

A man in a blue jacket is captured in the middle of a baseball swing in a batting cage. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. A baseball is suspended in the air to his left. The background shows the structure of the batting cage and rows of red seats.

T:buc

Changing for the better, together

T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



Northern Ireland
Executive

Introduction



I am delighted to present the latest issue of the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletter. While I have been a regular attendee at the Engagements Forums over the past number of years, this is my first Forum as TEO's Director of Good Relations and T:BUC Division. Having seen first-hand the impact of Good Relations work - and the benefits it brings to the community - I am thrilled to take up post and support the incredible work being undertaken through T:BUC and wider Good Relations initiatives. I look forward to helping develop this work in any way that I can and getting out to visit projects in person again.

Through the last couple of Engagement Forums we have explored new areas and linked with new stakeholders, first connecting with Boston College and then with Business in the Community (BITC). This Forum continues that trend and builds on our last Forum with BITC.

The theme of this meeting is 'The Community Engaging with Business to deliver T:BUC. While the last event focused on the role businesses do or can play in communities, today the focus will be on hearing from community organisations who are already engaging with the business sector.

We are fortunate to have a wide range of speakers from the community sector at today's event who are already delivering successful projects in partnership with the local business sector. I look forward to learning about these in more detail and hearing about partnership working in action.

We'll also hear from BITC who will be providing some practical tips for community groups who would like to work in association with the business sector.

A panel discussion will follow today's presentations and I have no doubt this will be a valuable conversation for all those in the room.

The Community Relations Council has played a key role in co-ordinating the wide-ranging programme for this Forum and I would like to place on record my thanks for their efforts.

As usual, this issue of the Newsletter 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.

Both The Executive Office and Community Relations Council look forward to welcoming you to this online T:BUC Engagement Forum and I hope you enjoy today's event.

Chris Gardner

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

Looking back...

T:BUC Engagement Forum: March 2022 – Engaging with the Business Sector

Back in March the Executive Office (TEO) and Community Relations Council (CRC) hosted an Engagement Forum in partnership with Business in the Community.

The theme was ‘**Engaging with the Business sector**’ and the event focused on exploring how the business sector contributes to community cohesion, it showcased some work that is ongoing in this area, and provided a foundation for collaboration between public sector, private sector and communities.

The Forum was opened by Gareth Johnston, the Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations in TEO, followed by Lisa McIlvenna from BITC, John Healey, All State NI, Angela Noon from Siemens, Dr Jane Brady the Head of the NI Civil Service and Michelle Hatfield from George Best Belfast City Airport.

Ms McIlvenna provided a presentation on the role of BITC outlining the role of businesses in communities in Northern Ireland and the challenges and opportunities this presents. A key ethos of BITC was to explore opportunities to support business to be a force for good and this had gained momentum over the years, with many businesses now incorporating responsible business practices within their key strategies. Social inclusion and prosperity were key driving factors in the initiatives delivered by BITC.

Attendees at the Forum then heard from **John Healy**, the Vice President and Managing Director of All State NI, on investing in stability and good relations. Mr Healy began by outlining the challenging times in which we were living: globally, nationally, locally and individually. He emphasised that All State NI lived amidst the community and did business in the community and was therefore inextricably linked to it.

Progress has been made with 900 international companies now investing within Northern Ireland and talented staff and refugees from abroad were now coming in, investing their lives, careers

and futures alongside us and that diversity was impacting communities. However, challenges remain as we emerge from a pandemic to war in Europe. In closing, Mr Healey noted that businesses and community based organisations could create a space to think about all the issues and work towards solutions and BITC provided a solid network to do this.

Angela Noon from Siemens and the Chair of the UK Skills and Productivity Board then provided a presentation on investing in skills, diversity and good relations exploring the skills now required from work forces and employees given the changes introduced by digitisation. Future focus was likely to be on social diversity while another challenge was responsibility towards the planet, the road to net zero and the green economy. A levelling up strategy was required with investment in infrastructure: roads, transport, technology, innovation and within the Universities and Schools of the future and their relationship with business was a key challenge.

Dr Jayne Brady the Head of Civil Service highlighted the key areas of focus including the need for inclusive support pathways between schools and jobs as well as investment in the resources to support them. A holistic, partnership approach was required from Government Departments and partners in industry and the community sectors.

Attendees then heard from **Michelle Hatfield** the Director of HR and Corporate Responsibility at George Best Belfast City Airport on the topic of investing in good community connections. The core pillars for her organisation’s collaborative projects were people; environment; education and community. The key focus would continue to be around the education of young people and inspiring the next generation. Community funding had been established since 2009 and £500k had been invested in local community and educational projects to date. Current strategic key themes included the Ignite Youth Leadership Programme, Community funding and charitable

partnerships, and sustainability and the road to net zero.

