).



# Limavady Shared Education Campus

## Creating a better future for our children

The Department of Education is delighted to report that the **Limavady Shared Education Campus is currently under construction** with the creation of new shared education facilities on the St Mary's, Limavady and Limavady High School sites.



These new shared education facilities will **create state of the art amenities for both schools** to help promote quality education and life skills for pupils involved whilst improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

The new state of the art facilities will include a shared Sixth Form/Careers/ Media and Drama Centre on the St Mary's HS site and a shared Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) centre on the Limavady HS site. The creation of these facilities will not only broaden the availability of courses for pupils at the two schools but also **strengthen the cross community sharing** that is integral to the schools partnership.

The Department is delighted to continue to support the schools and pupils through its partnership with T:BUC and Fresh Start with the work carried out by the Department and schools helping to shape the future of Shared Education Campuses and provide a sustainable future for shared education partnerships across Northern Ireland. **The facilities are due to be completed in early 2023** with the schools already making use of some facilities from the start of the new term.



# 'Culture Trail' celebrates diverse pupil backgrounds

St Patrick's College in Dungannon recently launched a new 'Culture Trail', **created to celebrate the 14 cultural backgrounds of pupils**. The educational exercise trail was made possible through funding from Apex Housing Association as part of their 'Housing for All' good relations plan for Dungannon; and developed in partnership with Brilliant Trails. Apex continues to work in partnership with all local Advisory Group stakeholders, and with residents to develop the scheme's Good Relations Plan.



**Catherine McHugh**, Principal of St Patrick's College, said:

"The pupils and staff had such a wonderful experience working together on the creation and launch of our Culture Trail, representing the diverse backgrounds and ethnicities in our school community. It's so important in our modern world to celebrate our unique identities and to foster an environment of respect and inclusion and a community which embraces and celebrates all. Our culture trail enables us to learn about each other, it helps us to open conversations and it allows us to appreciate our heritage."



**Sharon Hunt**, Good Relations Officer at Apex Housing Association, commented:

"Our work in Dungannon aims to build strong community relations in our shared housing development of Sycamore Drive and the surrounding areas. The creation of this trail in St Patrick's College is a fantastic celebration of cultural diversity and the young people involved should be very proud. Their enthusiasm for the project has been inspiring and very heartening for the future of good relations in the local area."

The installation of the Culture Trail at St Patrick's College was supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Programme. The Programme has its origins in the NI Executive Together: Building a United Community Strategy which reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. **£4m has been invested in the Sycamore Drive** shared housing development and associated five-year good relations plan.

Apex Housing Association currently has eight shared housing developments across Northern Ireland, with a further three currently being constructed. The Sycamore Drive 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.

# 'Culture Trail' celebrates diverse pupil backgrounds

## Tales spanning history at the Bridge of Stories Festival in Coleraine

The Coleraine community rediscovered local history through storytelling in a 3-day festival. The Bridge of Stories Community Festival, organised by Radius Housing and Big Telly Theatre Company, told local stories from both sides of the Old Bridge straddling the Bann and connecting the town.

The festival brought people together to hear the stories, told by local people, reflecting the rich heritage of the area. Events included Story in a Boat, a Wishing Bridge, and audio journeys as you crossed the bridge. The programme of activity at the Old Bridge took place over the Easter weekend.



The festival is the latest community relations initiative supported by Radius Housing, who have a shared housing development at Laurel Hill in Coleraine. As part of this development, Radius has committed to working in partnership with the local Advisory Group stakeholders and residents to develop the scheme's Good Relations Plan and deliver bridging projects, bringing the wider community together to foster strong local relations.

In the lead up to the festival, Big Telly opened a pop-up shop in the Diamond Centre, where people visited to hear and tell stories about bridges across the world and to make their wishes for the Wishing Bridge. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Service also set up an exhibition on the history of Coleraine, where many have already visited, including local schools.

Zoe Seaton, Artistic Director, Big Telly said

"We are absolutely delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate Coleraine and in particular the area around the Bann. So excited to bring the very best of interactive performers to create a unique festival full of stories, craic and surprise!"

Speaking ahead of the Festival, Bridie Doherty, Area Housing Manager at Radius Housing, said

"The Old Bridge is a historic part of Coleraine, and if it could talk it would have many tales to tell. But there are plenty of others in the local community who can tell great local stories, and the Bridge of Stories Festival will be the perfect chance for many people to hear them. Storytelling is a great way of bringing people together and building understanding, and we are delighted to be able to support this festival which has local storytelling at the heart of it. We hope that the local community can engage over the Easter weekend, to learn more about their local area and its history."

The Bridge of Stories Community Festival is supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Programme. The Programme has its origins in the NI Executive Together: Building a United Community Strategy which **reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society**. Just over £2m has been invested in the Laurel Hill Gardens Shared Housing development and associated five-year Good Relations Plan.

Radius Housing has both completed and proposed shared housing developments in nine areas across Northern Ireland. Good Relations plans for each include 'bridging' events with the wider community which encourage a range of outcomes including health and well-being and education and training.



