



TOGETHER: BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY

2016/17 UPDATE REPORT

Update Report

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INTRODUCTION

The Together: Building a United Community Strategy reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. The strategy provides a vision based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation. It also provides the framework for government action in tackling sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance while seeking to address division, hate and separation.

The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of:

- Our children and young people;
- Our shared community;
- Our safe community; and
- Our cultural expression.

The strategy sets out seven strategic headline actions and a range of other actions and commitments that will provide innovative approaches to bringing about the conditions that will help build a united, shared and reconciled community. The strategy and its range of actions and commitments comprehensively demonstrate the Executive's commitment to realising change across the key priorities. Much has been achieved since the strategy was first launched for example:

- The Summer Camps Programme delivered 101 camps in 2015/16 and is the first headline action to be delivered in full. The programme has been mainstreamed with a further 104 camps being delivered in 2016/17.
- The initial phase of the United Youth Programme, involving over 300 young people, concluded on 31 March 2016. The findings from the evaluation have been very positive. A key element of the programme, "Youth Initiative" was identified and agreed by SEUPB as falling within the eligibility of the Peace IV funding. The call for applications under PEACE IV launched on 3 November 2016, closing on 4 January 2017.
- Five of the ten shared neighbourhoods have been completed, with work underway a further five.

- Strategic Frameworks for each Urban Village area were launched at events in Derry~Londonderry and Belfast in September 2016 where £45 million of planned capital investment over the next PfG period was announced.
- Work on five shared education campuses continues; a third call for proposals closed on 27 January 2017

£60m has been secured for shared future work as part the Fresh Start agreement. The funds help to supplement funds already earmarked for Good Relations programmes and projects.

A new Racial Equality Strategy has been launched and officials are taking forward work on a new Refugee Integration Strategy. The Executive has played an active part in the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, with more than 400 people now resettled here.

COMMITMENT: TO PILOT 100 SHARED SUMMER SCHOOLS BY 2015

The camps provide opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 across Northern Ireland 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.



Junior Minister Alastair Ross attended an evening at "R" City Belfast where the young people showcased the work of the T:BUC camps.



First headline action to be delivered

More than 4200 young people took part in 15/16

101 Camps successfully delivered

Investment of £1.2m in 15/16



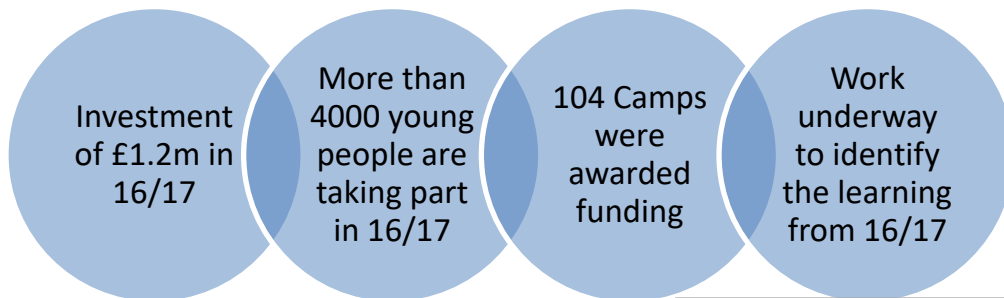
Young People from Resurgem Trust and Colin Glen Youth Development getting creative – July 2016.

A Reunion Event for participants in the 2015/16 Programme was held in the SSE arena in February 2016 with approx 1000 attendees.

An independent evaluation reported that the 2015/16 Summer Camps programme was a real success with considerable change reported in vast majority of the young people that participated in the camps. The evaluation can be accessed here: www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/tbuc-summer-camps-final-evaluation-report. The learning from the evaluation helped to inform the 16/17 programme. Key developments for the 16/17 programme included:

- Award letters issued earlier;
- A single strand of funding has been used with bands based on the number of participants
- Travel outside Northern Ireland will be allowed
- Baselining of participant attitudes has been incorporated into the evaluation process.

SUMMER CAMPS
 "I have really enjoyed the programme and learnt a lot about myself and others."



Junior Ministers attending a camp in Kilrea - August 2016.

A Reunion Event for participants in the 2016/17 Programme was held in the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Lisburn in March 2017 with around 1000 young people and their leaders attending the event.

