



T:buc

Changing for the better, together

District Council Good Relations Programme

Programme Report

2017/18



Northern Ireland
Executive

Foreword

The purpose of this report is to tell you about the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), and to give you some examples of what it has achieved in 2017/18.

As Director of Good Relations and T:BUC Division in the Executive Office, one of my areas of responsibility is the oversight and implementation of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. The Strategy outlines a vision of a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. Links to further information on the Strategy can be found in the Key Facts section of this report.

The T:BUC Programme is wide ranging and is aimed at addressing a number of long standing issues including Interface Barriers, Sharing in Education and Shared Housing, and while these are very significant challenges, building local solutions to local good relations issues is also a very important part of our work.

The District Council Good Relations Programme is a key funding scheme delivered as part of the wider T:BUC Strategy. The Programme is funded in partnership with all eleven District Councils and it recognises the value of, and the need to deliver local solutions to local good relations issues. In 2017/18 we contributed just over £3,000,000 to almost 180 projects delivering in 600 locations across all eleven District Council areas.

The Programme has a strong focus on outcomes – we want to clearly identify what difference is being made and to see how relations have been improved. We want to identify what works and to recognise and share best practice. Each case study included in this report clearly shows how a project has had a positive impact, and we have included quotes from participants detailing how projects have made a difference to their lives.

Each Council has a section within the report where you can find out more about the good relations programmes they are delivering, and the positive difference they are making to good relations locally.

If you would like to send us feedback on any aspect of this report or the Programme itself, or would like more details about anything you have read about, please contact the team using the contact information provided at the end of this report.



The Good Relations Officers delivering the Council Programme are making a real difference to good relations in their local communities and I hope after reading this report you will want to know more about the Programme, the projects in your area and how you can get involved.

The promotion of Good relations is a task for everyone – we all have a part to play and we can all make a contribution to the inclusive, welcoming and united community we all want to live in.

Thank you to all those who worked on this programme in the past year and I wish you increasing success in 2018/19.

Grainne Killen

Director

Good Relations & T:BUC Division

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

The Borough of Antrim & Newtownabbey covers 274 square miles from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the shores of Belfast Lough in the east. Its northern boundary with Ballymena leads to the Glens of Antrim and the port of Larne, while to the south it borders Belfast and Lisburn.

- Approximately 139,536 people live in the area
- 65,000 vehicles pass through each day on the M2, one of the major transport corridors through the area
- Five million people arrive or depart every year through Northern Ireland's busiest gateway, Belfast International Airport
- Two of Northern Ireland's most popular and modern retail outlets, Junction One and Abbey Centre, attract shoppers from far and wide.
- Three higher education facilities, the University of Ulster at Jordanstown, CAFRE Agricultural College at Greenmount Campus in Antrim and the Northern Regional College campus at Whiteabbey cater for nearly 20,000 students
- Two hospitals provide acute and sub-acute services, Antrim Area and Whiteabbey, plus Muckamore Abbey and Holywell hospitals are all within its boundaries.



The Good Relations Action Plan links to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Corporate Strategy for 2015 - 2030 with a vision to:

“make Antrim and Newtownabbey a prosperous place, inspired by our people driven by ambition”

It commits to making the Borough a place where, among other things:

“Our Communities are empowered and engaged”.

The Corporate Strategy commits Council to being “a progressive and responsive Council delivering quality, value-for-money services”. Under the theme Our Communities, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council commits to:

“A place where, by working together, we will encourage a culture of tolerance, diversity and respect. We will enrich the knowledge and skills of the community and voluntary sector to address disadvantage and promote opportunity”.

Within the Good Relations Action plan there are 20 programmes, 5 for Our Children and Young People, 4 for Our Shared Community, 2 for our Safe Community and 7 for Our Cultural Expression.

Contact:



Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim,
BT41 2UB | T: (028) 9446 3113

Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey,
BT36 5QA | T: (028) 9034 0000

Case Study:

Who do you think we are?

