

# T:BUC Engagement Forum

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### 2018/19 Engagement Forums

#### **May 2018—Collaborative Working**

The 6th T:BUC Engagement Forum took place on the 22nd May 2018 in the Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast with a theme of “Collaborative working”. The day was attended by over 140 members of the community, voluntary and public sectors and involved looking at examples of working collaboratively both in government and the public sector, before discussing how organisations could incorporate more collaborative working practices into their own area.



Representatives from the Derry Playhouse, the Holywell Trust and the T:BUC Camps project presented on the day outlining how their own projects had made use of collaborative working, the benefits it had given to both them and the communities they served, as well as discussing the challenges it presented. Feedback from the day was overwhelming positive, with over 89% of attendees rating the presentations as good/very good/excellent and 86% rating the workshops as good/very good/excellent

All the feedback from this and previous events has been reviewed, and is feeding into the plans for the upcoming engagement forums where we aim to focus on issues of priority to the community and voluntary sector that we have not yet covered in a previous forum. We are also aiming to have more events in regional locations to ensure we have representative views from across Northern Ireland.



### **March 18—Youth Led Engagement Forum**

Following feedback at one of the previous forums, it was suggested that young people should have a more active role in the T:BUC programme given that Children and Young People are one of the key T:BUC priorities. So in March the T:BUC Engagement Forum

took a different format as the event was planned, organised and delivered by a group of Young People from across Northern Ireland – a day designed by young people for young people.

The project group who organised the day, also developed and facilitated the workshops that were attended by all the young people at the event. These workshops, which were based around the T:BUC key priorities, enabled attendees to give their views on how various issues such as social media and shared education affect them and also how the T:BUC Strategy has or could make a difference in their lives.

The forum was attended by over 200 young people from schools and community groups across the province, as well as staff from the Executive Office, the Education Authority and the Community Relations Council. Feedback from the young people on the day was overwhelming positive, with the majority of them saying they would be more likely to attend another T:BUC event in the future.

The aim of the day was to gain the views of young people to help inform future T:BUC delivery and policy making. These key findings have now been compiled and will set the agenda for the September 2018 Engagement forum.



### **EU Peace IV Programme**

It's been an action-packed, fun-filled summer of activity for the Lurgan YMCA Community Group. As part of the 'M-Power' project young people have been taking part in a number of activities such as camping skills, kick boxing, zip lining on a residential at Greenhill, having cooking and baking sessions, AND took part in a beach clean-up in Newcastle with the Council. Being a part of the project has involved new challenges for the young people and new friendships formed.



The €3.5m M-power project is funded by the EU Peace IV Programme and led by YMCA Ireland, is working with approximately 800 young people aged 14-25, primarily those who are disadvantaged, disaffected, alienated and at risk. The project is based on a modern youth work approach around non formal education, and is youth-led. The M-Power project contributes to the following T:BUC headline action. "Getting 10,000 young people, not in education, employment or training, a place on the new United Youth volunteering programme".



## T:BUC Camps

### GREATER SHANTALLOW COMMUNITY ARTS T:BUC CAMP

Greater Shantallow Community Arts received funding of just over £21k to deliver a **T:BUC Camp** in 2018/19. The Camp, which they called Derry International Dance Camp 2018, set out to offer a wide range of activities and workshops to encourage young people to become more actively involved in the arts through dance and Good Relations.

Greater Shantallow Community Arts targeted 60 young people aged between 11 and 19 years of age from particularly hard-to-reach groups. This was achieved through direct contact, engaging small minority interest community groups of all ethnic backgrounds, accessing young people who are socially and economically excluded. Many were isolated and suffering from the effects of social and economic deprivation. In particular they engaged groups from the CNR, PUL and LGBT communities.



The overall programme offered young people from all communities to come into a shared space and work together on different dance routines which depicted the community and cultural differences between them, with Good Relations at the heart of all that they experienced. The young people performed their dances at many well-known locations across Derry. The outcomes of this programme were exceeded due to the passion and participation of the young people who engaged fully in the programme and realised the

benefits of being part of a community arts programme using dance as a connection and building positive friendships and relationships with their peers throughout the **T:BUC Camp** process.