# Shared Housing Programme



## Programme Summary

The aim of the Shared Housing Programme is to create communities of 'good neighbours' and ensure that there is greater choice open to those who wish to live in a mixed area.

Each Scheme is supported by an Advisory Group made up of local Community and Voluntary Groups, local political reps and Good Relations Officers from the Housing Executive and local Councils. The Groups also include representatives from Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and other relevant statutory bodies.

## Programme News



The Shared Housing Programme is currently **delivering 58 shared housing developments, totalling 1728 homes** up to 31 March 2022. Each development is supported through the establishment of an Advisory Group and the development/delivery of a five-year Good Relations Plan.



**22 schemes (729 homes) have completed**, and 36 schemes (999 homes) are under construction or programmed up to 31 March 2022.



**26 Advisory Groups have been established**; some Advisory Groups support several schemes.



**£23m has been invested** in the Shared Housing Programme.



For more information about the Shared Housing Programme please visit: [www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/shared-housing-programme](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/shared-housing-programme)

# Hollywood Cleaning up the Streets



Members of Hollywood Residents Association, Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band and Habinteg Housing Association.

On Tuesday 19th July, members of Hollywood Residents Association, Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band and Habinteg Housing Association worked together to tidy up Patton's Lane in Hollywood.

The Laneway beside Habinteg Housing Association's Church View 'Housing for All' shared housing development had become overgrown and uncared for. **Habinteg continues to work in partnership with the local Advisory Group stakeholders**, and with residents to develop the scheme's Good Relations Plan.

As part of the Church View Plan, the Hollywood Residents Association, Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band and Habinteg came together to work on the Lane with support from Hollywood Men's Shed and Ards and North Down Beach Cleaners. Together they collected several bags of rubbish and weeds on the hot July day.

The '**Cleaning up the Streets**' project is supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Programme. The Programme has its origins in the NI Executive Together: Building a United Community Strategy which reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. £2.5m has been invested in the Church View shared housing development and associated five-year Good Relations Plan.

Future initiatives planned for the Church View development, include a cultural calendar and a networking event in September.

Habinteg currently has 3 shared housing developments across Northern Ireland.

The Church View 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.



# 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 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.

📄 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), which are set out in the local authority action plans. TEO is also accountable for the regional element of Building Positive Relations and the provision of services for victims and survivors.

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

📄 At 31 August 2022 10 Local Authority Action Plans and all 19 Regional Building Positive Relations Programmes had successfully completed programme delivery.

£ The new £1 billion 'PEACE PLUS' programme was submitted to the EU Commission in March 2022 for approval and was adopted in July 2022. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG programmes. TEO will be accountable for circa €170m for **local authority action plans, building positive relations and victims and survivors' elements**. NIO is leading the development of the Financing Agreement between the UK and the EU that will need to be agreed and ratified by the UK Parliament and legislation put in place to allow the Programme to open. It is anticipated that PEACE PLUS will be launched in autumn 2022. First calls will include the local authority action plans and victims and survivors' elements.

Contact For more information about the Peace IV and Peace Plus Programme please contact: [grbusinesssupport@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:grbusinesssupport@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)





# Central Good Relations Fund



## Programme Summary

The Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) supports constituted voluntary and community sector groups to deliver good relations projects where there is evidence of good relations need. Since 2016, £15million has been awarded to support over 460 projects.

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.

## Project News



In 2022/23, the Central Good Relations Fund has so far offered **£3m to 89 projects including small grants**, aiming to positively impact on approximately 37,000 participants across Northern Ireland.



These projects will use a wide range of activities such as **music and the arts, sport and other outdoor pursuits, health and wellbeing, personal development and educational attainment** to promote Good Relations and build positive relationships in local communities.



Due to unprecedented demand for the CGRF Small Grants Scheme, organisations interested in seeking funding of up to £1,500 to deliver a Good Relations project are advised to contact the CGRF team at the following address before submitting an application: **GoodRelationsFund@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk**

# 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.

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



## Project News



The 22/23 DCGRP is currently being **delivered successfully** across all 11 District Councils



From the most recent available data, subject to validation, for the 21/22 programme the following can be reported:

- 97% of participants feel DCGRP events played a **positive role in bringing people from different backgrounds together**
- 93% of participants report **improved attitudes towards people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds** and
- 89% of participants are more **likely to attend an event** in an area associated with another community.



These results are **testament to the hard work of the participants** and also of those delivering the programme.

## Outcomes 21/22

# District Council Good Relations Programme

The District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), is delivered as part of the Executive's wider 'Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC)' Strategy. The key aims of the programme are to improve relations between and within the District Council areas and to support local solutions to local good relation issues.



Scan to find out more

### How much did we do?

- Delivered across all 11 District Council areas impacting over **100,000 participants**.
- **£4m in funding provided** by the Executive Office and District Councils.



