

T:BUC Engagement Forum

Newsletter September 2019



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T:BUC Engagement Forum May 2019

“Strengthened by Diversity – Embracing Cultural Expression”

On 21 May, The Executive Office and over 150 community practitioners, policy makers and academics gathered in the Guildhall, Derry-Londonderry, for the ninth meeting of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Engagement Forum. The theme of the event was “Strengthened by Diversity – Embracing Cultural Expression”. The event focused on T:BUC and cultural expression and what central government and practitioners are doing to engage with communities that could enable greater participation in promoting good relations.

The key speakers for the day included: Derek Moore, Londonderry Bands Forum, whose talk, *‘Positive Cultural Expression; A problem or solution?’*, explored the role of the wide range of cultures within Northern Ireland and how they contribute to and support diversity in a positive way; Lilian Seenoi from the North West Migrants Forum who outlined her role and that of the Forum in its efforts to promote a multicultural society and, more importantly, an intercultural one; and Paddy Danagher from the Streets Alive project in Derry-Londonderry who, as part of the T:BUC Urban Villages programme, outlined his work in developing local cultural and collaborative projects between and within local communities, in particular the role bonfires can make to a positive cultural expression.

Attendees then considered the unique issues that impact upon cultural expression outcomes



in communities, what support is required to improve cultural expression outcomes in communities and what actions can be taken to improve cultural expression.

Following the meeting, attendees enjoyed lunch and accompanying entertainment from a Russian song and dance troupe.



Uniting Communities through Sport

There is continued roll-out of the programme across urban and rural areas.

Urban Programme: Programme Delivery is ongoing in Colin & Eastside and Ardoyne And Ballysillan with young leaders training being delivered in these areas. Young ambassador training will continue for current ambassadors (Falls & Village area and Erne East). Recruitment and training of ambassadors from the local/international community has continued. Pathways is under review, with a shift in focus to supporting young ambassadors in the final stages of training to enable continued delivery after the programme.

Rural Programme: Stakeholder engagement is completed. Rural areas were expanded to DEA level to increase the recruitment pool. (This was approved by the Board in May 2019.) The new areas are Ballymoney and Derg. Procurement is underway for local delivery partners. A recruitment event for young leaders was delivered in June 2019 in the Ballymoney area.

Uniting Opportunities: 6 projects have submitted post project evaluations and proposals for extended projects into 2019/20—these are currently being assessed. Successful projects commenced in July and August 2019 for 24 weeks. Stage 1 opened over July/August. An overarching T:BUC evaluation is ongoing and involves focus groups, observations and interviews with stakeholders across all programmes.

A 'Better Together' Young Leaders Networking event is taking place in Good Relations Week (21 September 2019). Branded collateral for programme promotion and recognition is also being produced.

Shared Education Campuses (SEC)

Work has continued on all five projects announced from the first and second calls. An Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) has been appointed to progress the design of the Ballycastle project. The RIBA Stage 2 design report is currently under review by DE. The Moy SEC received business case approval in March 2019 and work to appoint an ICT to progress the design work has commenced. Further discussions are required with Moy SEC stakeholders and will be conducted through the new project board. DE have taken over the role of SRO for the Ballycastle and Moy projects.

Shared Education Campuses cont'd

Four SEC projects were visited by the Director of Area Planning, Admissions and Shared Campuses. Issues arising from the Director's visits will be communicated and planned with the respective Managing Authorities, the EA and CCMS.

An Integrated Supply Team will be procured to deliver the construction of the Limavady SEC project which has an anticipated construction start date of early 2020.