Some of the very positive outcomes that have been reported as coming out of the Camp are:

- Young people have developed friendships and positive relationships with new people within the group
- Young people have developed an understanding of the group setting and the plan throughout the Camp

- Young people had an input into the discussions, ideas and topics to be addressed throughout the Camp process
- Young people developed a better understanding of Good Relations, Shared Space, Cultural Expression, young people's needs and Shared and Safe Communities
- Young People addressed their own fears and developed understanding of difference and building friendships
- Young people creatively expressed their understanding of Good Relations through dance and made issues come to life in an innovative and expressive way for others to experience
- Young people provided honest and informative evaluation information of the programme



A video of their **T:BUC Camp** journey can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtGZAU1PMww>

## **North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme**

### **Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership**

#### ***"Leadership Through Sport" - Building a shared community through respect and education in sporting activity***

Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership receives financial support from The Executive Office through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme to deliver a bespoke program of Leadership through Sport. The program consists of Level 1 Coaching Skills and UEFA B Coaching Skills, both courses are delivered by Irish Football Association accredited coaches at Windsor Park in Belfast.



Good relations learning and teaching is mainstreamed throughout the programme. Classes involve 16 participants from all communities, and basic skills in relation to awareness of difference, racism and mental health awareness are taught alongside the coaching element of the programme.

### **Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership (cond.)**

The programme has developed over a number of years – the continued support of the Executive Office through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme has enabled workers in the Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership to revise the design and structure of the learning based on the feedback from participants and best practice from similar programmes operating in the sector.

The programme has made a significant difference to its participants. 50% of those enrolled on the course gained a greater understanding of the culture of people from another community background to their own, and 75% of those participating felt more comfortable socialising with people from another community background after completing the programme.

*“It was great to talk to participants about life in an area I had never been to”*

*I had never participated in or experienced cross community work before I became involved in this programme”*

**Quotes from programme participants**

### **Community Relations Council Core Fund**

#### ***Youth Link NI***

Established in 1991, Youth Link NI is the inter-church youth service for Northern Ireland and exists to provide support & training for youth workers and community relations experiences for young people. It is a partnership of the four larger Churches working together to develop excellence in youth work and ministry, enabling young people and youth practitioners to be agents of transformation in a divided society.

The Community Relations Council (CRC) core fund supports organisations considered to be of strategic importance in delivering good relations and the T:BUC Strategy. In Youth Link the CRC Core award of £43,716 is funding Cathy as a Research and Curriculum Development Officer, administration support and overheads. Having this resource in place enables Youth Link to deliver its services including research and facilitation, to produce a robust resource that will enable young people to learn about building a peaceful and reconciled society.

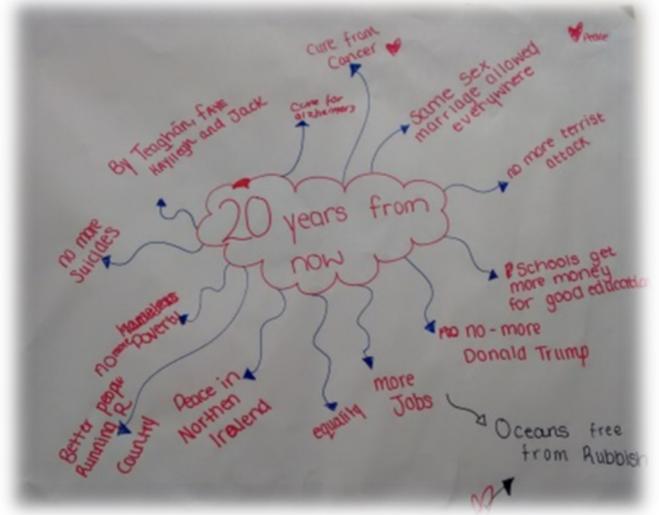


As Cathy states in her working paper:

*The work is being undertaken because the past continues to impede building a peaceful and reconciled society in Northern Ireland. Unless positive ways are found to engage honestly and critically with the legacy of the Troubles, the society will remain imprisoned by its past.*

Cathy is mid-way through a pilot project entitled 'Remembering the past; shaping the future' It's an ambitious and holistic programme, which in time will inform a resource for teachers and youth workers that can be used in mainstream education and in youth groups.