The presentations were then followed by an informative question and answer session with Benny Miskelly from PwC, Jenni Barkley, Belfast Harbour and Laura Hourican, Firstsource Solutions facilitated by Richard Cushnie from TEO which included discussion on how to create engagement and ideas on improving collaboration.

Dr Denis McMahon the Permanent Secretary of the Executive Office closed the event by thanking all the participants for their contributions and went on to highlight a number of issues he considered particularly relevant. This included the need for EQ and social skills, and how Northern Ireland was going to take it's place in the world. Investment in the cross over between business and communities would be central to that. Other

issues included the need to focus on the mental health of young people to give them confidence, positive examples and to create pathways that led away from the grip of negative cycles; the need for business groups to listen, especially to community organisations; and supporting the emergence of confident, diverse, thriving communities by helping to tackle the hard issues.

Dr McMahon reiterated TEO's commitment to engaging with businesses and the public in order to make a difference. He encouraged participants to think of the TEO as an open door with respect to support with blurring boundaries and linking businesses with the wider community in an attempt to make life better in Northern Ireland for everybody.

Recordings from this Engagement Forum may be viewed on CRC's U Tube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NICRC>

Looking forward...

Here are some notable dates for your diaries

- CRC's Small Grants Scheme is now open for applications. CRC has several more schemes about to open in the coming weeks. You can find out more info here: <https://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

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 - watch this space! Find out more here: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/media-grant-scheme>

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.
- Opening soon - watch this space! Find out more here: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/publication-grant-scheme>

CRC News stories

- Inspirational Historian honoured with 2022 Good Relations Award - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/inspirational-historian-honoured-2022-good-relations-award>
- A short movie about the T:BUC Strategic Review and CRC's first in-person live event in over two years - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRxfJbdF9eY&ab_channel=NICRC
- Kinship of Difference – using music to heal divides - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/kinship-difference-using-music-heal-divides>
- Fighting Words and an inspirational cross-community project in East Belfast - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/fighting-words-and-other-banana-related-stories-inspirational-cross-community-project>
- 100 Years of Change Rural Community Network - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/year-long-programme-completed-100-years-change-rural-community-network>
- County Armagh Volunteer Awarded by UK Prime Minister - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/county-armagh-volunteer-awarded-by-prime-minister-ni-hyatt>
- Green Shoots of Peace and Drama in Tiger's Bay with Playwright Martin Lynch - <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/crafting-green-shoots-peace-and-drama-tigers-bay>

T:BUC Camps Programme

Programme summary

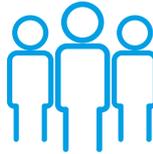
The T:BUC Camps Programme provides opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 to come together to build positive relationships across divided parts of our community. The camps challenge historic positions, encourage debate and discussion and provide a way for young people to get to know each other,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



Programme News



111 Camps were delivered in 2021/22.



32 Good Relations Ambassadors attended a T:BUC Trees event at Stormont on 19 March and planted 200 trees. This group was made up of TEO's T:BUC Camps Ambassadors and DfC's Uniting Communities Ambassadors



33 young people continue to take part in the T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme.



3 Camps in the Community events were delivered in February and March in Belfast, Armagh and Coleraine.



Funding will be offered to 122 groups to deliver a T:BUC Camp in 2022/23.



Recruitment process for Ambassadors for 2022/23 is underway.



The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of TEO, and more background on the Programme can be found at the following website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/tbuc>

Tiana's Story

Tiana is a T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassador and she took part in a T:BUC Trees event at Stormont in March 2022. Here is Tiana's story:

"The T:BUC Trees programme was a fantastic way to give back to the idea of preserving the environment. This is our country and our planet, and as well as promoting good relations between each other and diverse groups, we should encourage good relations between ourselves and our planet, as this is the place we, and all future generations will live."



"The Trees programme let me leave a legacy on Stormont Estate. A legacy that my family and future generations will be able to physically see and touch, and a legacy that truly signifies growth, wisdom and strength, as well as the planting of new roots for stable foundations for inspiration."

"As well as planting trees to aid the flourishing of trees in the natural environment, we also saw relationships between young people flourish. I made new friendships across the two T:BUC groups present, and also strengthened those in my own group as we worked together to meet a common goal."

"It was an unforgettable experience, and the trees will grow as our newfound relationships did, leaving behind a legacy for the generations ahead to follow."