Remove Interface Barriers

- New security gates have been installed on Townsend Street and an event to mark the International Day of Peace is planned.
- Work is almost completed on the play park at Serpentine Road.
- Residents have given consent for works to proceed at North Queen Street. The estimated cost of aftercare work for North Queen Street has been identified and the scheme is progressing.
- Planning permission for Hillman Court has been granted.
- Surveys on attitudes to peace walls have been delivered.
- Work on the Woodvale EI scheme continues.
- A letter about the potential removal of the Parkside Gardens fence was issued in June to elected representatives.
- Residents have given consent for the re-imaging of the security structure at Mountainhill Road (Squire's Hill / Hazelbrook Drive interface).
- The official opening of the Navarra Place play park is arranged for September 2019.
- A way forward is to be agreed in respect of the 'dogleg' interface structure in Derry-Londonderry.
- A consultation process around the opening of Flax Street and Columbia Street is to be undertaken.
- An IPB meeting took place on 12 September.
- Further consultation on the opening times of the gates on Duncairn Gardens is underway.
- The publication launch of the Interface Framework document took place on 12 August at the QUB Summer School.



Urban Villages

The Urban Villages Initiative continues to deliver a range of community-led, cross-cutting and capital projects through a collaborative approach with councils, government departments and local community organisations for the benefit of people living, working and visiting Urban Village areas.

Community Led - Revenue Investment : an initial budget of £1.25m was allocated to a total of 40 community-ed projects for 2019/20.

Capital Milestones: a number of capital projects have been completed and opened or are due for launch soon, including:

- Orchard Café @ The Foundry in the EastSide Urban Village area
- The Diamond Health Club, also in the EastSide Urban Village area
- The Destined project in Derry-Londonderry is supporting people with learning disabilities and will open on 27 September 2019
- Abercorn Road environmental scheme has created a welcoming gateway to the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area
- Sandy Row Play Park
- 4 schools - 2 in south and 2 in north Urban Village areas
- The Short Strand community Centre Play Park and the Glenbryn Play Park will open soon.

Shared Neighbourhood Developments

Most schemes have been completed.

A Development Day Programme for the Ministerial Panel Housing Thematic Subgroup and Housing Associations is to be developed and agreed by the end of December 2019.

Engagement with new Housing Associations which are delivering the shared neighbourhoods is continues. This will include several workshops on the development of each shared neighbourhood's 5-year Good Relations Plan and support of the Housing Association in establishing the schemes' advisory groups.



T:BUC Camps

- Of the 136 groups that have been awarded funding, 131 camps (allocated around £1.456M) are progressing. Five groups have withdrawn.
- 121 Letters of Offer (LoO) have been issued to groups.
- Sites have been secured and dates agreed for 4 Camps in the Community (CITC) events which will take place in September, October, November and February.
- The EA webpages have been updated to make key documents accessible online for 2019/20 groups.
- The Social Action funding stream is open for applications and will be further promoted at CITC events.
- The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) has been appointed and have commenced the independent evaluation of the 2019/20 Programme.
- The EA are undertaking monitoring visits to T:BUC groups, while TEO and DE are carrying out observation visits.
- The programme evaluation document for the 2019/20 programme has been finalised.
- TEO and the EA are to meet to discuss the development of a Good Relations Ambassadors Programme to be piloted in the T:BUC Camps Programme.

Peace4Youth

- Eleven lead projects are delivering Peace4Youth across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.
- Phase 1 has been closed and Phase 2 (2019-21) successfully rolled out.
- YouthPact is supporting some of the activities.
- DfE is administering participant incentive payment and welfare benefit arrangements.
- DfE and DfC are to finalise arrangements to allow dual participation on Peace4Youth and Steps2Success in order to improve participant outcomes.
- DfE and DfC are also to finalise arrangements to allow the welfare benefit flexibilities agreed for Phase 1 to be carried forward to Phase 2.

2018/19 T:BUC Annual Report published

The 2018/19 T:BUC Annual Update Report was published on 7 August 2019. The Report highlights the very positive progress being made in the implementation of the T:BUC strategy and provides an update on the successful delivery of the headline actions, as well as a range of other good relations programmes.