The Ardoyne and the Hammer (Shankill) youth clubs work in partnership on a number of programmes. They have been awarded funding in 2016/17 to build on the outcomes delivered in 2015/16 through their R CITY – Communities Integrating Through Youth Programme. The effectiveness of this project is enhanced further through the partnership’s participation in the Summer Camp Programme. This year their camp involving 105 young people from Ardoyne and the Hammer participated in several pre camp workshops, developing friendships and looking at different cultures, before attending a 5 day residential and further exploring cultural awareness. This has been followed up with post Camp activities to reflect and evaluate their skills and learning and consider exit pathways. The project uses innovative approaches through specifically designed activities in addition to workshops, cultural awareness sessions, speakers and personal reflection groups.

COMMITMENT: TO DEVELOP FOUR URBAN VILLAGES

There has been investment of some £5m in this headline action to date.

Five Urban Villages have been announced to date:

- Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan (North Belfast);
- Sandy Row, Donegall Pass, and the Markets (South Belfast);
- EastSide (East Belfast);
- Colin (West Belfast);
- Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street (Derry~Londonderry).



This initiative is designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places where there has been a history of deprivation and community tension. The Urban Villages programme has three interconnected aims:

- To foster positive community identities;
- To improve the physical environment; and
- To build community capacity

The Urban Villages team has worked with residents, community organisations and stakeholders to develop shared priorities against good relations outcomes. This engagement has informed the development of Strategic Frameworks for each area.



Montage from Urban Village Engagement Events

The Strategic Frameworks were launched in September 2016 alongside £45 (subject to budget availability and necessary approvals) million of planned capital investment over the next PfG period.

14 capital projects, at a cost of £1m, were supported in 2015/16.

Capital projects to the value of £1.7m will be delivered during 2016/17.

The Urban Villages team has developed pilot collaborations with delivery partners to identify opportunities for work in support of Urban Village aims. Working with National Museums NI they developed a coordinated approach to community programmes and outreach in the Urban Village areas and the innovative use of museum collections in tackling social issues and building community capacity. They worked with schools, senior citizen groups and community organisations across the five areas. Projects included arts and heritage workshops with adults with mental health challenges; supporting parental engagement with children's learning; exploring nature and environmental issues; early years reading and engagement with pre-school children to improve health and wellbeing; and supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and interpersonal skills among teenage boys.



Urban Village Framework documents

Local Co-ordinators are working in each Urban Village area to enhance community engagement and build partnership approaches to maximise the impact and reach of programme outcomes.

COMMITMENT: TO ESTABLISH TEN SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUSES



The First Minister and deputy First Minister along with the NI Secretary of State visit Phoenix Integrated Primary School to announce capital funding for shared and Integrated education.

The Shared Education Campuses Programme is aimed at providing capital assistance to schools to facilitate and deliver the following types of sharing:

- Shared educational facilities – where new facilities are built to allow for shared educational use by all schools within the model.
- Enhanced educational facilities – where current facilities are improved to allow for shared educational use by all schools within the model.
- Shared Educational Campuses – where schools are co-located and share infrastructure.

The five campuses which have been selected to proceed to date are as follows:

- St Mary's Limavady and Limavady High School
- Moy Regional Controlled Primary School and St John's Primary School, Moy
- Ballycastle High School and Cross & Passion College, Ballycastle
- St Mary's Primary School, Brookeborough and Brookeborough Primary School
- Duneane Primary School and Moneynick Primary School, Randalstown.



The First Minister and deputy First Minister along with the NI Secretary of State visit Phoenix Integrated Primary School

The Minister of Education announced a third call for applications to the programme on 20 September 2016, with the next projects expected to be announced soon. Work continues on the five campuses that have already been announced, with the Limavady and Ballycastle projects being at early design stage.

Capital funding for the Shared Education Campuses Programme has been secured under the Fresh Start Agreement with funding of around £48 million confirmed to take forward the first three projects.

