

Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation

A Strategy for the International Fund for Ireland
2016 – 2020



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Contents

Community Transformation Accomplishments	1
Why a new strategy?	2
Ministers' Endorsement	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Challenges	5
3. Strategic Objectives 2016-2020	6
4. Approach	7
Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)	8
Shared Education Programme (SEP)	10
Peace Walls Programme (PWP)	12
Peace Impact Programme (PIP)	14
5. Conclusion	19

Community Transformation Accomplishments

The International Fund for Ireland's 2012-2015 Community Transformation Strategic Framework placed a focus on community transformation rather than conflict management. Through this process the IFI recognised the need to progress community and statutory agency engagement to a holistic model as it began a series of measures aimed at addressing some of the most significant remaining challenges to lasting peace. Recent achievements include:

Permanent changes in educational delivery in Northern Ireland to dissolve separation in schools.



Alternative pathways being opened to marginalised young people that are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by paramilitaries.

Agreements secured between communities to begin the process of removing physical divisions (Peace Walls).



A new model for statutory authorities, community organisations and funder steering groups to effectively pool resources and develop effective strategies for unique community issues.

The delivery model of the IFI Peace Walls Programme is now being adopted by the Northern Ireland Executive to address interface divisions.



Ground-breaking engagement that has enabled individuals and communities, who are still affected by sectarian violence, to take part in peace building activities for the first time.

Agreement of an accord between the Londonderry Bands Forum and the Apprentice Boys, which has the potential to unlock the wider difficulties over contentious parades.



In the course of this work, it has become apparent that additional resources and further targeted interventions are essential to consolidate and sustain peace. This 2016-2020 strategy details the approach which the IFI believes is required to advance the promising transformations started in the previous strategic framework. It looks to build on the IFI's unique and extensive experience, hard won reputation and proven capacity to deliver.

Why a new strategy?

As Chairman and on behalf of the Board of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), I am delighted to present our vision of how the IFI can continue to uniquely and significantly support peace consolidation efforts on the island of Ireland from 2016-2020.

Whereas previous IFI strategies have outlined how we proposed to utilise funding already secured, this strategy outlines what the IFI believes is needed to address some of the most significant remaining challenges to lasting peace. This strategy looks to build on the IFI's unique and extensive experience, its distinctive reputation and a proven capacity to deliver transformed communities.

Peace building in any context is a slow process, typically extending over decades rather than years. For almost three decades, the IFI has advanced the push for peace with many significant contributions to community and policy development on the island of Ireland.

In the first phase, the IFI brought communities together through economic activity that helped generate the conditions and confidence for early peace-making efforts to succeed, as they did with the IRA ceasefire in 1994 and the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

The second phase supported the stabilising of Northern Ireland's newly formed political institutions and the rebuilding of community cohesion. The progress made at the political level and between communities in many parts of Northern Ireland, offered hope that a normalisation of relations would take root at all levels. However, it is now clear that much work is still required to address the tensions and complex issues that remain between and within communities.

The reality is that some people have been left behind by the Peace Process and increasing activity by those opposed to the political settlement threaten the progress that has been made. The IFI's Community Transformation 2012-2015 strategy has carefully focused on engaging with these groups through the widely-acclaimed Peace Walls and Peace Impact Programmes.

Yet in the course of this work, it has become apparent that further targeted interventions are essential to consolidate and sustain peace. While there remains political determination to address the difficult issues in our society, action at community level is still greatly needed.

This strategy details the approach which the IFI believes is now required and leverages our capacity and unique standing within all communities to develop solutions to some of the most divisive issues in our society.

Through the period of this strategy, the IFI aims to consolidate and advance the transformation process started in the 2012-2015 strategic framework. We will continue to engage with individuals and communities that have had little or no participation in peace building and community reconciliation activities.

The IFI will also bring a renewed emphasis to addressing the factors that prevent young people from beginning the journey to peace and reconciliation. While the IFI is ideally placed to

deliver this work and confident that it has the organisational capacity and community relationships experience and expertise to achieve necessary change, we face a real fiscal challenge.

We recognise that it is difficult for the donor governments to continue to support programmes on the island of Ireland at a time of budgetary austerity.

Sustainable peace in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland has not been achieved, nor will it be achieved by short term strategic planning.

The Board strongly believes that to ensure good management of our programmes, planning must be modelled on a multiannual budgetary basis. To this end, we seek a commitment from the member governments that they will endeavour to ensure that a five-year funding structure of between £29million and £45 million is made available to the IFI.

These are indicative figures based upon the Board's understanding of what is required in order for the strategy to have a meaningful impact, leverage support from other funders and deliver best value on the investment.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand for their very generous financial support and political encouragement over many years. We would hope that, regardless of the future funding model, support and encouragement would continue to be forthcoming.