"There were a lot of laughs as we got stuck into digging in our wellies, helping each other to shift rocks and barriers in our way to give new saplings the stable foundations to grow, and I believe this representative of ourselves, we cleared our negative beliefs and views to come together and unite."



"The groups ate together and this gave us more time afterwards to chat, build relationships, and discuss what we'd done. It was fantastic to speak to everyone involved, and the Stormont staff were incredible."

Planned Interventions Programme

Programme summary

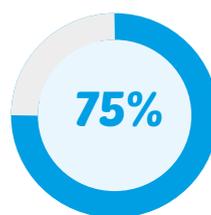
Delivered annually as part of the Executive's wider "Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy", the Executive Office's Planned Interventions Programme provides funding for community activity to divert young people from anti-social and potentially criminal behaviour around contentious parades 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



91 groups were funded in 2020/21 to deliver planned interventions projects to over 1,100 young people -an excellent result for TEO and its delivery partner, the Education Authority (EA) during a challenging climate for project delivery due to the ongoing pandemic.

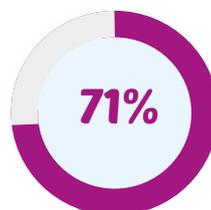
Key outcomes from the evaluation of the 2020 Programme included:



of participants who feel more favourably about young people in other community background;



The 2021/22 Programme closed for applications on 30 April 2021. £400k of funding will be made available to fund over 100 Planned Interventions projects in 2021



of participants who feel more favourable about young people from other ethnic groups after participating in the project; and



TEO and its delivery partner, EA, continue to engage with the community and voluntary sectors to assist with delivery during the current challenges associated with the pandemic.



of participants stated that they had improved self-confidence and developed new skills through participation



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



In response to recent events, TEO agreed to early provision of funding to assist EA in funding emergency interventions to mitigate the risk of more young people engaging in risk-taking behaviour and possibly entering the youth justice system.

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.

Uniting
Communities
through sport & creativity

Programme News



The TBUC Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity programme got off to an exciting start across February and March 2022 in the new areas of South Belfast and Lurgan/Portadown with a series of Taster Sessions held at Queen's PEC, Belfast and South Lakes Leisure Centre, Craigavon. Since the programmes' commenced over 400 young people aged 11-16 have taken part with over 40 Young Leaders aged 16-24 recruited.



Scotch Street Youth Community Centre leading the programme in Lurgan / Portadown and Todds Leap in South Belfast will now engage a cohort of participants that will be involved in a range of sport, creative and good relations activity that will bring together young people from different community backgrounds. In addition Co-operation Ireland are providing Young Leaders in both areas with an opportunity to complete a leadership training package that will enhance a range of skills that will contribute to the promotion of good relations within these communities.

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
tbuc@communities-ni.gov.uk



Further information: if you want to know more about the Uniting Communities Programme, check out the website:
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/uniting-communities-tbuc>

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.

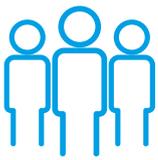
United Youth is built on 12 essential design features and the programme has a strong focus on engaging, non-formal learning approaches delivered via a professionally founded youth work approach.

Programme News



400 programme participants currently on Phase 2 of the Programme.

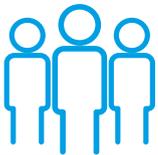
% of participants surveyed who achieved a qualification in at least one area during their time on the programme:



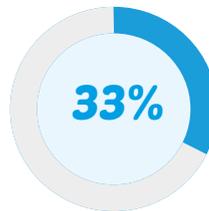
Over 7,000 participants have completed the programme (subject to verification).



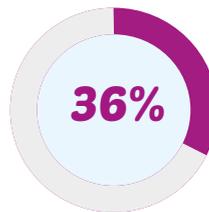
citizenship qualifications



Over 3,200 programme participants have received an incentive payment.



good relations qualifications



personal development qualifications



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



Urban Villages Initiative - Building our safe and connected community

Programme summary

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



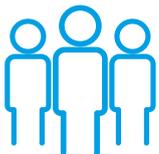
Programme News



Urban Villages is continuing to deliver a range of community led, cross cutting and capital projects to improve good relations outcomes in the five Urban Village areas.



The capital programme is progressing with pace and number of transformation and landmark capital projects will see the submission of planning applications or ground works beginning in the coming months including Donegal Pass Good Relations Hub, following completion of the purchase in recent weeks.



With approval until March 2023 for this phase of the Initiative, work is underway to consolidate learning and consider Programme outcomes. A BCS review has commenced and a Gateway Review will begin in Summer 2022, both of which will inform next steps for the programme and its possible extension.