The publication showcases examples of best practice in project delivery from across the range of good relations provision that the strategy supports. It includes feedback from participants on the difference taking part in projects funded through the strategy has made to their lives, and provides a great overview of all the good work that has been completed in 2018/19.

Key deliverables since the strategy launched include:

- Around 16,000 young people participated in the T:BUC Camps Programme;
- A total of 35 capital projects delivered across the five Urban Village areas;
- Development of 5 Shared Education Campuses;
- Over 2,700 young people participated on the Peace4Youth programme;
- 9/10 Shared Neighbourhoods have been completed, providing over 400 new homes;
- The Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity Programme has engaged around 2,200 young people in good relations through sporting, physical and creative activities;
- The number of Department of Justice owned interface barriers has reduced by 13.



Andy Cole, Director of Good Relations & T:BUC Division said:

“The report clearly shows the outcomes achieved, and positive impacts delivered, through the implementation of the T:BUC strategy.”

“This could not have been achieved without the hard work of those across Government, our partners, all the participants in the various programmes. I want to take the opportunity to thank them for giving their time and energy to improve good relations and realise the positive change we can see in the T:BUC Annual Update Report.”



Urban Villages

The Urban Villages Initiative is committed to ongoing engagement through a variety of projects with communities and other key stakeholders. Working with delivery partners in BCC, we have supported consultation for capital projects and ensure alignment with good relations is evident in project propositions.

Political Engagement with the local political representatives happens 3 times a year with a series of briefings. The next set of briefings will be at the end of September 2019.



Cross-cutting projects continue to connect communities across all five Urban Village areas and support partnership working and innovative approaches to tackling social issues. Recent developments include a Healthy Summer programme supported by Business in the Community and match funding donations from several local companies. This helped community groups enhance summer schemes and local festivals by providing healthy meals for families facing financial strains and the absence of Free School Meals during the summer period. Planning for Good Relations Week this September includes a high profile event celebrating another 14 schools serving Urban Village areas becoming Schools of Sanctuary. The event will include the launch of a Buddy Up scheme led by Community Relations in Schools (CRIS). A qualitative research project with Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council is enabling residents and local groups working in Urban Village areas to share their insight on and experiences of barriers to employability. This research could have significant local and regional impact in terms of how future employability and support programmes are designed and targeted.

Urban Villages cont'd

Issue 7 of Focus Magazine was distributed in June to over 30,000 homes across the five Urban Village areas as well as to a range of wider stakeholders. The Urban Villages twitter platform has grown exponentially over the last 3 months following the Talk Like TED programme for young people across Urban Village areas, giving voice to important community issues as well as the roll-out of capital launch events.

Peace IV

The overall budget for the Good Relations element of PEACE IV is €110M. Of this allocation TEO provides €12.9M in match funding.

All 17 local authority action plans have now been approved: 11 of these are led by the Local Councils in Northern Ireland and 6 are led by the County Councils in the Border Regions of Ireland. Nineteen Regional Level Projects have been approved to be delivered by community groups.

Two Regional Projects, 'Building Emotional Resilience' and 'Community Cohesion and Capacity Building', have been developed and application for these projects are currently being considered.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

The Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) has been in operation since 2001 and supports work which contributes to the promotion of good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds, the building of community cohesion, and promotion of integration.

Traditionally, the Fund has had an annual total of approximately £1.1m, however we have successfully bid for additional money in both this and the previous financial year to bring the total funding to over £1.2m – this has allowed the Department to fund additional groups.

Overall, 69 applications were received this year with just under 40 successful applications.

As per the commitment in the Racial Equality Strategy, it is planned to review the delivery model of the MEDF. Discussions have taken place with Business Consultancy Services in the Department of Finance in order to progress this as soon as possible.

Central Good Relations Funding Programme

The Central Good Relations Funding Programme (CGRF) supports constituted voluntary and community sector groups to deliver good relations projects where there is evidence of good relations need.

Since 2016, £12million has been awarded to support over 370 projects across Northern Ireland. In the last two years alone over 70,000 direct participants have been positively impacted by programmes using activities like sport, music and crafts to engage local communities.