The international dimension of the IFI has greatly facilitated its ability to transcend political disputes and tensions and make some of the first significant engagements with communities and constituencies that are currently beyond the reach of governmental interventions. This quality of the IFI has never been so evident as it is today.

Like all of our previous strategies, this entire scope of work is directed towards informing the development of governmental policy in the IFI's field of activity and with the ambition of the programmes being mainstreamed and supported financially by governmental action.

It is our wish that the IFI continues to apply its unique experience and position to help consolidate the gains of the Peace Process and deliver sustainable peace on the Island of Ireland.

Dr Adrian Johnston
Chairman

Ministers' Endorsement

We are delighted to welcome the IFI's new Strategy for the period 2016 – 2020, Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation, and commend the IFI for its determination to continue to tackle the remaining barriers to peace and reconciliation.

The establishment of the International Fund for Ireland in 1986 by the British and Irish Governments with the visionary and generous support of President Reagan, the US Administration and the Congress led by Tip O'Neill marked a very significant step forward towards peace and stability. Over time, projects supported by the IFI made a vital contribution to encouraging those engaged in violence to embrace politics and begin the journey towards peace on the island of Ireland.

We have come a long way since then and the IFI has evolved in step with the changes that have taken place. In the course of its work on the ground, and often in difficult circumstances, it has won a reputation for being prepared to take calculated risks and deliver positive results for local communities. It is widely respected by all those with whom it engages as an impartial and independent body. As such it is a very effective organisation that is well placed to address those marginalised parts of society which statutory agencies sometimes find difficult to reach.

Working with local community groups, which are determined to embed the peace, the IFI has been able to provide models for dealing with complex and difficult situations. By engaging with those who have not yet or only recently started on the journey of reconciliation, the IFI is ensuring that no part of Northern Ireland is left behind in the search for a stable and shared society.

The decision of the IFI Board to extend and expand its existing programmes in the new Strategy is a measure of the demand at grassroots level for support for the consolidation of peace and reconciliation. We particularly welcome the addition of a new personalised youth development programme aimed at individuals who are at most risk of being recruited by minority elements who still espouse the use of violence. This programme is designed to transform the lives of disaffected young people who nonetheless have the capacity, with a little help, to become responsible citizens, social entrepreneurs and leaders in their own communities.

The British and Irish Governments are keen to see the IFI's work continue. In endorsing this Strategy, we hope that it can also be supported by the international community whose solidarity on the journey to peace in Northern Ireland has been of immense value. That support sends a very potent signal to communities in Northern Ireland and the border counties in the South that the world remains enthusiastically committed to the work of peace-building on the island of Ireland.



Charles Flanagan T.D.
Minister for Foreign
Affairs and Trade



Theresa Villiers M.P.
Secretary of State
for Northern Ireland

1. Introduction

Since it was established by the British and Irish governments in 1986, the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) has successfully developed and delivered a wide range of economic, peace building, and reconciliation interventions in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Thousands of individuals living in hundreds of communities affected by sectarian violence have benefited from the IFI's support.

Over many years evaluations by donors and independent assessors have found the IFI's interventions to have successfully brought real and meaningful change. Its in-depth knowledge of the issues on the ground; long-standing relationships with community organisations and activists; and a reputation for neutrality and independence, collectively give the IFI unique latitude of action.

Sensitive and receptive to grassroots political opinion, the IFI has successfully and deliberately linked recent programmes to emerging and complex issues of concern in the community. In the process, it has taken risks in the cause of peace and pushed political and administrative leaders towards the adoption of new policies shaped by the IFI.

In the last three years, IFI programmes have led directly to mainstreamed and sustainable governmental policies that address, for example, community separation in the education system and the removal of physical barriers and divides. The IFI is determined and is confident that this approach will continue in its future programmes.

The IFI's 2012-2015 strategic framework was specifically developed to deliver real and positive community transformation through peace building, reconciliation, and capacity building interventions in those communities most impacted by the conflict that have not previously, or only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities. Their participation is crucial to consolidating peace.

Through the 2012-2015 strategy, IFI interventions have led to agreements to remove interface barriers in North and West Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. It has also led to the agreement of an accord between the Londonderry Bands Forum and the Apprentice Boys, which has the capacity to be adopted as a protocol for all parades in Northern Ireland. Across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, IFI programmes have encouraged local communities to develop solutions to extremism; actively supported young people and others to move away from paramilitarism, violence and anti-community activity; provided new options to marginalised young people and given new confidence to communities isolated by decades of violence.

This 2016-2020 strategy proposes to intensify that work, focusing on the needs of young people who are at risk of radicalisation and recruitment to organisations determined to undermine the Peace Process. Previous programmes have demonstrated the importance of engaging young people and some of those involved in previous IFI-backed youth programmes have become leaders in their chosen careers, including in the arts, hospitality, manufacturing and also within the political arena.