As part of the capacity building strand, Urban Villages is strengthening its partnership with BITC and has delivered two joint events in the past few months to further support communities, strengthen capacity and continue to create more meaningful partnerships.

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact:
info@urbanvillagesni.org



If you want to know more about these projects, check out the website:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/urban-villages-initiative>



Business leaders attend ‘Seeing is Believing’ visit to build strategic community relationships

Senior business leaders from across Northern Ireland have gained a unique insight into the challenges faced by communities across Northern Ireland and the interventions they can make collaboratively to achieve significant and long-term positive change.

Led by the responsible business network, Business in the Community (BITC) in partnership with TEO’s Urban Villages Initiative and supported by Allstate Northern Ireland and Translink, the businesses investigated how they can provide a more hands-on, strategic approach in helping communities through shared skills, expertise and the best use of resources.

John Healy, Managing Director Allstate Northern Ireland, and Chair of Business in the Community’s Community Leadership Team explains:

“Seeing is Believing visits are one of our most effective tools to enhance business and community collaboration, and help businesses to understand the key issues facing communities on-the-ground”

“We ask each organisation being visited to think of key ‘asks’ from business that would significantly help them; encouraging businesses to work together to meet at least one of these asks per organisation post-visit. When businesses get to see the challenges community organisations are facing, they build a genuine interest and enthusiasm in trying to help them. For some time now, across Northern Ireland, we have seen a definite shift from companies who used to provide cash into communities, to more successful and mutually-beneficial partnership models being explored. Seeing is Believing visits are a great way to foster this too.”

The community organisations who presented at this visit included Poleglass Community Association, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, TRIAX with Bogside & Brandywell Initiative, North West Cultural Partnership, Women’s TEC, YEHA and Skills North West.

Carol Morrow, Director of Urban Villages and Communities in Transition adds:

“We aim to foster positive community identities, build community capacity, and improve the physical environment of communities across Northern Ireland. Business in the Community has helped us by means of this event to deepen the understanding of business into real and tangible community needs. We are looking forward to some great relationships developing as a result of this visit.”

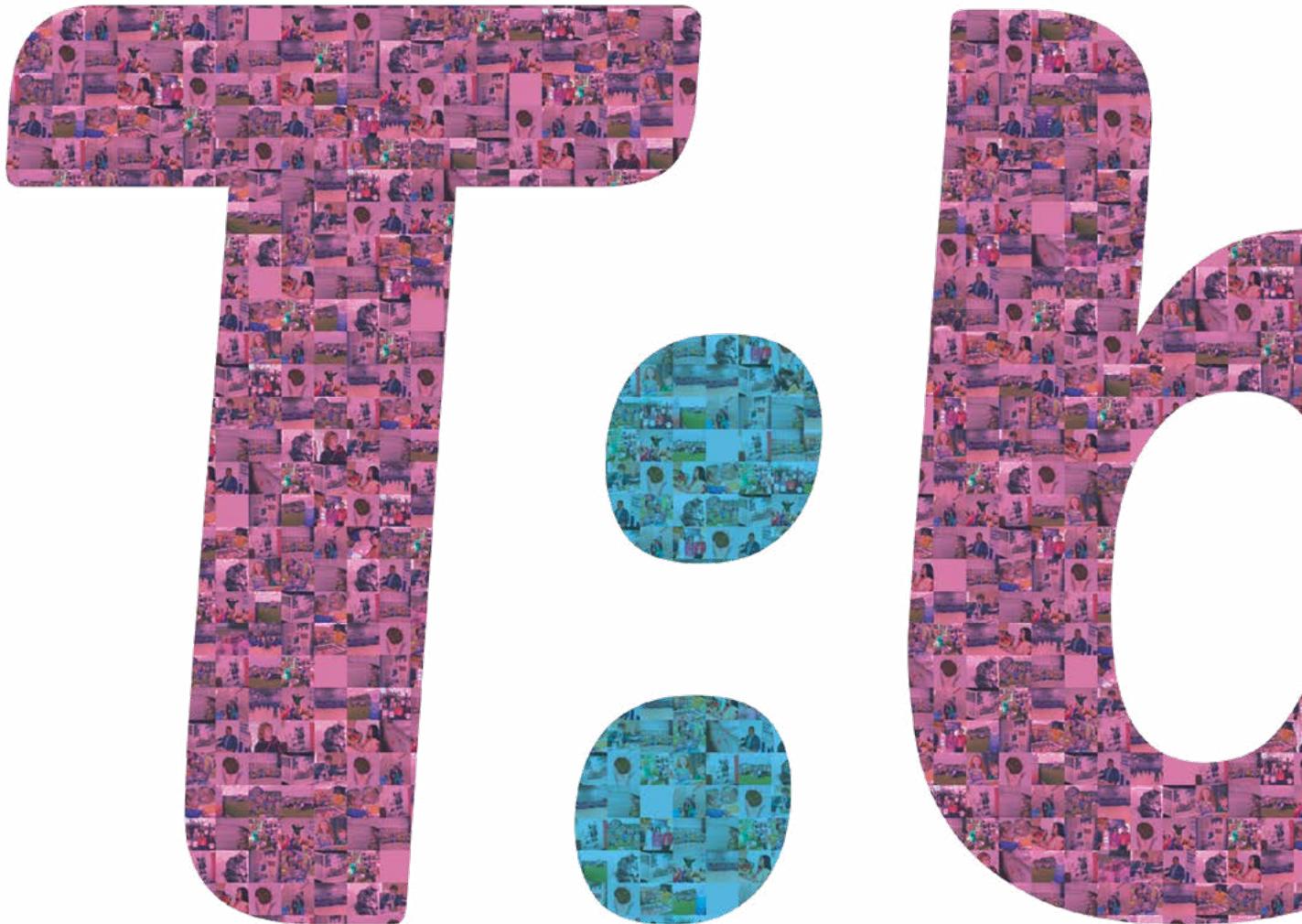
What is it?