### How well did we do?



### Is anyone better off?



### What are people saying?

"This was a great programme. I felt like I was in a safe space and was comfortable sharing my opinions and views."

"Amazing and unforgettable experience - would recommend to other and I would love to take part in any future programmes."

"Participating in this project has enabled me to discover my self worth and how to use leadership skills to promote diversity and inclusivity in my community."



# Multi-Cultural Women's Group

## Project Summary

The group works to promote, support, and facilitate meaningful engagement between women participating in Oasis Antrim's women's group and women participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in Antrim.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has supported the development of a multi-cultural women's group in partnership with Oasis Antrim and APEX Housing Association.

The Multicultural Women's Group is made up of Syrian and Palestinian women, who have **escaped conflict in their home countries**, and women from the Antrim area. The Group has developed organically over the last 12 months building friendships, and connections within Antrim Town.



The programme focuses on **bringing women together to participate in a series of workshops using arts and crafts** as a medium for exchange and learning. The women were paired with each other while they took part in the workshops, which helped encourage them to talk to each other and build confidence with each other's culture. **An interpreter also attended each workshop** to help overcome any language barrier.



## Workshops have included;

- Flourish NI - women trafficking in NI whilst making pyramid gift boxes
- Moxie Makes - book folding
- Visits to Islamic Centre Belfast, Carrickfergus Castle, and The Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- St Patricks Day embroidering
- Origami Kusudama flower workshop
- Arabian Dance
- Comparing the Cultures - Fashion
- Pilates
- Comparing the Cultures - Cosmetics
- Mindfulness
- Comparing the Cultures - Food
- Comparing the Cultures - Holidays

The hope for the future of the Multi-Cultural Women's Group is that it will continue to nurture genuine connections and friendships across cultures, to **build on the success of the programme through promoting meaningful integration and support for women** in the Antrim Area, and to replicate this style of delivery across the Borough.

# Multi-Cultural Women's Group

The programme has been well received to date with **direct feedback from participants** highlighting the impact the programme has made;

"It has been brilliant to see how the women have integrated and learned so much about each others cultures."

"The Syrian women have really come out of their shells, some have experienced real trauma, some have not so good English - but they have all found the experience very valuable."

"One of the Syrian men, part of the family of one of our participants, became really involved and is now in training to become a teaching assistant."

"It has made me feel more comfortable around different cultures and backgrounds. Given me more knowledge."

"The visit to the Islamic Centre helped the local women learn a lot more about some of the customs and conventions and what is behind them and realise that we are not so different."

"I feel more open and able to talk to different ethnic backgrounds."

"A lot of preconceptions have been broken down."

"I am more knowledgeable about cultural differences and food and able to talk through an interpreter."

"Modesty is very important to the Syrian women, it is a huge part of their culture, and we are looking at setting up fitness classes which are tailored to their needs, as conventional classes in public venues can make them feel very exposed and they tend to avoid them."

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for us we have really enjoyed our time with you."

"To finish our most recent scheme, the ladies taught us some dancing, which was amazing, and we also learned how to cook Syrian food, then we went off for an afternoon tea - we were absolutely stuffed that day!"

"We are also working with a local gym to see if the ladies can be accommodated there too."

"I have never laughed so much in all my life - it was fab thank you ladies."

# Atlas Women's Centre

## 'Learning & Living Together' Project

Atlas Women's Centre was one of the voluntary and community groups to receive support in 2021/22 from TEO's Central Good Relations Fund. Based in Lisburn, the Centre provides a **safe, inclusive, enjoyable learning space** for all sections of the community.

The Centre was awarded £27,000 to run its Learning & Living Together project, contributing towards the delivery of T:BUC Key Priority 2: Our Shared Community.



A variety of interesting and exciting community learning programmes were delivered on topics including **history, music, singing, crafts, health, gardening and wellness**. All the activities addressed the understanding of participants' relationships with self and others.

The project was a huge success, with participants from diverse cultural backgrounds learning together and from each other. The activities were co-designed by Centre users, staff, volunteers and facilitators. This broad involvement in the design of the programmes meant that participants' needs were identified from the outset and ensured their long-term commitment to the project.

The activities helped to **increase confidence, awareness, empathy, trust and understanding of different values, beliefs and cultures in the participants**. Friendships were forged and isolation, loneliness, anger, stress and negativity were reduced.

A total of 197 participants, aged between 20 and 90 years, and coming from a variety of different communities completed the project.

The following are just a few of the many positive comments that were received from participants:

"This class has enabled me to control stress & be self-aware of the good"

"Exceeded expectations, felt safe and welcomed to share worries."

"I have gained more self-confidence & learned new skills and mindfulness."

"No judgements, we are all in the same boat."

"I have more ability to stand back & have perspective - far less stress."

"Amazing programme, safety and confidence to be yourself, support and friendship have everything we all need to get through each day! A complete package."





# T:buc

Changing for the better, together



Further information on the  
T:BUC Strategy may be found at:

[www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/tbuc](http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/tbuc)



Northern Ireland  
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COMMUNITY  
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