The political institutions in Northern Ireland are far from stable. There remains a viable threat to undermine the fragile peace and many serious and persistent issues remain unresolved and are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Austerity and in some cases unwillingness or inability to tackle the tough challenges ahead leaves IFI as one of, if not the only, actors available and willing to go where others cannot and to take the necessary risks for a lasting peace.

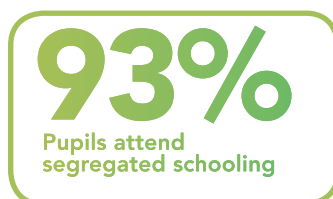
“There are still people who haven’t reaped the rewards of peace. There are those who aren’t convinced that the effort is worth it. There are still wounds that haven’t healed, and communities where tensions and mistrust hangs in the air. There are walls that still stand; there are still many miles to go.”

President Barack Obama,
Belfast, Northern Ireland,
17 June 2013

2. Challenges

Embedding peace on the island of Ireland will take time. While great progress has been made in the high level relationships between Britain and Ireland, between North and South, and between political leaders in Northern Ireland; it has become obvious that increasing community tensions and rising paramilitary activity by those opposed to the political settlement threaten the extraordinary progress that has been made.

Certain realities about society in Northern Ireland remain, including:



For some communities, there is a belief that the political process has moved too far and too quickly and hasn't taken their views and concerns on board, leaving them anxious and reactionary. Other communities believe that there has been roll-back from some of the promises enshrined in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement in relation to Rights, Equality and Civic participation as well as a political reluctance to tackle 'Legacy of the Past' issues. In understanding the complexity of progressing these issues, failure to do so contributes to rising resentments at local level and gives further voice to those opposed to the political settlement in the first place.

These challenges are not unexpected but should not be ignored. Recent street protests and violence have given new voice and energy to the paramilitary factions vying for power and control of communities. Paramilitary infrastructures, in the main, remained intact even after decommissioning, with few participating in the political peacebuilding process.

Polarisation of interface communities has increased dramatically since 2012 and some of the progress made in reconciling communities has regressed. Tensions around issues of identity and culture remained worryingly high and

visible throughout 2013, but resolution of these issues at political level will require robust grassroots support.

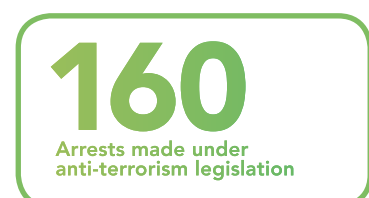
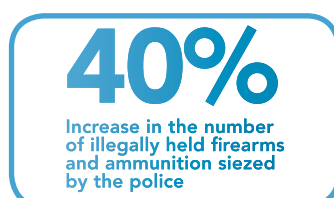
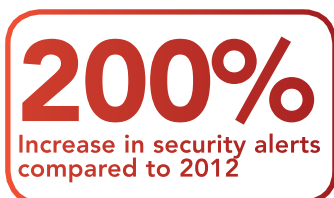
Some communities are significantly disadvantaged socially and economically. A recent Community Relations Council's report found poorer Protestant boys in Northern Ireland to be seriously underachieving at school. The report's author, Dr Paul Nolan, warned that such inequalities may continue to manifest in public disorder and anger that could unsettle the political future. Implementation of the Funds Shared Education models will address some of these issues.

Compared to Northern Ireland, the security situation in the border counties of Ireland appears less difficult. But security authorities have indicated concerns about dissident Republican activity and growing support for destabilisation of the Peace Process.

People and communities still experience exclusion and isolation due to continued division and the legacy of conflict.

It is critical to stay with this work and take the challenges on board by taking risks for peace.

The period 2013-2014 brought serious problems to political and social stability with:



3. Strategic Objectives 2016–2020

This Strategy aims to assist the British and Irish governments and the Northern Ireland Executive in their efforts to consolidate the Peace Process, by continuing to tackle some of the most significant remaining challenges to a lasting peace, with a particular focus on young people.

In this strategy, the International Fund for Ireland aims to:

- move beyond the creation of conditions to remove Peace Walls to actual removal of physical barriers;
- challenge those who have not or will not engage in peace building and reconciliation activities and encourage those who have only recently done so to go further;
- prepare disadvantaged young people to engage economically and socially; and
- support the implementation of shared education in “the DNA of society”.

The strategic objectives are:

1 To promote reconciliation and integration in interface areas.

2 To continue to engage communities and individuals, particularly young people, who have only recently or have not yet participated in peace building and community reconciliation activities.

3 To maintain the longstanding approach of IFI in promoting economic and social advance in communities suffering from very high levels of economic and social deprivation.