The T:BUC Engagement Forum has been established to enable government and its associated bodies to update the voluntary & community sector on progress with regard to the implementation of T:BUC.



What is the vision?

Enable the voluntary & community sector to address T:BUC implementation issues, identify good practice and make practical and innovative recommendations for improved delivery.



Engagem

When is it?



The inaugural meeting took place on 10 March 2016. Three meetings are held each year.

Interested?



If you would like to register your interest in the T:BUC Engagement Forum please contact the Community Relations Council at **028 9022 7500** or **info@nicrc.org.uk**. You can view the T:BUC Engagement Forum newsletters via the link below:
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/tbuc-engagement-forum-newsletters>



ment Forum

Shared Education Campuses

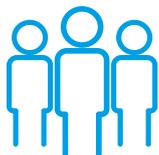
Programme summary

The Shared Education Campuses (SEC) Programme provides capital assistance to applicant schools to facilitate shared education. There have been three calls to the SEC Programme, with five projects having been approved to proceed to planning. The projects include a mixture of designs, but all include shared education facilities as the core element of delivery.

Programme News



Work continues on the four projects approved from the first and second calls to the programme. The two post-primary projects are leading the way with construction already started on the new shared facilities for the Limavady 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).

Amazing the Space and EPIC Learning, Ballycastle High School (HS) and Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle

Year 10 pupils from Ballycastle High School (HS) and Cross and Passion College engaged in rich learning opportunities, while participating in the 'Amazing the Space' project in February and March 2022. Their respective History teachers planned lessons on 'Emigration and the movement of people throughout history' which tied into units of work that each school was studying at that time.

Three stages of lessons were planned, with stage one delivered, in their respective schools, by their own teachers, as an introduction to the topic. The next two phases were delivered collaboratively in each of the partner schools, with pupils coming together and learning collaboratively.

The series opened with an exploration of the stereotypes and reasons for emigration. Like all good historians, pupils worked on constructing a detailed timeline, thinking about the movement of people to and from Ireland during different periods.

In addition, students also visited EPIC, Ireland's Emigration Museum in Dublin. EPIC allowed for the students to explore the challenges Irish people faced when emigrating from their home country, as well as the contributions they made throughout history, many of which continue today.

The final lesson between both schools involved a number of guest speakers presenting their personal experiences of emigration in the Twentieth Century and really brought their study to life.

The Showcase and Celebration Event at Titanic, Belfast was an opportunity for all of the participating regional cluster groups to come together. Four of the students from Ballycastle HS and Cross and Passion College were invited to present to the gathering about their work, including their personal reflections of the learning experience and what they had gained from it.



Youtube link to further information from the schools and TEO on Amazing the Space
<https://youtu.be/EoTi-XrH65s>

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.



Duane Johnston Ballymena Services Club member stated:

"This was a fantastic cross cultural event enjoyed by the Ballymena community. Thanks to Choice Housing and the Department for Communities and Housing Executive's 'Housing for All' shared housing programme for making this happen".

Ballymena Intercultural Good Relations Programme Gets Underway

Choice Housing Association delivered a successful intercultural event in the Ballymena Services Club on Saturday 19th March 2022. The large crowd of attendees from across Ballymena sampled traditional fayre in the form of stew and soda bread, and they enjoyed cross-community cultural entertainment provided by the Seven Towers School of Irish Dancers, the Sir George White memorial flute band, and Ulster Scots musician Willie Drennan.