COMMITMENT: GETTING 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE, NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING, A PLACE ON THE NEW UNITED YOUTH VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

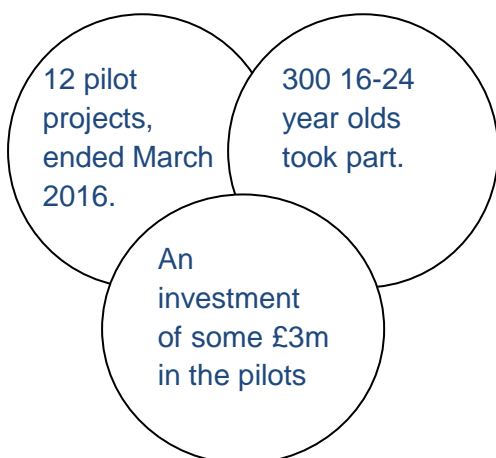


The programme is designed to give young people not in education, employment or training the opportunity to take part in work experience, volunteering and leisure opportunities, while focusing on good relations and building relationships between divided communities.

The celebration event at the Titanic Belfast on 1 March 2016

An extensive co-design process with a wide variety of stakeholders most importantly, with young people, helped to inform the development of the pilot phase to test the development of the programme.

The pilot projects involved a range of activities aimed at supporting participants to achieve success in personal development, citizenship, good relations and employability. Throughout the duration of the pilot phase the United Youth Team worked closely with providers and participants to adapt and refine the delivery models to maximise outcomes.



FUSION

The Fusion United Youth pilot, in partnership with Queen's University, engaged 24 young people from marching bands across the religious/political divide in a range of development activities, culminating in a musical performance in front of over 700 in the Whitla Hall at QUB on 24 February 2016. The young people undertook:

- Musicianship classes;
- Volunteering and social action activities;
- Master classes on personal development, diversity, motivation, community participation and citizenship.
- Visits to Belgium and Dublin as part of their exploration of Easter Rising and First World War experiences.

The young people involved have performed together at a range of other events post completion of the pilot.

QUOTE FROM A UNITED YOUTH PARTICIPANT

“A big part of it was meeting other people from other communities. I would never go near anyone from a different community before and now I would and I would talk with them. We all figured out that we were all the same.”

An independent evaluation of the pilot has been very positive. The evaluation can be accessed here: www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/evaluation-united-youth-programme-pilot-phase-2015-2016

A total of 63% of completers proceeded to an employment or training destination and almost 80% to a positive destination overall (employment, further education or volunteering experience). Over 800 accreditations were achieved by participants, with most at level 1 or level 2.

The NI Executive has secured EU PEACE IV funding for a major cross-border programme with the Irish Government under the Children and Young People (Priority 2.1) Within NI, this programme will closely align with the vision and objectives of the United Youth Programme as set out in T:BUC strategy. The programme will deliver around 7,500 cross-border places (with 6,000 in Northern Ireland) over the next 4-5 years, commencing from Autumn 2017.

COMMITMENT: ESTABLISHING TEN NEW SHARED HOUSING SCHEMES

There has been spend to date on this headline action of £24.252m

Five shared housing developments have been completed

Ballynafoy Close, Belfast – 67 homes;
Ravenhill Avenue, Belfast – 86 homes;
Crossgar Road, Saintfield - 12 homes.
Felden Mill, Newtownabbey – 97 homes.
Burn Road, Cookstown – 58 homes.

A further 5 schemes are ongoing:

- Embankment Ballynafeigh, Belfast;
- Dromore Street, Banbridge;
- Main Street, Dundrum;
- Market Road, Ballymena; and
- Antrim Road, Ballynahinch.



Mural at the entrance to Ballynafoy Close, pictured are the artists and the young that helped to design the mural.

A QUOTE FROM ONE OF THE RESIDENTS OF BALLYNAFOY CLOSE

“I think it is a lovely street and lovely area it’s close to the park and it’s handy to everything. I feel safe in my apartment, I have a balcony and I think it’s lovely. I just love everything about it.”

Below are pictures of Ballynafoy close in Belfast



All new residents of the shared neighbourhoods are required to sign up to a voluntary 'Good Neighbour' charter, which promotes good relations and the right to diversity within the development.

In addition, the Department for Communities is leading on work to advance the St Patrick's Barracks site as a mixed tenure, shared housing Signature Pilot scheme. It is anticipated that the site will include shared social housing, privately owned and privately rented accommodation.

A preferred development option has been agreed by all stakeholders and has been subject to a 14 week public consultation process that completed on 4 March 2017. It is anticipated that outline planning permission for the preferred option, and full planning permission for the sites infrastructure will be submitted in summer 2017.