In 2019/20, CGRF has awarded £3.3m to 93 groups who are currently delivering projects to over 30,000 participants. All projects must deliver within the funding year and contribute towards the delivery of one of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy key priorities.

Reporting on the 2018/19 programme has shown positive attitudinal change across each of the four T:BUC Key priorities.

There are two streams of funding available under CGRF: Project Funding; and Small Grants. Project Funding opens once a year for applications around November. Small Grants is open for application throughout the funding year and offers up to £1,000 for projects.

Find out more about the CGRF on the TEO website at www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/cgrf



District Council Good Relations Programme

The District Council Good Relations Programme continues to deliver in 2019. All Letters of Offer were issued on 1 April 2019 and Councils are actively progressing with their Good Relations projects, including intervention schemes which are targeted at interface areas required over the summer months. The District Council Good Relations Programme for 2019/20 has 147 projects supported, with both TEO and the Councils providing funding. It is anticipated that over 125,000 people will be involved in some way with the 2019/20 Programme by the time the projects for this year have been completed. With the offer of indicative funding for a three year period, Councils can now plan more strategic interventions with longer term good relations outcomes.



Planned Interventions

Under the Planned Interventions Programme TEO provide funding via the Education Authority for community activity to divert young people from anti-social and potentially criminal behaviour associated with contentious parades and public assemblies, and to deal with heightened tensions around interfaces during summer months.

The programme also seeks to develop the capacity of individuals and groups to participate in structured good relations programmes such as the T:BUC Camps Programme. The main outcomes of the Programme are to improve attitudes between young people from different community backgrounds and to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

In 2019/20, 83 groups have been awarded funding of £467k, which includes £67k additional funding provided from the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme.

T:BUC Camps

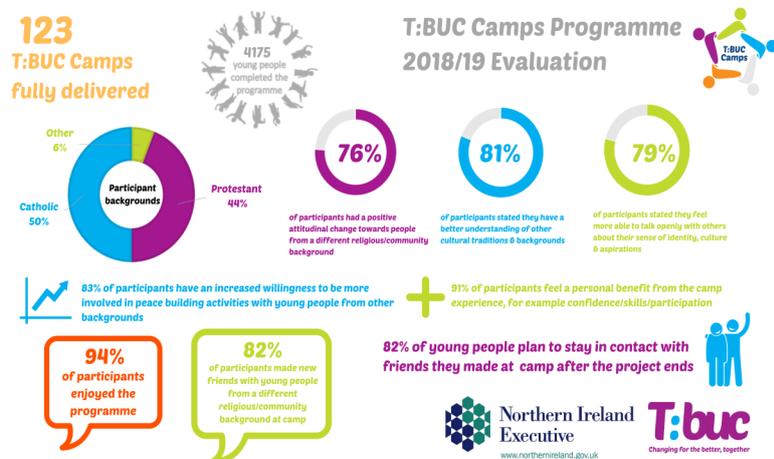
The T:BUC Camps programme is a headline action under the T:BUC Strategy. The programme aims to create new and lasting friendships between young people for different communities. The T:BUC Camps Programme 2019-20 is well underway, with 130 camps approved for funding totalling over £1.3M and involving close to 5000 young people from all areas of Northern Ireland.

New developments this year include collaboration with DE to attract applications from schools involved in Shared Education Partnerships, aiming to improve the reach of the programme into areas currently under represented in the programme.

Social action is now a key part of the programme, bringing T:BUC into local communities. Groups are invited to apply for additional funding to deliver social action projects in their local community. In 2018/19 these projects included charity fundraisers, a beach clean-up, a Christmas dinner event at a residential home and many others.

Camps in the Community events are larger scale events that bring participants from many camps together, offering a further opportunity to forge new friendships, reinforce existing friendships, engage in fun activities and good relations workshops and showcase and celebrate camp experiences and achievements. Social action is also prompted through these events. Events are scheduled for September, October and November in Corrymeela, Lisnaskea and Newcastle, with a final event at Stormont in February 2020.