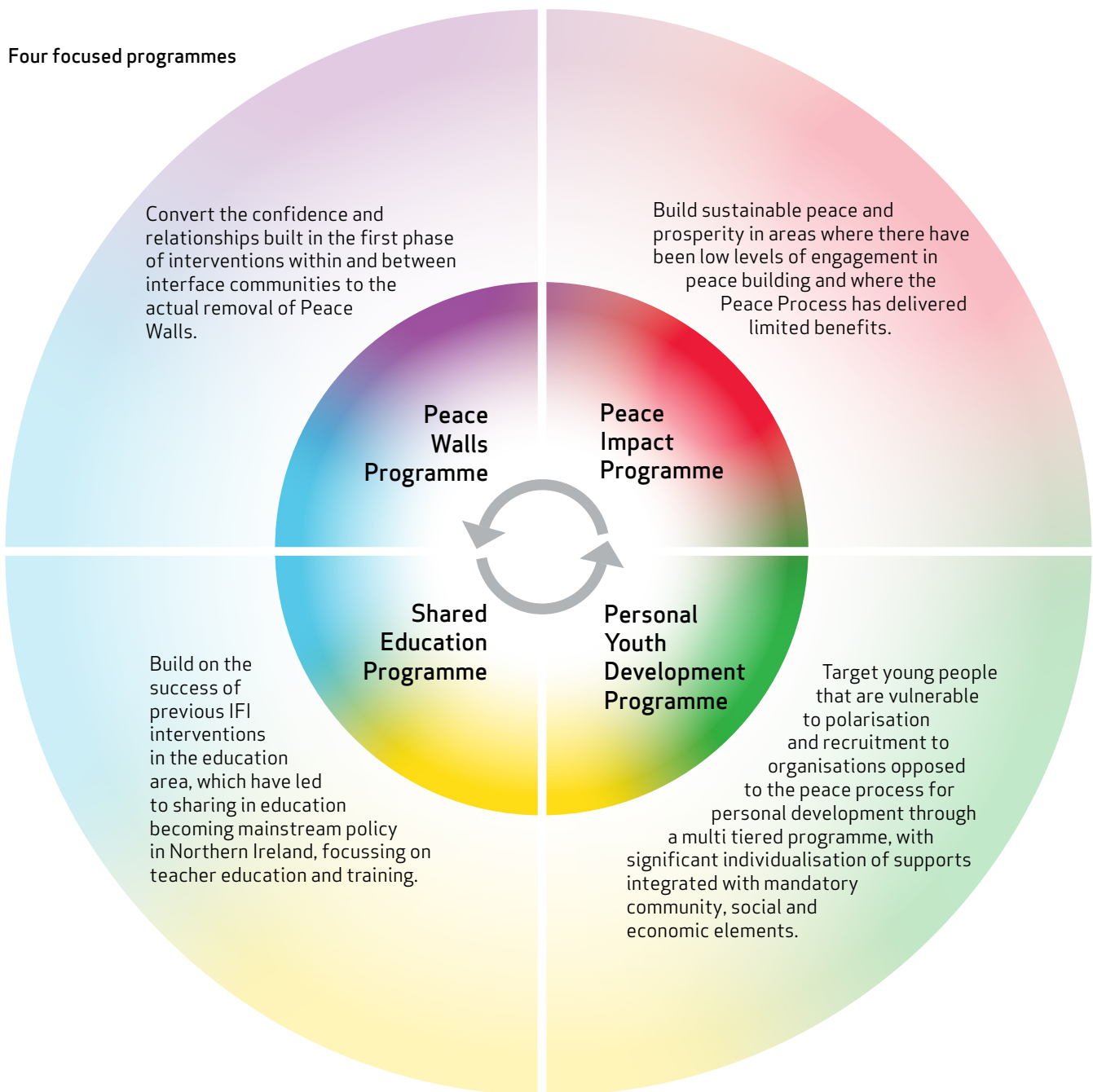
4 To continue to build strategic alliances with other funders and government to ensure interventions are complementary, sustainable and can shape policies that promote peace and reconciliation.

5 To extend IFI engagement with other peace builders on the island of Ireland and in other regions emerging from conflict as part of a wider effort to promote conflict resolution.

6 To review by early 2019 the progress made by the International Fund for Ireland and determine if further work is required to secure the peace.

4. Approach

The work of the Fund and its aim of delivering real and positive community consolidation in the period 2016-2020 will cluster around four key programmes, namely the extension of the existing Peace Walls Programme, the extension of the Peace Impact Programme, a new multi-tiered Personal Youth Development Programme, and a Shared Education Programme.





Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)

“Programmes targeted at youth education and employment are much needed interventions in a context where youth unemployment stands at alarmingly high levels, and where youth are both main perpetrators as well as victims of crime.”

World Bank - ‘Violence in the City: Understanding and Supporting Community Response to Urban Violence’ 2011.

“We need a lot more focused work in those difficult disadvantaged neighbourhoods where paramilitarism has its roots, to try and improve the life particularly of young people, and deal with the angst felt by working class Protestants and Republicans. That has yet to happen.”