The Department for Communities is seeking Peace IV funds to advance this project.

COMMITMENT: TO DEVELOP A SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMME OF CROSS COMMUNITY SPORTING EVENTS.

The purpose of the programme is to use sport, physical and creative activity in a central role to break down divisions in society and deliver a good relations programme with the emphasis on tackling sectarianism, racism and improving good relations.



United Champions from the Erne East project pictured with David Leavy, member of Paralympics Team GB.



Participants in the Falls and Greater Village project.

QUOTES FROM PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

“Religion is only a word and when you meet people from a different community they are really nice”

“I could not have coached a sport a year ago but I know I can do it now.”

“Learning about diversity in society has helped me understand and realise the contributions that other cultures and ethnic groups bring to our society.”

Three phases of the programme have been delivered in the pilot areas of Lower Falls and Greater Village.

The programme has engaged young people in good relations activity through the medium of sports and creativity with a strong youth leadership aspect.

The first two phases of the programme in the Falls and Greater Village area of Belfast has been independently evaluated highlighting its success and the positive outcomes for those that have participated in the programme. This includes improving the attitudes of young people towards people from other communities, their confidence levels, skills and knowledge.

In the Embedding Sustainability phase of the **Falls and Greater Village** programme, Young Leaders were provided with the opportunity to design and deliver good relations projects in their communities throughout 2016. This provided additional training and experience, and equipped the Young Leaders with the necessary skills to deliver good relations projects going forward.

The programme in the **Erne East** area was delivered to around 150 young people and ran until 31 March 2017. The young leaders, United Champions, will continue with Phase 3 of their programme into 2017.

The young leaders from the Lower Falls and Greater Village have engaged with the young leaders in the Erne East project to share their knowledge and experience.

In partnership with the TEO Urban Villages team, engagement around recruitment of leaders within two of the Urban Village areas, **Colin and Eastside** is underway in advance of main programme delivery in 2017/18.



Above: Promoting Good Relations through Sports' kitbag programme



Participants and Young Leaders in the Urban Programme



Uniting Erne East Young Leaders with workshop participant

"We are helping to make a difference to the community and providing skills for young people"



Uniting Erne East Celebration Event

COMMITMENT: TO REMOVE INTERFACE BARRIERS BY 2023.

Work is being undertaken at a local level to create the conditions to help with removing the interface barriers. This work is seeking to assist community dialogue and engagement with the aim of identifying opportunities and developing plans to enable the removal and/or alteration of physical barriers. This work is being led by delivery partners such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, IFI and Councils and is overseen by the Department of Justice's Interface Programme Board.

Research is being undertaken to examine the social and economic impact of living at an interface structure in Belfast

The Department of Justice is working to finalise a support package for home owners living at interface barriers.

The Department of Justice plans to continue to undertake a range of work at interface barriers and to support the continued progress of Councils and NIHE in areas where momentum has been built up. This will also enable these organisations to undertake work with communities living within physical interfaces, invisible interfaces and/or contested spaces to tackle tensions, as well as support engagement activities aimed delivering a positive impact on the Good Relations in the area.

The following photographs show the before and after shots of the Interface Barrier removed on the Crumlin Road in February 2016 by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The 8ft wall, which stood at Ardoyne for 30 years, was the first of the Housing Executive's peace walls to come down. It has been replaced by a landscaped area and railings with decorative panels, which local residents helped to design.

BEFORE



AFTER



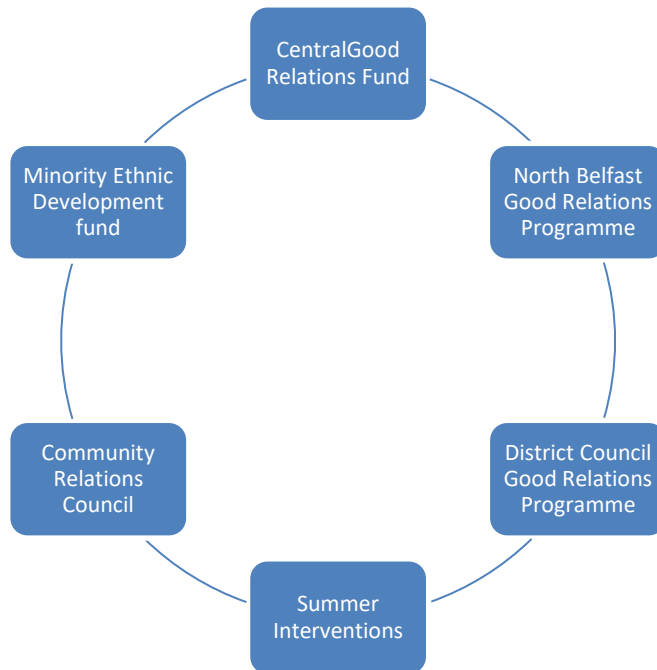
Local residents from the area held a celebration event on 11th August 2016 to mark the removal of the peace wall by the Housing Executive. This was attended by the deputy First Minister, pictured left.