Following on from the event, a group of residents visited the Somme Museum in Conlig on Saturday 26th March 2022. The residents were welcomed by the museum's Director Carol Walker MBE, who provided a fascinating and balanced insight into events in Ireland during the home rule crisis and the 1916 rising. The shared history learning experience enabled participants to explore the roles of the 10th Irish, 16th Irish and 36th Ulster divisions during World War 1.

Ballymena resident Colin Brown said:

"This was a great opportunity for us all to learn more about the role of the Irish and Ulster divisions during World War 1, and also to learn of the devastating impacts that the events around that period had at home and abroad."

The Choice, Radius, Triangle and the North Belfast Housing Associations are developing six shared housing schemes in the Ballymena area, including the regeneration of the former St Patrick's Barracks site. The Associations recently established the Ballymena Advisory Group with local stakeholders and residents to support the development and delivery of the shared schemes' five-year Good Relations Plans.

The delivery of shared housing in Ballymena will see an investment of approx. £22.3M. The Ballymena shared schemes are located at Market Road Ballymena (£2.3M), the former St Patrick's Barracks site (£13M), Broadway Avenue (£2.5M), Galgorm Road at (£2.5M), Doury Road (£1M), and Linenhall Street (£967K).

Banbridge Toy Library is more than just child's play



Young children in the Banbridge area have been learning and discovering through play thanks to a community project supported by Clanmil Housing.

The Support For Mums group meets at Laurencetown Community Centre every week and welcomes children up to four years old and their parents, where the little ones have fun playing with a little help from a trained facilitator. At the heart of the group is an innovative toy library, the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland. It was set up last year by local parent and part-time music teacher Maeve Brisk, receiving funding from

Clanmil as part of the wider 'Tak500' project run by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council.

The toy library provides a more affordable and eco-friendly way to play, using toys and games. Toys are made from sustainable materials, and are thoroughly cleaned before being lent out again. They are suitable for different ages and developmental needs, and include puzzles, games, pretend play figures and much more. The toy library is run as a not-for-profit service via a website. Parents can pay an affordable membership fee, order the toys they'd like to borrow and collect them at a time that suits.

Maeve highlighted the importance of play for child development and stated:

"Children can outgrow toys very quickly, as they are learning and developing all the time. Parents can feel under pressure to buy new toys and this can be a challenge for stretched budgets, and can lead to toys being discarded. The toy library project provides good quality, educational toys for a range of ages and needs, and is also very eco-friendly because fewer toys are being thrown out."

Austin Kelly, Community Cohesion Officer with Clanmil said:

"At Clanmil we support many projects that benefit children and their families and the Support For Mums project has been essential in relieving feelings of isolation and providing opportunities for children and their parents to play together, get access to excellent resources and increase their sense of belonging in the community. The toy library is a unique idea that has so many benefits. It is an eco-friendly solution to a challenge many parents have when they want to provide the best for their children without harming the environment or facing financial hardship."

Clanmil Housing has allocated £2,600 to the project as part of a Good Relations Plan within Hawthorn Gardens in Banbridge, its shared neighbourhood development supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's 'Housing for All'

Shared Housing Programme. Hawthorn Gardens is one of the initial 10 T:BUC developments, which were a headline action in the NI Executive T:BUC Strategy.

Clanmil Housing continues to work in partnership with the local Advisory Group stakeholders, and with residents to develop the scheme's Good Relations Plan. Approx £2.4m was invested in the shared housing development and associated Good Relations Plan. The Plan includes 'Bridging' events which are delivered to the wider community to encourage a range of good relations outcomes.

Banbridge students look to the future at careers event

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

The Shared Education Careers Fair in Banbridge on 9th February enabled students from Banbridge High School, St Patrick's College and New Bridge Integrated College to meet local businesses regarding potential employment paths, and colleges and universities to research qualifications required to pursue their chosen career.

Austin Kelly, Community Cohesion Officer with Clanmil Housing said:

"One of our aims at Clanmil is to reach, connect and collaborate to strengthen communities, and we are delighted to support this initiative to help young people achieve their full potential in education and the world of work. The careers event is one of many projects we have supported in the Banbridge area, as part of our commitment to community engagement from our development of the Hawthorn Gardens shared housing neighbourhood."

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

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

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

Clanmil allocated £4,200 to the project as part of a Good Relations Plan within Hawthorn Gardens in Banbridge, its shared neighbourhood development which opened in 2019. The development is one of the initial 10 T:BUC developments and is supported through 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.