Project Summary:

Who do you think we are? A fascinating programme finding out about life in Northern Ireland, our past, our present, who lives here and visiting some of our local historical highlights as well as finding out about your own ancestry.

Promoting greater positive engagement with minority communities to restrict the impact of division on life opportunities. Increase knowledge of shared cultural heritage and thereby increase the number of participants who feel they have a greater respect and understanding for the culture of another community.

Participants:



75
Participants



£2,523.65
Total Cost

How much did we do?

7
Workshops/
Tours

What difference did we make?



gained an increased understanding of the culture and lives of people from different national and racial backgrounds.

How well did we do?

“Dispelled misconceptions about Islam/Muslims that have prevailed in recent years.”

“Explanation about diversity of nationalities within Islam and cultural differences.”

“Very informative helped to dispel many of the inaccurate accounts given out by the media.”



“The historical details and how the ‘Poor House’ came into existence and was funded or the role it played in Belfast society - very interesting.”

“Hearing the personal, stories of people that have been persecuted in their own country.”

“Meeting people from different countries and backgrounds and hearing their experiences, especially asylum seekers etc.”

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

The Ards and North Down Borough Council BIG PLAN is 'To have empowered, resilient individuals and communities; to reduce inequality; to promote good relations and sustainability and to improve the accessibility of public services'.

The Good Relations Department sits within the Community and Wellbeing Directorate and focuses on delivering Good Relations outcomes through activities detailed within the Good Relations Action Plan.

Activities and programmes have been developed based on the findings of the Good Relations audit and the need within the borough. Activities and programmes are wide ranging and include:

- Accredited training on Diversity
- Capacity Building training and empowering through marshalling, community training
- intergenerational programmes
- Holocaust exhibition that includes artwork from local schools and local communities and youth groups.
- Holocaust Commemoration event incorporating the local aspect of the borough and Kindertransport
- Staff Training Days provided opportunities to educate and raise awareness on Good Relations issues, such as cultural expression, BME.



- Cultural Expression Programme
- Art programmes to address diversity,
- Drama productions focusing on relevant local issues
- Shared Voices Programme addressing prejudice, common ground and acceptance with over 200 young people already introduced to the programme between Sept and December 2017.
- No Hate Here Campaign supported by PSNI, businesses, statutory agencies and voluntary and community groups
- Mobile App for Android and Apple - Signposting for newcomers and the indigenous community.
- Good Relations small grants

Good Relations staff provide guidance and support on Good Relations matters to individuals, community organisations and internally to staff and members of council.

Good Relations staff work in partnership with many statutory agencies and compliment the PCSP and PEACE IV strategies.

Contact:

Conway Buildings
16 South Street
Newtownards
BT23 4AJ

T: 0300 013 3333



Case Study:

Shared Education

Project Summary:

The project, bringing together two primary schools from different community backgrounds, is designed to improve attitudes between young people and engage them in bringing their communities together as they move onto post primary education and beyond, ultimately helping to build safer communities as they get older.

In 2017/18, St Mary's Primary School, Portaferry and Portavogie Primary School came together to learn about their shared histories by studying World War 1. The project brought together Primary 7 pupils from both schools, this included preparatory activities facilitated by local historians, a residential trip to the Somme Battlefields where the pupils saw first-hand the impact of war and culminated in two exhibitions where the pupils showed off their knowledge about the Somme and the local people involved to their parents and the wider school community.

Participants:



57

Young People
aged 11 years
from 2 primary
schools

£23,000
Total Cost



How much did we do?

- Pre Workshops/Talks &
- **4** Night / **5** Day Residential
- **2** School Exhibitions

What difference did we make?



in the number of
participants who
had a greater
knowledge of
shared history.

were more
confident to
relay shared
history projects
to parents or
their peers.



increase in the number of young people who
made new friends from another community.

How well did we do?

"Meeting everyone from St Marys -
like meeting new people"

"Thiepval memorial - got to see all
the people who died for you, I
thought there was just one grave but
there were millions."