Many of this year's 131 groups will be holding celebration events to showcase and celebrate their camp experiences with each other, involving parents, group leaders and other community representatives.



Different Drums – Community And School Group Workshops

Different Drums of Ireland are on the Playhouse stage this month, and also running workshops for schools and community groups. Funded by the **Community Relations Council** for Good Relations Week 2019 – a week of events full of people playing an active part in creating and sustaining good relationships across the community. Different Drums will be performing their first show since their US tour in 2014. They use Lambeg and Bodhran drums paired with Uilleann pipes and whistles, guitar, world percussion and more. Jigs, reels, marches and original songs all come together in a unique mix of tradition and innovation.

Started in 1991 as a community relations project, Different Drums went on to international acclaim, playing for Presidents and Royalty while still keeping Northern Ireland at its heart. The group were initially inspired by the Kodo drummers of Japan and have created an entirely new programme which has its roots in the Northern Irish tradition. Their music also draws from Irish, Scots-Irish, African and African traditions.

As part of their work for Community Relations Week 2019, Different Drums are holding workshops with community and school groups in the lead up to their performance.

Claire Heaney McKee, Community Relations Officer at The Playhouse, said that they are: “introducing a new generation to the indigenous drums of Ireland, the Lambeg, the Bodhran and a new drum of their own design, the Long Drum. The workshops also feature the pipes of Ulster, the Uilleann or elbow pipes, the Scottish small pipes and the Highland bagpipes. All this along with whistles, guitar, other small percussion instruments and original and traditional songs come together to make a unique and exciting sound the like of which has never been heard before.”



Event Date: Different Drums of Ireland will perform at The Playhouse on Saturday, 21 September 2019.

<http://www.differentdrums.net/>

The Belfast Mela

Belfast Mela (Mela meaning to 'meet') was created by ArtsEkta in 2007. Formed in 2006, ArtsEkta is one of the leading multi-cultural arts organisations here. The organisation works to enhance the practice, understanding and appreciation of multi-cultural arts within an artistic, social and educational context.

Belfast Mela is ArtsEkta's flagship project. Celebrating culture and creativity, the festival is an international showcase of food, music, dance, and arts from over 30 nations across the globe. It addresses the need for intervention by challenging perceptions, developing understanding and encouraging dialogue between communities in a shared and inclusive space. This is achieved by educating a wide audience about the diverse range of cultural practices and identity of minority ethnic groupings in a creative festival atmosphere through the arts.

This year, the Mela celebrated its biggest event ever with 30,000 people attending the party in Botanic Gardens on Sunday, 25 August. The **Community Relations Council** was happy to part-fund this event.

Nisha Tandon, OBE, Founder and Executive Director of ArtsEkta said: *"This year we put on our most ambitious programme and we are so proud that Mela has grown to become one of the city's signature cultural events promoting Belfast as an open, inclusive and welcoming place to live and do business.*

"Many communities have made Belfast their home and it has never been more important that we embrace the individuality and cultural heritage of each citizen and find strength in our diversity. Working with hundreds of artists, locally and internationally we presented a bold, vibrant and colourful cultural celebration once again this year and it is just wonderful that the sun shone and we attracted our biggest audience ever to celebrate with us this year."



Enjoying the Belfast Mela, from left: Lorraine Campbell, Radius Housing; Martin McDonald, CRC Chair; David Sterling, Head of NI Civil Service; Nisha Tandon, ArtsEkta; Maeve Walls, Department for Communities; John Finucane, Lord Mayor of Belfast; and Mukesh Sharma MBE DL, ArtsEkta

Work of contract holders in North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme recognised

TEO officials recently attended a **North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP)** Forum event held in Belfast Castle to celebrate the projects delivered across 2018/19.