The Hawthorn Gardens shared housing development is also supported by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. A total of £2.4m has been invested in the shared housing development and associated five-year Good Relations Plan. Clanmil Housing Association currently has five shared housing developments across Northern Ireland and is promoting a further three.

The Hawthorn Gardens Good Relations Plan includes 'Bridging' events which are delivered to the wider community to encourage a range of good relations outcomes which include Health and Wellbeing, Education and Training.

World War One Shared History Project in Sion Mills



As part of Rural Housing Association's Old Mill Court shared housing development in Sion Mills, the Association has been working in partnership with Sion Mills Community Forum to deliver a 15-week shared history project exploring the impact of World War One on the community of Sion Mills. During the 15-week programme residents have worked with writer and presenter Frank Galligan to explore the stories of local people who fought and lived through World War One. In addition, project participants also created a series of art displays, poetry and documented stories from this era. The project concluded with a Shared History Exhibition at the Bog Hall in Sion Mills on Saturday 26th March, where artifacts from WWI, as well as displays provided by the Inniskillings Museum, Enniskillen, were displayed alongside the artwork, stories and poetry created by local residents. The exhibition shares stories of people from all community backgrounds impacted by WWI.

This shared history project is delivered as part of the Old Mill Court shared development five-year good relation plan, which was developed in partnership with a local Advisory Group comprising of community and statutory stakeholders, as well as local residents.

Rural Business Development Manager, Ruth Montgomery, said

"This Shared History Project, delivered through Sion Mills Community Forum captures the stories of people from the Sion Mills area that lived through the difficult events of WWI. It demonstrates the cross-community nature of the village during the War period and how the events of WWI impacted the village. The final exhibition is a credit to the hard work of both Sion Mills Community Forum and project participants, and reflects the loss experienced by many households in the area during this time."

Sion Mills Community Forum spokesperson Andy Patton commented:

"Sion Mills Community Forum thanks all our funders, DfC and the Housing Executive, as well as Frank Galligan for their tremendous support for this WWI Project. We also thank our Exhibitors and our main supplier Enniskillen Castle WW1 for their unique artefacts."

The Old Mill Court shared development 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. £1.27m was invested in the schemes development and associated five-year Good Relations Plan.

Rural Housing Association currently has 3 shared housing developments across Northern Ireland. The Old Mill Court Good Relations Plan includes 'Bridging' events delivered to the wider community to encourage a range of good relations outcomes which include diversity projects, health and wellbeing projects and cross-community initiatives.

Contact:

For more information about the Shared Housing Programme please visit:

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

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.



At 31 March 2022 10 Local Authority Action Plans and 15 Regional Building Positive Relations Programmes have successfully completed with the remaining projected expected to be completed by 2023. Closure events and promotional material have been supported and acknowledged by Ministers to highlight and pay tribute to all those whose participation has made each Programme a success.



The new £1 billion 'PEACE PLUS' programme was submitted to the EU Commission in March 2022 for approval and 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 by summer 2022. First calls will include the local authority action plans and victims and survivors elements.



TEO is the accountable department for actions delivered by local authorities under three of the four thematic objectives of the PEACE IV Programme (Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations), including the local authority action plans, the regional element of Building Positive Relations at local level and the provision of services for victims and survivors.



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

Contact:

For more information about the Peace IV and Peace Plus Programme please contact:
grbusinesssupport@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



Listen, Share Change project

The €1.3m project was delivered by the Housing Executive and Verbal and supported through the European Union's PEACE IV Programme.

Listen Share Change has operated across Northern Ireland between April 2018 and December 2021. It has used the Reading Rooms model of transportive storytelling to facilitate meaningful conversations and equipped participants with the skills to enable them to become active decision makers, allowing them to shape the development of a society in which housing has a role in creating a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous and fair society.

As part of the programme participants were given the opportunity to meet new people and participate in shared reading experiences. Through working with people from different communities, cultural, and religious backgrounds Listen, Share, Change has made a positive impact on the ways in which our different communities perceive and interact with each other.

The Housing Executive and Verbal led project helped build positive relations between over 1,500 people from different communities and backgrounds. Over 52 communities were engaged during the project, which included the development of 26 cross-community partnerships.

Listen Share Change has provided OCN Level 2 training in Facilitation Skills for Shared Reading for over 140 volunteers, who became Neighbourhood Champions in their own

communities, which further implemented the Reading Rooms model at a local level beyond the project term. In addition, they have engaged with 109 Future Youth Leaders, promoting active citizenship and engagement in community issues, empowering them to have their voices heard.

By engaging participants in reading and discussion around purposefully selected literary works, they were encouraged to explore and reflect on issues relevant to their own lives such as diversity, heritage and conflict.