"An amazing opportunity for our
children and a chance to mix with St
Mary's and make new friends."

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Good Relations Action Plan sits in the Community Development Department, of the People Directorate of the Council.

A core priority of the Directorate is to improve everyone's quality of life, opportunity, safety and wellbeing. Council recognises that people are the most important resource and is committed to providing shared spaces and services, celebrating culture and supporting communities to develop a sense of belonging, safety and cohesion.

The Good Relations team aims to help deliver these aspirations through activities aimed at creating welcoming communities and neighbourhoods, developing community capacity by involving people in local decision making, celebrating rich diversity and promoting equality. Good Relations works very closely with the Boroughs overarching strategy, the Community Plan. "A Welcoming Community" is identified as one of the strategic outcomes in the Community Plan.



Recognising that the Council area has become more diverse, with increasing positive interaction between people from different racial and religious backgrounds, Council aspires to the Borough being a place where difference is valued recognising that people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions.... A peaceful, inclusive society is vital to ensuring that we have a welcoming, confident and safe community.

The Councils Good Relations team comprises of 4 Good Relations Officers with 2 Administrative support staff who work collaboratively to deliver good relations actions across the Borough. The actions include a focus on engaging our most disadvantaged young people in diversionary, citizenship and democracy activities.

Contact:

The Palace Demesne, Armagh
Civic Building, Banbridge
Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre

T: 0300 0300 900



Case Study:

International Women's Day 2018

Project Summary

The theme for the day was 'The Empowerment of Women'. The council's Good Relations Team, brought together women from



across the area, from different community backgrounds and of different ages to encourage them to get more involved in civic life and to help them find their voices when faced with local good relations issues.

The event began with the speaker Louise Little, pictured above, who has worked with the community in a peace building capacity for a number of years. Louise reinforced the message that women must have confidence in themselves, and to never underestimate the power of their voices and the impact they have on their communities.

The women also received health and wellbeing information, took part in interactive sessions, including an African Drums session and had the opportunity to network and build new relationships.

Participants:



63

participants from all age ranges and different community backgrounds

How much did we do?



1

interactive morning of events including talks/debates and workshops.

What difference did we make?



said they found the event to be beneficial.

participants said they want to attend more events aimed towards women.



How well did we do?

"This was a life changing day and has made me into a stronger woman and for who I am going to be in the future."

A very interesting morning - very thought provoking. Women do not value themselves enough and only through coming to events we realise the potential we do have within us.

"Met lots of really interesting people and found out about services in the local area."

Belfast City Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

District Councils are identified within the Together; Building a United Community strategy as a key delivery agent. This delivery is through the District Council's Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) which is 75% funded by TEO. In 17/18, the total value of the Belfast plan is £680,000.

The good relations audit highlighted a need to target engagement across interface and deprived communities, develop shared spaces in local areas and continue to support new communities. The development of meaningful, sustained and purposeful cross community activity was highlighted as a priority. Feedback identified the need to provide opportunities for people to come together and learn about the diversity that exists in the city and these are provided in the projects which are delivered through the action plan.

The Belfast Action Plan is aligned with the Government strategy Together; Building a United Community, under the 4 key priority areas of: Children and Young People, Our Shared Community, Our Safe Community, Our Cultural Expression.

Within the Programme, there are 12 different projects. The most sizeable is our small grants programme which provides over £230,000 to support communities across Belfast to address issues of racism and sectarianism and support good relations. This year we supported 62 different projects.



The breakdown by theme shows that there is delivery across all four T;BUC themes. In Children and Young People we deliver two projects which have targeted engagement in post primary and pre-school settings. Each project provides a training resource for existing staff within these settings so that a legacy can be left by projects in terms of the skills and knowledge that participants can then use in future years.

We support the development of a Shared Community through a shared space programme and support for Good Relations Networking events and the Belfast Migrant Forum. The Forum provides an opportunity for new communities to make links with service providers and indigenous communities to support integration in Belfast.