This working paper is intended to inform the Youth Link project entitled 'Remembering the past; shaping the future'. It is the first of four papers that speak to key themes of the project: Pursuing the common good, civic participation, mediation and conflict transformation; and shared and ethical remembering.



To read the paper go to <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/file/689>

### **Central Good Relations Fund**

#### ***Our Past, Our Peace - Roe Valley Residents Association***

In 2017 Roe Valley Residents Association was awarded £49,954 from the Central Good Relations Fund to deliver their *Our Past, Our Peace* project in partnership with Glack Community Association. Fifty-two people participated in the project during which they attended a series of workshops, outings and residential. Themes explored included: the history of Northern Ireland; the role of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Orange Order; flags and emblems; language and traditions; the history of the Civil Rights Movement; roles and responsibilities during the Troubles; marching bands in today's society; and hate crime. The programme concluded with an event for 100 people which celebrated the participants' learning and commitment throughout the project.



### ***Roe Valley Residents Association (cond.)***

Prior to the project, almost 75% of the group had never taken part in any form of cross community work. The project gave them the opportunity to develop mutual respect, build relationships with participants living in neighbouring environments, increase their involvement in community activities, increase their levels of confidence, acknowledge their differences and engage in dialogue about the impact of their shared past.

The project has had a significant, positive impact on the attitudes of a large number of the participants: surveys completed show an increase in the number who feel that the culture and traditions of the 'other' community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland. There was also an increase in the number of participants who felt that their own cultural identity is respected by society.

### **Shared Education Signature Project**

The Shared Education Signature Project is about to embark on another busy academic year with a total of 371 schools involved at this final stage of the project. Since the inception of the project in 2015 shared education partnerships have developed and delivered unique opportunities for shared learning across a range of curricular areas for pupils in nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools throughout Northern Ireland. During this final year, partnerships will further develop, expand and embed existing programmes in their move towards long term sustainability of this shared learning model. Ongoing support for principals and teachers will be offered through continued Teacher Professional Learning Modules and through the Network for Shared School Improvement (NSSI).



The first ever 'Shared Education Week' in conjunction with the Shared Education Learning Forum (SELF) is being celebrated this year from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 with an exciting series of events taking place to promote, celebrate and showcase the vast array of good practice that has been happening within schools and communities to date. The focus of celebration this year is 'Sharing the Present – Shaping the Future' with a particular dimension around 'Where to next?' aimed at those partnerships

who are ready to develop further links with the wider community as a means of helping to sustain the partnership after the project finishes whilst also working towards achieving continued educational and reconciliation outcomes.

### **Central Good Relations Fund**

The aim of the Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) is to support productive, time-bound projects which contribute to the achievement of the Executive's strategic objectives relating to good relations.

- The CGRF has awarded nearly £3.3m to **100** projects in 2018/19.
- The first groups were advised of their awards in May 2018, and additional monies were made available in June ensuring all wait-listed groups received notification of funding awards by the end of June 2018.
- TEO project leads have been working with the groups to finalise project activities, costings and T:BUC outcomes, with the majority of Letters of Offer having already been issued.
- CGRF projects are taking place right across Northern Ireland and include a diverse range of activities such as sports, arts, crafts, music, training programmes, community and social events and cultural visits, with good relations being the focus of each project.
- TEO have been working with statisticians to improve the 18/19 CGRF evaluation process to ensure we can analyse further the difference in attitudinal change of all project participants.
- Feedback for those groups who were unsuccessful in the 18/19 CGRF application process has been arranged for the end of September/beginning of October 2018.
- The evaluation and report card for the 2017/18 CGRF programme is being drafted and we hope to be able to report on programme level outcomes in the next couple of months.

### **18/19 CGRF Capacity Building Pilot**

On the 19th July 2018, The Executive Office opened a further call for CGRF applications during 2018/19, on a regional basis, informed by the analysis of good relations gaps and need identified in-year. Applications for the CGRF Good Relations Capacity Building Pilot closed on 7 September 2018.