Matt Baggott Former Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, 13 May 2013

• Youth unemployment has remained above 20% in Northern Ireland for more than two years.⁹

• There are thought to be up to 32,000 people aged between 16-24 who are not involved in work, education or vocational training in Northern Ireland.¹¹

• Recent analysis by Ulster Bank found that unemployment in the 18-24 age group increased by approximately 8,000 people over the last year in Northern Ireland.¹⁰

• In September 2013, mediators in Derry/Londonderry reported that people as young as 14 in the city were threatened with paramilitary violence on an almost daily basis.¹²

Despite signs of economic recovery, Northern Ireland’s young people remain badly affected by the economic downturn and the rate of youth unemployment remains critically high.

There are genuine fears that disillusionment with conventional politics and a sustained lack of opportunities in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland will drive young people towards unlawful and violent activity or put them at risk of being influenced by paramilitary organisations that are actively recruiting and are exerting considerable control over fractured communities.

The IFI Personal Youth Development Programme seeks to minimise those risks by building a new bridge that will connect young people to personalised routes to learning, skills and employment opportunities. Designed to be flexible with multiple entry points, it will support participants to explore their needs and make decisions that improve their lives, communities and interactions with others.

PYDP will engage with those who may have:

- left education with no or low level qualifications or who left the education system early;
- concluded that education does not offer the skills and experiences they need;
- been or currently are involved in substance abuse;
- become affected by homelessness;
- come from a difficult family background;
- been in, or close to, the criminal justice system;
- suffered from poor health including mental health issues;
- mistrust of statutory institutions;
- not participated in civic society in a positive manner; and
- come from communities with a negative view of their future.

PYDP will allow multiple entry and leaving points tailored to the individual’s needs and part of the journey will include a period away from the home area. The programme’s success will be dependent on the relationship and trust those implementing the programme can build with individual young people.

The IFI envisages that an investment of between £15 million* and £20 million would be required to deliver the basic objectives of this programme over the period of the strategy.

* Lower figure quoted is what the IFI believe is required to deliver the programme in a way that can have a meaningful impact, leverage support from other funders and deliver best value on the investment.



Shared Education Programme (SEP)

Since 2007, the IFI has invested in 22 projects to facilitate reconciliation for a shared future through the medium of education. These projects have provided a credible evidence base and helped shape shared education commitments in the Programme for Government (PFG: 2011-2015). The IFI models have informed policy decisions that will make sharing a part of education delivery in every classroom in Northern Ireland.

“The education aspects of the Fund’s work is of significant importance as we in government seek to advance shared education. I commend the Fund on their vision to invest in this work and one which has made a real, and lasting, difference.”

John O’Dowd MLA,
Northern Ireland Education Minister,
20th November 2013

“Shared education involves two or more schools or other educational institutions from different sectors working in collaboration with the aim of delivering educational benefits to learners, promoting the efficient and effective use of resources, and promoting equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion.”

Advancing Shared Education, Report of the Ministerial Advisory Group

- Education remains one of the most divided areas of everyday life in Northern Ireland with some **93% of pupils** attending non-integrated schools.¹³

- It is vital that teachers are **properly equipped and resourced** to overcome segregation in the classroom and prevent it maturing into sectarianism.

- Research shows that the attitudes of children as young as **three years of age** are already being shaped by wider patterns of racial and ethnic divisions.¹⁴

The IFI has previously focused resources to break down the barriers within education arising from our historic conflict and provide new opportunities for young people to learn together and reach the highest possible standards of educational achievement.

The proposed Shared Education Programme 2016-2020 will complement previous achievements by concentrating support towards the early and continuing professional development of teachers to encourage shared education delivery and collaboration between schools and other educational institutions.

The programmes and partnerships developed in previous strategies have proven how shared education and cross-sectoral collaboration can be an integral part of school life. In October 2013, the Northern Ireland Education Minister, John O'Dowd MLA praised the practical models of sharing developed by the IFI as he confirmed a number of measures to make shared education a part of all education delivery.

It will grant teachers access to a range of training and ongoing advice and support that helps them become effectively involved in shared activity within their schools and creates opportunities to meet and form professional and personal relations that can sustain partnership working between schools.

As with the primary and post-primary education systems, teacher training; professional development and career paths are also segregated along traditional community divides. This separation not only prevents them from working between sectors, it also prevents them from gaining the skills and confidence to effectively promote and deliver shared education activities.

By supporting Continued Professional Development, this programme can fill an important gap and allow schools to react quickly to address training needs that may arise because of partnership work, or shifts in strategic priorities. It will support the Northern Ireland Executive to implement its Programme for Government commitments on shared education.

The IFI envisages that an investment of between £3 million* and £5 million would be required to deliver the basic objectives of this programme over the period of the strategy.