In the Safe Community theme we have taken a new approach to our work on interfaces this year by providing opportunities for groups working in interface communities to develop projects that create opportunities for cross community engagement and the development of shared space.

Under the theme of Cultural Expression we deliver a range of activity including a programme linked to positive cultural expression, St Patrick's Day, Decade of Centenaries and our Diversecity programme. Diversecity provides the opportunity for people to learn more about the people and communities that make Belfast. It provides the opportunity to visit different places to learn more about the culture and traditions in Belfast.

Contact:

Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

T: (028) 9032 0202



Case Study:

Small Grants Programme & Networking Support

Project Summary:

The Good Relations Small Grant Fund provides grants of up to £10,000 to support good relations (GR) projects that promote the 4 TBUC themes, Children & Young people, Shared Community, Safe community and Cultural expression.

The 2017 Belfast City Council Good Relations Audit identified a need to provide opportunities for organisations to network with each other and share best practice on good relations approaches. In response to this the Belfast Good Relations Unit has organised two events in 2017.

How much did we do?



2

networking visits for sharing information on best practice



Participants:



5,000 participants from all areas of Belfast

150+

People attended the two networking events at Belfast City Hall, with more now planned.



What difference did we make?



felt attendance at the events had increased their awareness of the work Belfast City Council do to support good relations.

found the events useful or very useful.



reported that there was a need for events like this in Belfast, and felt that attendance at the events had increased their awareness of the work of other organisations involved in promoting good relations.

How well did we do?

"More of our people need to experience trips like these to understand better each other's points of view."

"I would like to have more experiences of exploring our shared history together and further exploration of the path that led us to the present."

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Good Relations Programme identifies the key outcomes, methodologies and actions required to ensure the effective delivery of good relations initiatives throughout the Borough.

The programme aims to provide opportunities for civic and community leaders to promote the area as a model of best practice in developing respect, understanding and tolerance of the cultural, historical and traditional diversity of the residents.

Early consultation took place with a number of key stakeholders to inform the content of the Good Relations action plan, and this was later enhanced by discussions with our Peace IV staff prior to delivery of the 2017/18 plan, to ensure that our activities would be complementary and to avoid any potential duplication. The programme targets specific groups as part of its delivery process. These groups included: Young families, pre-teens and young adults, civic and community leaders and high capacity single identity groups.

Four leading factors were identified in the good relations audit as; Flags and emblems, Language and behaviour, Parades and Protests and Cultural outworkings.



The plan for 2017/18 incorporated 16 different projects, targeting over 5,000 potential participants directly and indirectly. All of the activities delivered through the programme have defined and measurable Good Relations outcomes and are aligned with the 4 main themes of the Executives Together: Building a United Strategy: Children & Young People, Shared Community, Safe Community and Cultural Expression

The Good Relations team consists of a Good Relations Manager, 2 Good Relations Officers and 1 part time administrative support officer. The team undertakes the development, implementation and delivery of all projects included in the Good Relations action plan and ensures best use of resources and funding in order to provide the most effective outcomes to local Good Relations issues.

The Good Relations programme for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council provides formal structured engagement and promotes partnership working to ensure additionality and complementarity between all of the strategies and plans for which the Council has responsibility.



Contact:

Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

T: (028) 7034 7034

Case Study:

Youth Cohesion/Xuberance

Project Summary:

Under the TBUC theme "Our Children and Young People" CCGBC aims to help to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building Good Relations. Our Good Relations Audit had also identified the need to improve attitudes between young people from different backgrounds. We chose to provide an opportunity to participate in an outdoor programme that would encourage leadership and bring an innovative and alternative perspective to informing young peer leaders about sectarianism and racism and the impact of these within the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area.

Participants:



23

participants aged 14-17 from throughout the council area.



£8,492.00
Total Cost

How much did we do?