The purpose of the Good Relations Capacity Building pilot is to:

- Achieve targeted good relations outcomes in areas of identified, evidenced good relations need; and
- Build the good relations capacity of partnered organisations within a supportive, mentoring framework.

A Lead Partner organisation with the skills to address specific priority good relations issues within a targeted area could apply for up to £60k of funding for the period October 2018 – March 2019.

The application had to include a proposal to work with at least one partner organisation to deliver the programme, and detail how the good relations capacity of the partner(s) would be positively addressed by the lead organisation over the duration of the funding period.

Applications were invited to deliver the pilot in the following areas:

- Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Ards & North Down Borough Council
- East Belfast Assembly Area
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
- Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
- Mid Ulster District Council

### **Urban Villages**

- 19 projects are complete and 3 projects are on-site
- 10 Capital projects are underway
- Capital projects to the proposed value of £5m will be delivered during 2018/19
- Total of 63 proposed capital pipeline projects to be developed and delivered during 2018/21



### ***Schools of Sanctuary***



A Schools based Project has been developed. Schools of Sanctuary is a partnership programme with the Education Authority; supporting schools to create welcoming, inclusive schools that celebrate diversity. In South Belfast, Blythefield PS was celebrated as the first primary school accredited in Ireland during 2017. Schools across all of the Urban Village areas are now developing action plans in order to achieve accreditation.

### ***European Social Fund***

The partnership with Belfast City Council agreed in 2017/18 will engineer more impact in Urban Village areas across Belfast by employability programmes primarily funded by the European Social Fund over 2018 – 2021.

### **Peace4Youth**

A multi-outcome cross-border programme which is delivering the T:BUC United Youth headline commitment in NI. It will seek to engage 7,400 disadvantaged and marginalised 14–24 year olds between 2017–21, supporting them to develop capabilities in the areas of personal development, good relations and citizenship, ultimately enhancing their employability and improving their life chances. The target group includes young people who are not in education, employment or training, as well as those of are at risk of falling into that category.

At 1 July 2018 there were over 1,500 participants on the programme across 10 delivery organisations. Several of the projects have held residential, bringing together groups from across NI and the Border Counties of Ireland.

Participants have said that the programme is life-changing (one girl said it had saved her life), highlighting in particular:

- the opportunity to meet and befriend those with whom they wouldn't previously have associated (and about whom they would have had negative perceptions);
- the importance of the youth workers and the genuine care they demonstrate for the young people;
- the value of being able to learn in a non-formal setting (not like school or a training programme); and
- the value of the incentive payment (they said they felt it represented *respect*, viewing it as being paid to do something, as would be the case with a job).

### **Shared Education Campus (SEC) Programme**

Under the Together: building a united community (T:buc) Strategy, the S E C Programme is aimed at providing capital assistance to applicant 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; and
- Shared Education 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 High School, Limavady and Limavady High School;
- Moy Regional Controlled Primary School and St John's Primary School, Moy;
- Ballycastle High School and Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle;
- St Mary's Primary School, Brookeborough and Brookeborough Primary School; and
- Duneane Primary School, Toomebridge and Moneynick Primary School, Randalstown.

### **Shared Housing**

Aim to create 10 new shared neighbourhood developments – 6 have completed and 4 are due to complete in 2018/19. 344 residents (does not include full family numbers) are now living in a shared environment, availing of good relations projects that consider and promote integration and diversity, as well as personal development. An overarching review of housing to bring forward recommendations on how to enhance shared neighbourhoods – Stage 1 completed and Stage 2 is being scoped