The Programme is managed by the Community Relations Council (CRC) in partnership with TEO, and is delivered by contract holders in the North Belfast area. Its objectives are to improve community relations in the North Belfast area and to contribute to the key aims of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.

In total, Over 52 projects were delivered in 2018/19, resulting in a significant number of positive good relations outcomes. The event in Belfast Castle showcased many of these projects, with presentations by a number of programme representatives and participants allowing attendees to hear first-hand how the Programme has had a positive impact on the lives of those involved. The event also included an award for the most innovative project delivered in 2018/19. The award was made in honour of Joe McGouran, a TEO official who had worked for many years on the Programme and who sadly passed away last year. The award was won by the Cliftonville Community Regeneration Programme for their work in building peace and relationships in the area.



Wishing all of the contract holders every success in the future, Chris Gardner, TEO's Head of Good Relations Outcomes and CRC Sponsorship, said: *"The event was a great showcase of the talent and dedication of community and voluntary sector staff who work on the Programme and drive the positive good relations outcomes we have seen in 2018/19."*

"It also shows how TEO and CRC can work together in partnership to add value to Programmes like this, and help build the united, shared and reconciled community here that we want to live in."

The Falls Women's Centre

"I was suffering from domestic violence when I first went to the Falls Women's Centre," Angie said. "That was back in 1987. The Centre helped me then and really what they gave me, most of all, was courage and confidence. A sense of community." Angie has been involved with the Falls Women's Centre ever since.

Throughout this year, the Centre is hosting events enabling women to come together to discuss current issues they face, as well as the role they play in a shared and equal society.

Core funding from the **Community Relations Council (CRC)** ensures that this valuable community service continues. CRC supports the role of a Good Relations Training Development Coordinator to oversee and implement a Good Relations training and education programme.

It is at one such event that Angie, as well as numerous members of the Falls Women's Centre and various other participants from the wider community, are present. The event, entitled "Human Rights – Women's Rights!", gives people a platform to learn and share. Angie, for example, currently uses her experience and skills to counsel, mentor and support at the Falls Women's Centre, and is an active participant in this particular event. "I got help when I needed it," she explained, "and because of that I'm here today to be able help others."

Angie's story is like many of those present at the event – people who have come together to build a united community of support for people. None of which would be possible without a support and funding network.

The CRC has funded the Falls Women's Centre to develop a year of programmes such as Dealing with the Past, Women in Political Life, Diversity and Leadership, and Community Development. This event is where Angie and many others have come to learn and continue to develop relationships with people from a range of community backgrounds.



The event was organised by Nancy Graham – Good Relations Training and Education Worker for the Centre, who said: "Without CRC funding we wouldn't be able to deliver key events and services. Specifically our 'Women in Peace Building' project which has, over that past 2-3 years, worked to develop community, to bring together and inspire. The event today is an opportunity for people to have their say. But it's not just an event – it's an ongoing conversation. It's about continuing the dialogue across the wider community."

Peacing Ages Together Project

Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership received funding from the **PEACE IV** programme to run a series of interesting, new social activities for older people across the council area under the building positive relations theme.

Fifteen new partnerships were created across the area, joining groups from the towns, villages, churches and associations together to explore their similarities and differences and to combat loneliness and isolation in older people's lives.

In June, over 300 older people from Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena gathered together to celebrate the friendship and amazing achievements that have been produced over the past year. All participants were involved in 10 sessions together, taking part in activities including Disco, trampolining, creating art projects, learning skills and tasting foods from all over the world.

One participant said, *"I never thought I would enter a gym again let alone do exercise classes in my eighties!"* whilst another commented that *"getting out to do something completely different and meeting new friends is very exciting!"*

Just one of the projects under the Mid and East Antrim's Borough Council's £3.1m PEACE IV Action Plan, this unique cross-community programme aims to run a series of new social activities for older people including learning contemporary dance routines. Vital funding went into transport to connect people across the three towns.