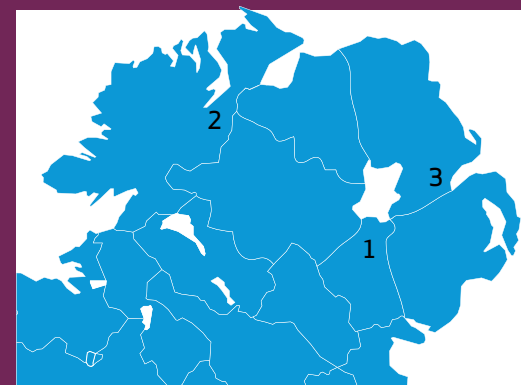


* Lower figure quoted is what the IFI believe is required to deliver the programme in a way that can have a meaningful impact, leverage support from other funders and deliver best value on the investment.



Peace Walls Programme (PWP)

In less than two years, the Peace Walls Programme (PWP) has delivered significant progress in terms of confidence and relationship building measures. It has begun a schedule of works to transform interface neighbourhoods and levered £5.9 million of additional funding from a range of sources to do so. The PWP delivery model has received widespread acclaim from community groups, government departments and statutory agencies and generated considerable momentum for positive physical change. However, the community appetite for this programme is much greater than the resources currently assigned to it.



Northern Ireland Peace Walls

- 1. Portadown (6 Peace Walls)
- 2. Derry/Londonderry (4 Peace Walls)
- 3. Belfast (99 Peace Walls)

“What this [the Peace Walls Programme] means in practice is engagement among statutory authorities, community associations, council representatives, the IFI and the Community Relations Council to look at steps, often incremental, to allow increased contact and flow between the interface communities. The balance between encouraging hope and providing security is finely calibrated and in each case the detail is all-important.”

Dr Paul Nolan, author Community Relations Council Peace Monitoring Report 2014

- First constructed by the British Army in 1969 as a temporary, military response to sectarian violence and disorder, Peace Walls still remain in Northern Ireland today.¹

- Many of Belfast’s Peace Walls have had a longer lifespan than the Berlin Wall and 30 Peace Walls have been erected since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.²

- Almost 100 Peace Walls continue to exist in Belfast with a smaller number still present in Derry/ Londonderry and Portadown.³

- The financial cost of community division in Northern Ireland is £1.5 billion per year.⁴

- In May 2013, the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) launched the Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy. A key element of TBUC is the very ambitious target to remove all interface barriers (Peace Walls) by 2023.⁵

Today, almost 50 years since the first Peace Wall was built, more than 100 physical structures remain as visible symbols of continued sectarian divisions.

Those communities living beside the interfaces have been severely affected by sectarian conflict and interface violence still holds the potential to destabilise the Peace Process.

Many residents feel alienated from government and are unwilling or unable to take advantage of government sponsored social and economic programmes, yet the prolonged existence of Peace Walls adversely impacts on the delivery of public services and potential to attract inward investment.

The PWP delivery model has been accepted by community representatives and statutory authorities as the only effective way to build the required community confidence and capacity to pave the way for the removal of Peace Walls.

It provides a new conduit between interface communities and a wide range of statutory authorities and operates on a two-stage process. The first phase is to build the required community confidence and capacity by addressing security concerns and exploring the needs of interface residents in terms of economic and social regeneration.

The second phase involves the physical removal of interface barriers and delivery of economic and social regeneration interventions.

Community appetite for interface barrier removal continues to gather pace, yet statutory authorities face an increasing challenge to secure the necessary funding for the required economic and social regeneration interventions that make physical change sustainable.

The PWP is breaking new ground in interface areas and assisting the Northern Ireland Executive to meet wider targets, however the current iteration of this programme is scheduled to conclude in December 2015.

The IFI envisages that an investment of between £5 million* and £10 million would be required to deliver the basic objectives of this programme over the period of the strategy.



Belfast Peace Walls

1. North Belfast (59 Peace Walls)
2. West Belfast (30 Peace Walls)
3. East Belfast (10 Peace Walls)

“The sooner the physical barriers come down, the sooner the floodgates of private investment will open.”

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, on a visit to Belfast In 2008

* Lower figure quoted is what the IFI believe is required to deliver the programme in a way that can have a meaningful impact, leverage support from other funders and deliver best value on the investment.

Peace Impact Programme (PIP)

Early achievements of the Peace Impact Programme:

- Agreement of an accord between the Londonderry Bands Forum and the Apprentice Boys, which has the capacity to be adopted as a protocol for all parades in Northern Ireland;
- New pathways opened to marginalised young people that are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by paramilitaries;
- In just 12 months, one project has supported more than 180 young people to resolve threats of violence;
- Growing confidence of local communities to face down extremists intent on promoting exclusion of minority groups following decades of isolation and violence.