### **T:BUC Camps**

- Funding has been offered to 130 groups to deliver T:BUC Camps in 2018/19 with the total budget for 2018/19 being £1.538m. Over 4000 young people aged 11 to 19 taking part.
- The vast majority of Letters of Offer have been issued by our Programme Administrator, the Education Authority, and they continue to support groups to address any outstanding issues so the remaining Letters of Offer can be issued.
- Camps are taking place right across Northern Ireland and include a wide range of activities including, art, various sports, music, drama and outdoor pursuits with good relations being central to each Camp.
- TEO are engaged in a programme of visits to groups to see the Camps in action, engage with the young people and leaders and promote T:BUC through the distribution of promotional goods. The EA are also engaged in a programme of more formal moderation visits.
- As with previous years all participants have been offered a T:BUC Camp hoodie and the colour this year is red so watch out for them in a town near you!
- We are carrying out a review of the application, assessment and evaluation processes to try and simplify and streamline the processes for 2019/20 as we are aware that small groups are often put off from applying due to the complexity of the processes. We want to increase the pool of applicants particularly from small church/sports/voluntary groups and the “uniformed” sector and we therefore need to make our T:BUC Camps funding more accessible.
- TEO are also working with EA on proposals to deliver Camps in the Community events in 2018/19 with 2 dates being pencilled in for October. These events were very successful in 2017/18 and are an opportunity for participants in the 2018/19 T:BUC Camps Programme to celebrate their achievements and also give back to local communities through carrying out social action activities.
- The evaluation and report card for the 2017/18 Programme is being finalised by our Programme Administrator, the Education Authority, and we are looking forward to seeing some positive outcomes.

## Racial Equality Unit

**Racial Equality Champions** — Every Department now has a Racial Equality Champion. Champions ensure that members of staff have an awareness and understanding of racial equality and issues especially within the Racial Equality Strategy and their Department's policy and operational areas.

Champions also cascade the strategy to non-departmental public bodies and other service providers and encourage and/or work with them to ensure its effective implementation.

The Champion's goal is that racial equality will be mainstreamed into all NICS policy and practices.

The Champions are being supported by training and development. This year as part of this training they have met groups from Glasgow, Leeds and Leicester. They are also meeting local groups through occasions like the Friendship Club and Belfast City Council's Diverse City events.

**Racial Equality Subgroup**—The Racial Equality Subgroup continues to act as a representative and independent panel for minority ethnic communities that gives them a voice in the strategy and keeps our actions informed and relevant.

The Subgroup has just finished its 2017/18 year. In this time it has had four meetings, including a day of expert talks and meeting Racial Equality Champions (pictured).

Over the 2017/2018 year they have :

- agreed a Terms of Reference;
- identified and discussed key race equality issues such as Hate Crime & Racism, Research and Refugees and Asylum Seekers; and
- helped in the development of the Refugee Integration Strategy.





## **Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme**

The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grants Scheme (CR/CD Scheme) reopened on 2nd April 2018 and is currently open to applications for 2018/19 period.

**Deadline date:** 14 November 2018

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, has established a fund of approximately £400,000 to spend each year on community relations projects. This funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.

There are a number of changes to the 2018/19 Scheme which include a new application form.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a proposal prior to submitting an application please contact a member of the Funding & Development Programme. Phone 028 9022 7500 or email [info@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:info@nicrc.org.uk)

## **Media Grant Scheme/Publications Grant Scheme**

Media Grant Scheme is now open for applications all details can be found at <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/media-grant-scheme-201819>

The scheme will close at 12 noon on 30th November 2018.

Publications Grant Scheme is now open for applications all details can be found at <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/publications-grant-scheme>

The scheme will close at 12 noon on 28 February 2019.

If you require further information contact Paul Jordan [pjordan@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:pjordan@nicrc.org.uk)



### T:BUC Key Priorities

1. Our children and young people;
2. Our shared community;
3. Our safe community; and
4. Our cultural expression.



### **T:BUC Headline Actions**

1. Establishing ten new shared education campuses;
2. Getting 10,000 young people, not in education, employment or training, a place on the new United Youth volunteering programme;
3. Establishing ten new shared housing schemes;
4. Developing four urban village schemes;
5. Developing a significant programme of cross-community sporting events;
6. Removing interface barriers by 2023; and
7. Pilot 100 shared summer schools by 2015.

### **Next Meeting**

The next T:BUC Engagement Forum will take place on Tuesday 12th February 2019 We look forward to welcoming you at the event.

For further information on or to contribute ideas for the T:BUC Engagement Forum please contact the Community Relations Council on 028 9022 7500.