Without doubt the project has developed unique new friendship networks across the community. It has empowered participants to build stronger local connections; become more physically active; learn new skills; and most, importantly, enjoy new experiences.



Celebrating a 'A Home for All' at Greater Shantallow's newest Shared Space

Greater Shantallow Community Arts celebrated their new Shared Space, Studio2, with the launch of a Peace and Trust themed arts exhibition. Part of their 'A Home for All – A New Shared Space' project, funded through the 2019/20 **Central Good Relations Fund**, the year-long programme of work celebrates the new shared space hub, 'Studio2', which contributes towards the delivery of the T:BUC Key Priority 'Our Shared Space'. Participants, who were recruited on a cross community basis from the Greater Shantallow and Derry City and Strabane areas, created visual art to reflect their interpretation of Peace and Trust.

Speaking at the event, participants emphasised how important it was to have access to a space where they felt safe to come together with others and make connections they did not think was previously possible.

James Logue, one of the participants, said: *"I came here as a stranger and this project made me feel welcome and part of a group. We have all come from different parts of the city and we leave here as friends and fellow artists. This has been the best experience that I ever had. Not just to find hidden artistic talents but we got a chance to talk and most importantly be listened to. Most of all we have found a Home for All."*



Carol Morrow, Head of Good Relations Delivery at The Executive Office, joined participants to launch the exhibition. Carol said: *"It is wonderful to see the impact the Studio2 space has had on the community here and the participants who are sharing their inspirational artwork. Hearing first-hand about their positive experiences of the project and talking to the local community who have come along, it's clear that this was a much needed and welcomed space that has made a real impact on the area."*

Co-ordinator of 'A Home for All', Irena Noonan said: *"We were delighted to have welcomed so many new and wonderful friends to embrace and enjoy all the creative opportunities that are "new shared space" here at Studio2 can provide. The aspirations of insuring that Studio2 is seen and regarded as a welcoming new shared space that brings friends from all sections of our community together to embrace the magic of the arts and to be a conduit for building lasting friendships that unite our communities."*

Find out more about Studio2 and Greater Shantallow Community Arts at: studio2derry.com

For information on the Central Good Relations Fund visit: www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/cgrf

Formative Years

Delivered by **Mid and East Antrim Council** through the **District Council Good Relations Programme**, Formative Years is a children's programme in Larne aimed at young people to increase their confidence in engaging with others from a different backgrounds. The main aim of the project was to encourage young people to participate actively in a diverse range of activities. It also presented the parents with an opportunity to observe the activities with the hope that they will be able to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the importance of play, storytelling and engaging with others for the children.

106 children and 20 parents from two local nursery schools took part in 16 workshops which were delivered in both nursery schools as well as in a shared space in Larne Market yard. The Programme, which cost £2,500 to run, included good relations workshops focusing on storytelling, recreational activities, physical activities and an arts and crafts workshop.

This was a pilot project and the feedback from all involved has been very supportive and encouraging. It has definitely presented a creative way of engaging with children aged 3-4 and introducing them to good relations activities. One parent said, *"Today was fantastic! It was well planned and organised. Every activity had the children highly engaged and working well together which was fantastic to see! It was great to see the children mix so well together and make new friends. Thanks so much for this fantastic pilot scheme!"* Another commented, *"Excellent day for both children and parents – everyone enjoyed the activities. I thought there was great interaction between children from both schools. This was lovely to see."*



Celebrating Culture in Urban Villages

Over the summer period, the **Urban Villages** Initiative community-led strand has supported festival projects across all 5 Urban Village areas. These exciting festivals have brought local communities together across diverse cultural and traditional backgrounds to connect and engage in arts and creativity, physical activity and celebrating local cultures.