At the start of the process there were 59 structures. That figure at the end of March 2017 was down to 50, with sections of five other structures removed.

A new gate was installed in Derry/Londonderry's walls to improve access for a Winter Market, which has received very positive coverage in the media whilst the last of the security gates on the walls that aren't closed on a daily basis were removed before Christmas.

OTHER ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT T:BUC

The Executive Office supports a range of funding programmes and actions to deliver against the four key priorities of the strategy. The programmes require applicants to demonstrate how their outcomes of their projects deliver against the T:BUC priorities and this is monitored throughout the life of the project.



Funding allocated to these programmes in 2015/16 and 2016/17 amounts to:

- Central Good Relations Fund - £5.947m;
- North Belfast Good Relations Programme - £1.44m
- District Council Good Relations Programme - £6.1m
- Summer Interventions - £1m
- Minority Ethnic Development Fund - £2.2m
- Community Relations Council - £6.6m

During this time these programmes have progressed many important projects aligned with the four key priorities of the strategy delivering essential outcomes.

Cross Community Sports camps – 280 young people aged 9-17.
(Children & Young People)

A programme for 280 young people from the Shankill & Ardoyne.
(Children & Young People)

Training to delivery partners to assist refugee resettlement.
(Shared Community & Safe Community)

Fair Chance programme – 120 young people took part in a cross community good relations and employability programme.
(Children & Young People)

A series of events on Linguistic diversity.
(Cultural Expression)

Funding to the Community Relations Forum to provide a shared space for all communities within Newtownabbey **(Cultural Expression)**

100 people taking part in cross community dance and music events. **(Our Cultural Expression)**

A minority ethnic women's programme, to empower the women and help them to deliver events in their community. **(Children & Young People, Shared Community and Cultural Expression)**

Funding to the Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) to provide support to schools to reach out to and engage adults in cross community peace building programmes **(Children & Young People and Shared Community)**

Funding to the Belfast Mela to support an outreach programme to maximise participation. **(Our Cultural Expression and Shared Community)**

Funding to the Junction & Holywell Trust to provide a safe space in Derry/Londonderry for cultural activity to build partnerships and networks across the community **(Children & Young People and Cultural Expression)**

T:BUC Engagement Forum

T:BUC acknowledges the importance of the voluntary and community sector in contributing to the delivery of the strategy's objectives.

The T:BUC Engagement Forum:

- Was established in early 2016, it provides a platform for formalised and structured stakeholder engagement.
- Provides a mechanism to engage with and feedback to the sector.
- The forum meetings consider each T:BUC priority.
- Will hold its next meeting in Girdwood Community Hub on 15 June 2017.

Workshops at each meeting have covered a range of topics associated with delivery of the strategy. The information gathered will be used to identify key messages which will focus on suggestions and recommendations for the improved delivery and implementation of T:BUC aims and objectives.



Participants at the Engagement Forum in Dungannon

Racial Equality Strategy

The Racial Equality Strategy, launched in December 2015, establishes a framework for action by all Government departments:

- to tackle racial inequalities;
- to eradicate racism and hate crime; and
- along with Together: Building a United Community policy to promote good race relations and social cohesion.

The Strategy, which has been welcomed by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, sets out key actions and does not attempt to list all the actions that government or others need to take or will take over the life of the Strategy. It establishes a mechanism – through the Racial Equality Subgroup – to develop an implementation plan and monitoring and reviewing progress on implementation.



The first meeting of the Racial Equality Subgroup, with Ministers, on 14 September 2016.