“Complacency is a luxury we cannot afford. Northern Ireland has not yet reached a point in which peace and tranquillity can be taken for granted. It is all too easy to imagine how a parade or protest could spark violence; it is all too easy to imagine how local violence could grow and spread. Violence could also lead to an increase in paramilitarism, as there are groups who would embrace the opportunity to demonstrate what they see as their continued relevance. Developments such as these would only discourage investment, drain public resources, motivate the most talented young people to make their futures elsewhere, and harden the divisions within society.”

Dr Richard Haass, Independent Chair of All Party Talks, 23rd June 2014

- There remains an average of **3.4 Sectarian attacks per day** in Northern Ireland.⁶

- On average there have been nine attacks on police per day in Northern Ireland in the past two-and-a-half years.⁷

- The almost 8,000 attacks is greater than the number of police officers currently serving in the Police Service of Northern Ireland.⁷

- In August 2014, MI5 regarded the threat level in Northern Ireland to be **‘severe from Northern Ireland-related terrorism’**.⁸

- The Independent Monitoring Commission, which tracks paramilitary activity, confirmed that republican dissidents are recruiting young men with “no previous terrorist experience”.

Launched in 2013, the IFI’s Peace Impact Programme (PIP) has achieved significant success in a relatively short period, particularly in its engagement with disaffected and marginalised young people who are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by those opposed to the Peace Process.

The programme maximises the IFI’s unique independence and wide acceptance within all communities, including those considered to be beyond the reach of government interventions, to bring critical change in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, and where engagement in peace building has historically been low.

In the course of this work, it has become apparent that further targeted interventions are essential to strengthen and embed a fragile peace. The second phase of PIP will further leverage the capacity and unique standing of the IFI to advance the transformation process with a renewed emphasis on addressing the factors that prevent young people from positively influencing their own lives and their communities.

The IFI envisages that an investment of between £6 million* and £10 million would be required to deliver the basic objectives of this programme over the period of the strategy.



* Lower figure quoted is what the IFI believe is required to deliver the programme in a way that can have a meaningful impact, leverage support from other funders and deliver best value on the investment.

PIP Case Study: Londonderry Bands Forum, County Derry/Londonderry



“It gets you out of the house, gives you an instrument and teaches you to respect others in the community,” says Warren, 19 from the Fountain area of Derry/Londonderry.

He’s been involved with marching bands almost all his life and his positive experience is the type that the Londonderry Bands Forum is working to promote to more young people in disadvantaged communities. Funded by the IFI Peace Impact Programme, the group has been addressing the complex issues around community parades in Northern Ireland and supporting efforts to improve skills and employability.

For many, the discipline required and encouragement from the bands helps put them on a path back to mainstream training or employment. For 18-year old Gareth, a flautist in the Pride of Orange and Blue Pipe Band, this has been exactly the case.

He says: “It taught me how to play an instrument and they also run courses to try and get you jobs if you didn’t do well in school. It has helped me a lot. I’ve gotten into a course at the college and I’m going places at the minute with it.”

He also believes that the positive influence of marching bands has had a stabilising impact on him and other young people, who might otherwise be involved in anti-social behaviour or unlawful activities.

“When you’re in the band, they take you off the streets. They give you something to work for and they take you away at the weekend for the parades and it’s good for young age groups. If you weren’t in the band you’d be bored and god knows what you’d be doing.”

In recent months, the Londonderry Bands Forum published the first consultative document to provide guidelines for those taking part in parades in Derry/Londonderry. ‘The Maiden City Accord’ has the support of the largest parade organisers, the PSNI and political parties across the divide and may have an important role in resolving issues around contentious parades across Northern Ireland.

***“It has helped me a lot.
I’ve gotten into a course at the college and I’m going places”***

PIP Case Study: **Time2Choose, County Derry/Londonderry**



“I measure success in the number of people we’ve helped and the number of young people - when you boil it down - that haven’t been shot, that haven’t been expelled from this country”, says John Donnelly Project Manager of Time2Choose.

Funded by the IFI Peace Impact Programme, the Derry/Londonderry-based project works with young people who face intimidation or violent attack because of their lifestyles.

The project has been oversubscribed since commencing according to community worker Tommy McCourt. “Since we’ve been funded, there’s been over 180 cases involving young people that we’ve been dealing with in the last year, quite a number of whom have been threatened specifically.”

Patrick Mellon is one of the young people who has been involved with the project and has helped others turn their lives around.

“There’s been a lot of antisocial behaviour and a lot of graffiti and litter throughout the community,” he says. “We got together, a group of young people who’ve been marginalised from other community centres within the town and we’ve looked around and seen the areas that need tackled and grabbed the bull by the horns. Recently we’ve been over at Altnagelvin Area Hospital. They’ve got a garden area where

it’s just been left by the owners with no real input. We got together as a group and went and cleaned that up, planted new flowers, new trees and it’s turned out really well.”