In Derry-Londonderry, the Gasyard Féile in the Bogside and the New Gate Fringe Festival in the Fountain worked together on a programme under the Urban Villages Initiative's Streets Alive project this summer. These festivals were a great celebration as people got together not only to enjoy the events, activities and entertainment; but also individuals and organisations developed new connections as they worked together behind the scenes to co-design and plan events. Events included the Festival of Fire, Jog in the Bog, the Tartan Walk, music and dance events, sporting events, comedy, drama and storytelling made this a summer to remember.

This summer, the Ardbone Festival took place in the North Belfast Urban Village area, it had a packed programme of events celebrating good relations and community. The festival included family entertainment, health and wellbeing activities, uniform swap shops and cross community events at venues across the area.

The new Colin Town Square next to the Colin Connect Transport Hub, both Urban Villages capital investments, has been brought to life with a series of community events this summer; including a Food and Craft market and an Outdoor Cinema.

These event were part of Colin Summer Festival, also supported by the Urban Villages Initiative aimed at reducing isolation, improving health and well-being and fostering a positive community identity for the people of Colin.



Newtownhamilton T:BUC Camp

Education Authority Youth Worker, Wayne Morris, delivered a **T:BUC Camp** in the Greater Newtownhamilton area in partnership with PSNI, Slieve Gullion Neighbourhood team and with key support from Newtownhamilton High School and Newtownhamilton Community Centre.

20 young people from local Protestant, Catholic and Bulgarian Romani communities participated. Wayne highlighted good relations issues across the town: prejudice, stereotyping and negative assumptions are made about Romani people living in the area, causing tensions to rise, and this was affecting relationships between young people.

The group's camp programme included good relations workshops exploring issues of identity stereotypes, heritage and culture/traditions. The group spent their camp on a residential in Tollymore Mountain Centre where they engaged in numerous fun and challenging outdoor activities including abseiling and mountain biking. The post camp phase focused on the creation of an art piece which was launched at a celebration event attended by parents and other key stakeholders.



Newtownhamilton T:BUC Camp cont'd

The programme had a very positive impact on all the young people involved as relationships and friendships grew between participants and negative attitudes and stereotypes were challenged, and the group were very keen to continue their work and achievements together as one group. To this end, the group participated in the Camps in the Community programme in the Share Centre, Lisnaskea, where they joined other Camps to share learning, develop relationships and learn about social action.

The group applied to the T:BUC social action support budget for funds to facilitate a community event for up to 100 young people from across the wider Newtownhamilton area and they were awarded £900. This was in connection with the 'Ellen' appeal which raised vital funds for a local child who needed support for life saving treatment. The young people chose a colour splash, as it brought people within their community together and as they felt that there was very little opportunity to do so. This is partly due to the tensions which exist between communities in the area. They also designed T-shirts and held a collection in the town.

The event was a great success, raising approximately £1,200 for the charity and helping to improve relationships in the area. The video produced by the group on their project has been a great success, showcasing the programme and celebrating their achievement and experiences along the way. Further celebrations involved awards from the Education Authority YAFTA awards and the Belfast Youth Oscars NI. The group are keen to develop their legacy in the area and several members plan to continue into new T:BUC Camps programmes as young leaders, to help inspire and support others.



Dates for Your Diary

Next Engagement Forum

The next T:BUC Engagement Forum will take place on 11 February 2020. 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**.

Decade of Centenaries Roundtable Conference 2019

PARTITION: A Dividing Ireland in a Dividing Europe

21 November 2019

The Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

The Decade of Centenaries Roundtable invite you to their conference, 'PARTITION: A Dividing Ireland in a Dividing Europe'. This conference will be an exciting and innovative regional one-day event that engages community-based participants in a day of learning to illuminate the period 1920-22. Events of the period will be set in a global context and illustrated through locally-based case studies covering three key themes:

1. Partition and Borders
2. Migration, Minorities and Dislocation
3. Violent conflict and Polarisation

We expect high demand for limited places at this event. Participants will hear from global and local perspectives from academic experts, local historians including case study examples. For further details on the event and to register your interest please email: info@nicrc.org.uk