The Racial Equality Subgroup, a key milestone of the Racial Equality strategy, held its inaugural meeting on 14 September 2016. The First Minister, deputy First Minister and the Junior Ministers attended the meeting and thanked the members for taking part. The group has met on three occasions since.

The Racial Equality Subgroup is a representative and independent panel for minority ethnic communities that gives them a voice in how the racial Equality Strategy is implemented and keeps our actions

Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme

The Executive has demonstrated its commitment to assisting with the humanitarian crisis through our participation in the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. This is currently the only formal scheme by which we receive refugees.

This scheme aims to identify those left most vulnerable by the Syrian conflict and resettle them where they can get the quality of support they need. The scheme aims to support the most vulnerable individuals including victims of violence, women and children at risk and those in need of advanced medical care.

The initial reception and settlement of the refugees has proceeded very successfully and they have been made to feel welcome. Ministers have committed that further groups of refugees will arrive on a phased basis.

In taking responsibility for vulnerable groups of people, our primary concern must be to ensure that their wellbeing is safeguarded and that we support them in building a new life. It is therefore important that their arrival and integration is managed and balanced with our ability to meet their needs.



The deputy First Minister and Junior Minister Fearon visiting Syrian Refugees.

Since December 2015 more than 400 refugees have been resettled here under the vulnerable person's relocation scheme.

The refugees have settled in various areas including Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon.

The Executive Office also expects to be consulting on the Refugee Integration Strategy in the near future.

Good Relations Indicators

There are 22 indicators in total, and each is linked to the relevant outcome and key priority area. Where possible, historic data are presented to show trends over time, and the indicators have been broken down by gender and religion. More detailed data on each indicator can be accessed on the Executive Office website.

Our Children and Young People	Our Safe Community
1.1a - % of people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago	3.1a – Number of hate crimes
1.1b - % of people who are favourable towards; Catholics, Protestants, Minority Ethnic Groups	3.1b – Number presenting as homeless due to intimidation
1.2a - % of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.	3.1c – % of people who felt annoyed/intimidated by Republican/Loyalist murals
1.2b - % of young people who have; shared sports facilities or equipment; shared classes; done projects, with other schools	3.2a - % of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming for all walks of life
3.2b - % of people who feel safe going to events in a; Protestant secondary school; Catholic secondary school; Orange Hall; GAA Hall	3.2c - % of people who would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future
Our Shared Community	Our Cultural Expression
2.1a - % of people who think that Protestants and Catholics tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area	4.1a - % of people who feel a sense of belonging to; their neighbourhood; Northern Ireland
2.1b - % who think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics	4.1b - % of people who feel they have an influence in; their neighbourhood; Northern Ireland
2.1c - % of those who have children at school who think that their child's school is a shared space	4.2a - % of people who think that the culture and traditions of; Catholic; Protestant; Minority Ethnic, communities adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society
2.1d - % of schools that have done projects or shared education with other schools	4.2b - % of people who believe their own cultural identity is respected by society
2.1e - % of people who see the area they live in as Protestant, Catholic, or mixed	

Our Shared Community	
2.2a - % of people who would define their neighbourhood/workplace as a shared space	
2.2b - % of people who would like mixed religion neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools	
2.2c - % of first preference applications, and % attending, integrated schools	

Why Are The Indicators Required?

They are used to monitor progress at a population level and provide the performance measurement framework that underpins the assessment of the progress towards achieving the outcomes aligned with the strategy's four key priorities. It impacts for the strategy's headline actions, associated programmes and funding streams. The indicators present a range of statistics relating to community relations, numbers of hate crimes, attitudinal data on community relations and attitudes towards mixing in schools, neighbourhoods and the workplace.

When Are They Published?

There was a commitment in Together: Building a United Community to review the Good Relations Indicators. Following a period of consultation, the final set of Indicators were agreed in April 2015. The first baseline report was published on 22 September 2015. The Good Relations Indicators update report was published on 29 September 2016. the report can be access through the following link:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/good-relations-indicators-report-2016.pdf>.

What Does The Latest Report Tell Us?

The update report published on 29 September 2016 built upon the baseline report of 2015. While there is only one year's information since the T:BUC baseline data in the September 2015 report, there appears to be an overall picture of positive or no significant change between the two reports.