Tommy describes Time2Choose as an “intervention project designed to help young people avoid getting into trouble, to give them alternatives, to equip them and skill them to look at a new lifestyle.”

“It’s had a dual impact,” he says. “It has given young people confidence to turn to someone for help and take a different path in their lives whether that’s turning from political violence or just antisocial behaviour.”

Patrick agrees and takes great pride in the difference he is helping to deliver.

“I’ve seen the impact this project has had on the community, it’s made other people within the community feel good about their area. People had been afraid to go outside their door. We’ve cleaned that up.”

“It has given young people confidence to turn to someone for help and take a different path in their lives.”

PIP Case Study: **Cox's Demesne, County Louth**



“It’s not the best of places to live in”, says Paul English of Cox Demesne in Dundalk in County Louth. “The people are unemployed and teenagers here don’t really get an opportunity in life, that’s who the project supports.”

Paul has battled drug abuse for most of his life and is one of many young people turning their lives around through an IFI intervention in the disadvantaged County Louth estate which still suffers greatly as a result of the Troubles.

The Cox Demesne Peace Impact Project is a community-based project for at-risk young people in the heart of a disadvantaged area with high unemployment, limited uptake in mainstream training or education and problems with substance abuse.

Paul says his story is similar to many that are getting a second chance. “I was a drug addict all my life and then the youth workers built my courage up to get me through and go ahead with the programme. They were the ones who came in and helped me when they didn’t need to, they helped me a long way and I thank them for that. I’m really glad it’s there. It gives us chances that we’ve never had before.”

The project delivers targeted training, support and a suite of community interventions to those who are socially excluded.

According to Project Manager, Clodagh O’Mahony, the IFI support has opened up access to innovative training programmes. “What IFI funding has given us and that we don’t always get from others, is a tremendous flexibility that allows us to do innovative work to engage young people in a way that we can’t do with other programmes and that’s been very, very successful for them.”

“It gives us chances that we’ve never had before.”

5. Conclusion

The IFI has been generously supported by its international donors for many years. The donations provided by the USA, the EU, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have allowed IFI to leverage significant additional funds through partnering with other organisations and statutory bodies. The numerous external evaluations carried out on the work delivered by IFI have highlighted the significant contribution that IFI supported programmes have made to building peace across the island of Ireland. Our international donors should be very proud of the impact their donations have made in building a sustainable peace.

However, the presence of stable political institutions and the absence of the type of violence that characterised previous decades does not mean that a sustainable peace has been achieved. While great progress has been made a lot of work still needs to be done. The IFI is uniquely placed to assist in dealing with some of the most difficult remaining challenges to a sustained peace.

It is the IFI's understanding that the British and Irish Governments will continue to work with the Board to secure funding from multiple sources for the period of this strategy. The ongoing support of the British and Irish Governments for the work IFI is undertaking is indispensable. The additional support and political engagement of other donors is vital not only to the success of this strategy but also in relation to delivering a sustainable peace across the island of Ireland.

The IFI recognises that the global financial crisis of 2008 and its consequences mean that donor governments are challenged to commit funding to Northern Ireland as they

themselves must consolidate national budgets. The Peace Process is at a critical point and the comments, recorded in this document from President Obama and Dr Richard Haass clearly show a recognition that there is still work to be done. Our international donors have supported the new initiatives and the organisation has delivered what it set out to achieve in our 2012 – 2015 strategy. The Chairman and the Board of IFI strongly believe this is not the right time to step away, but rather ensure that the successes of previous strategies are embedded in sustained peace.

Through this strategy IFI is proposing to concentrate resources towards the areas where it can make the most significant and urgent contribution to stabilise the Peace Process. The international dimension of the IFI is a vital key to access communities where suspicions and misgivings have stymied government and other interventions. It has also proven to be a critical factor in levering funding from other sources.

The IFI envisages that, in order to deliver the basic objectives of this strategy, investment in the following region would be required:

	GB£
Peace Walls Programme	5m-10m
Peace Impact Programme	6m-10m
Personal Youth Development Programme	15m-20m
Shared Education Programme	3m-5m
TOTAL	£29m-£45m

However, the Board of IFI recognises the potential to do much more should resources be secured including further work to develop a truly integrated and reconciled education system; engagement with young people who have fallen into the Criminal Justice System; and work with those who remain deeply affected by the legacy of conflict.

The IFI is convinced that the 2016-2020 strategy will pave the way for other statutory authorities and others to address many of the most sensitive issues of division and is committed to sharing the positive experiences with other areas emerging from conflict.

The IFI has taken risks in the cause of peace and pushed political and administrative leaders towards the adoption of new policies shaped by IFI programmes.

During uncertain times for the Peace Process, IFI is proposing to commit to a difficult but essential scope of work that other funders or government bodies simply cannot undertake. With the support from the international community, the IFI is the only vehicle that can effectively address the most difficult challenges to a sustainable peace on the island of Ireland.

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