Sport Uniting Communities



Delivered across the province of Ulster, the collaboration project between Irish Football Association, Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby engaged with over 19,000 people of differing backgrounds and 180 sports clubs, particularly across the political divide, to help change perceptions and build sustained relationships. The project was funded through the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. Match-

funding was provided by the Executive Office, Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland. This programme highlighted the important role of sport in bringing together people from different cultural, community and religious backgrounds, resulting in a change to perceptions, improving attitudes, tolerance and respect, and developing meaningful relationships across our local communities.



Compelling elements of the programme provided opportunities for local sports clubs to become more accessible, inclusive and to upskill their volunteer base is essential to contributing to the longer term sustainability within our local communities while promoting positive relations, respect and cultural diversity.

A few of the key projects and activities delivered under Sport Uniting Communities included a multi-sport partnership, a Game of 3 Halves, a Volunteer Development Programme, a BME Engagement & Participation Programme, a Youth Leadership Programme and a number of single-led activities delivered by each individual organisation.

This programme has made substantial progress over the past five years in helping to positively change attitudes, break down barriers and support marginalised groups of people across our society

The Irish FA, Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby look forward to the new PEACEPLUS Programme and continuing to use the reach of sport for cross community engagement to promote peace and reconciliation.



Central Good Relations Fund

Programme summary

The Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) supports constituted voluntary and community sector groups to deliver good relations projects where there is evidence of good relations need. Since 2016, £15million has been awarded to support over 460 projects. In the last three funding years alone over 100,000 direct participants have been positively impacted by programmes using activities like sport, music and crafts to engage local communities.

Programme News



209 applications, requesting approximately £8million of funding, were received in respect of the 2022/23 CGRF Programme.



Following the CGRF assessment process, almost £3million has been offered to 73 successful projects.



Applications to the small grants element of the 2022/23 CGRF which offers up to £1,500 for good relations projects to be delivered by 31 March 2023 has opened. Further information is available at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/central-good-relations-fund-202223-small-grant-application-form-and-guidance-notes>

ArtsEkta deliver 'Wisdom and Words around the World' Good Relations Project

Multi-award winning cultural organisation, ArtsEkta, recently completed the successful delivery of their Good Relations project, 'Wisdom and Words around the World'.

The project, which was awarded £10,586 from The Executive Office's Central Good Relations Fund, supported intercultural understanding and celebrated a diversity of cultures through an engaging storytelling project. The aim of the project was to break down barriers between communities through an exchange of traditional tales and stories from various global cultures.

Around 40 people from a wide range of backgrounds, including Syria, Turkey, Eritrea,

Poland, Sudan and India as well as Northern Ireland, took part in the project.

Participants' stories were woven together into a series which was accompanied by its own bespoke music and song to create a final piece, 'The Displaced Heart'. A series of poems was also created. Two events were held in March to mark the successful delivery of the project and showcase the artistic results to participants' families and friends – around 300 people attended.

Comments from some of the participants included:

"Thank you for the opportunity to come the classes and share my stories with these women. I have made friends now and will be continuing to be involved in the projects with ArtsEkta."

"My experience was very good. I liked working on the project and picking the story and painting to make from the Irish culture. Someone also painted the story from my culture and I was proud to see it."

"I can't believe we have our own food at this event! You have Ash!!! Like home!"



District Council Good Relations Programme

Programme summary

The key aims of the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) are to improve relations between and within Council areas and to support local solutions to local good relations issues.

Programme News



On Monday 16th, 3 groups from ABC Council travelled to Killarney for Co-Operation Ireland Pride Of Place Awards



This was the 19th year of IPB Pride of Place Awards, where they celebrate the extraordinary voluntary work of communities all over the Island of Ireland.



Entries from 88 groups were received across a range of categories.



One of the ABC entries was South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association which was established over 25 years ago to promote the interests of the communities along the southern shore of Lough Neagh and to facilitate the development and regeneration of the region.

They support a range of groups ranging from day-care provision for older people to a unique school partnership with local schools and were responsible for building Mahgery Rural enterprise Centre which provides units or social enterprises in the area.

They have been active in promoting local culture, history and musical skills. During Covid they distributed wellbeing packages to those most vulnerable and delivered a variety of virtual programmes to local residents including stress management, healthy eating and crafts. We were so delighted for the group who picked

up a runner up award in their category, to be recognised for their work at such an award ceremony is to be commended.

Contact:

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

T:BUC - in pictures





Further information on the T:BUC Strategy can be found at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/good-relations-and-social-change/together-building-united-community-tbuc>

T:buc

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