4

Part/Element Programme



- Introductory Day
- 2 Night Residential
- Reconnecting Day
- Closing/Celebration Event

What difference did we make?



showed a positive increase in terms of their attitude, respect and understanding of people from other community backgrounds

How well did we do?

"I'm so glad I did Xuberance as it gave me the chance to become great friends with people that I otherwise would never have met"

"I've learnt a lot from Xuberance and think that by investing in programmes similar to this and by doing more through mixed community centres it can help achieve a more peaceful and overall unified district council area."

"Meeting people from different countries and backgrounds and hearing their experiences, especially asylum seekers etc."

"I have met people from different parts of the council area and have developed new friendships and bonds which I hope to maintain."

Derry and Strabane District Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Derry City and Strabane District has a growing population of 150,100 residents covering an area of 1,245km². The District is divided along traditional lines. 72.16% belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 25.40% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and other Christian' religion (including Christian related). 26.20% indicated that they had a British national identity, 50.75% had an Irish national identity.

The District is home to significant black and ethnic minority, and in recent months 11 Syrian families have been re-settled within the City as part of the UK's Government Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS). There is a high level of awareness and appreciation of the value of the Good Relations work undertaken and the contribution of the respective Officers in the development and implementation of Good Relations Strategy. The role of the Good Relations Team is seen to be essential in supporting a strategic approach to Good Relations offering advice and support whilst complimenting the Council's Strategic Growth Plan and Local Growth Plans.



The nature of this support includes:

- Strategic and operational programme and project design and implementation support
- Relationships building and support of groups
- Direct facilitation, training delivery (face to face and online), schools workshop design, festival and events management, recruiting for initiatives and group capacity development
- Communication and liaison with elected members where appropriate

The priority groups identified by the Good Relations team and to which they focus their efforts were; Community Development Groups, Youth/Schools Groups and all Section 75 groups. Generally, however Good Relations work was identified as relevant to a very wide range of groups and activities.



Contact:

98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN |
T: (028) 7125 3253

47 Derry Road, Strabane, Tyrone,
BT82 8DY | T: (028) 7125 3253



Case Study:

Cultural Fusion

Project Summary:

As part of the UK's Government Syrian vulnerable person's relocation scheme (VPRS), 11 families were re-settled within Derry City. To welcome these families to the city and to increase participation and integration, the Good Relations officers organised an event 'Culture Fusion' to showcase both Irish and Arabic cultures through the medium of dance, food and music. The event took place in July 2017 in Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin. The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council opened the event and it was attended by 70 people from both cultures.

Participants:



70

Participants

participants
from both
main
communities



£2,450.00

Total Cost

How much did we do?

4

Focus Groups/
Discussions held
with relevant
agencies prior to
the event to plan an
all-inclusive event.



What difference did we make?



felt that this
event promoted
both main
cultures and
their identities.

stated they have a
better
understanding of
different cultures
as a result of the
event.



participants felt that's this event promoted both
cultures, and their identities.



participants said they would participate in another
Good Relations project/event in the future

What did we learn?:

The event was very successful with the Syrian families feeling more integrated within the community. They enjoyed learning about the Irish culture and showcasing their own culture. The families would like to see more events similar to Culture Fusion organised to increase participation and socialising with local people. We found that these types of events are the best way to engage participation for both cultures to mix and learn more about each other.

District Council Good Relations Programme Key Facts

Coverage: The Programme operates across all eleven District Council areas.

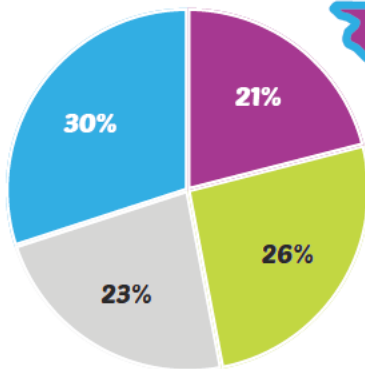
Delivery:



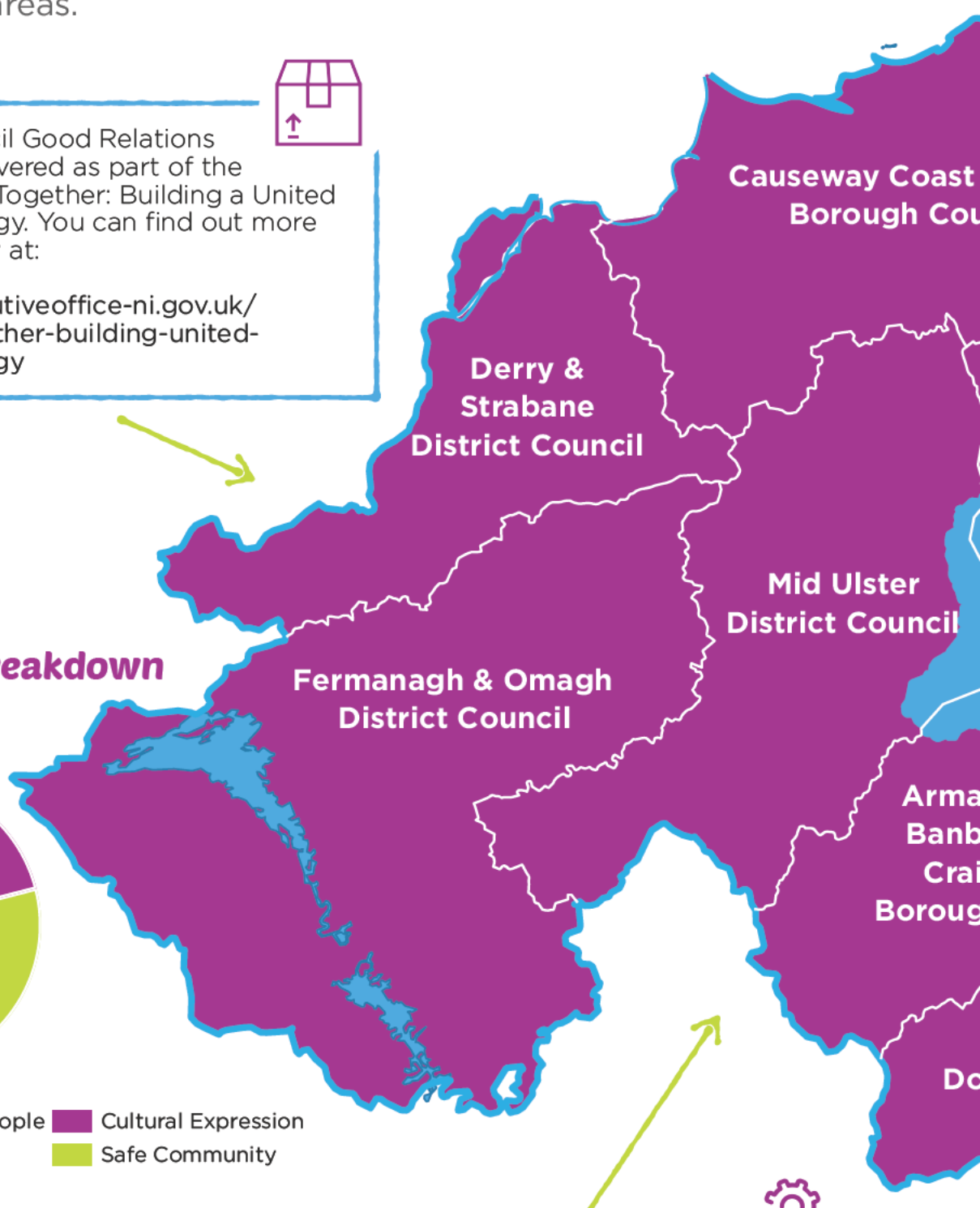
The District Council Good Relations Programme is delivered as part of the Executive's wider Together: Building a United Community strategy. You can find out more about the strategy at:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy>

T:BUC Theme Percentage Breakdown of Projects:



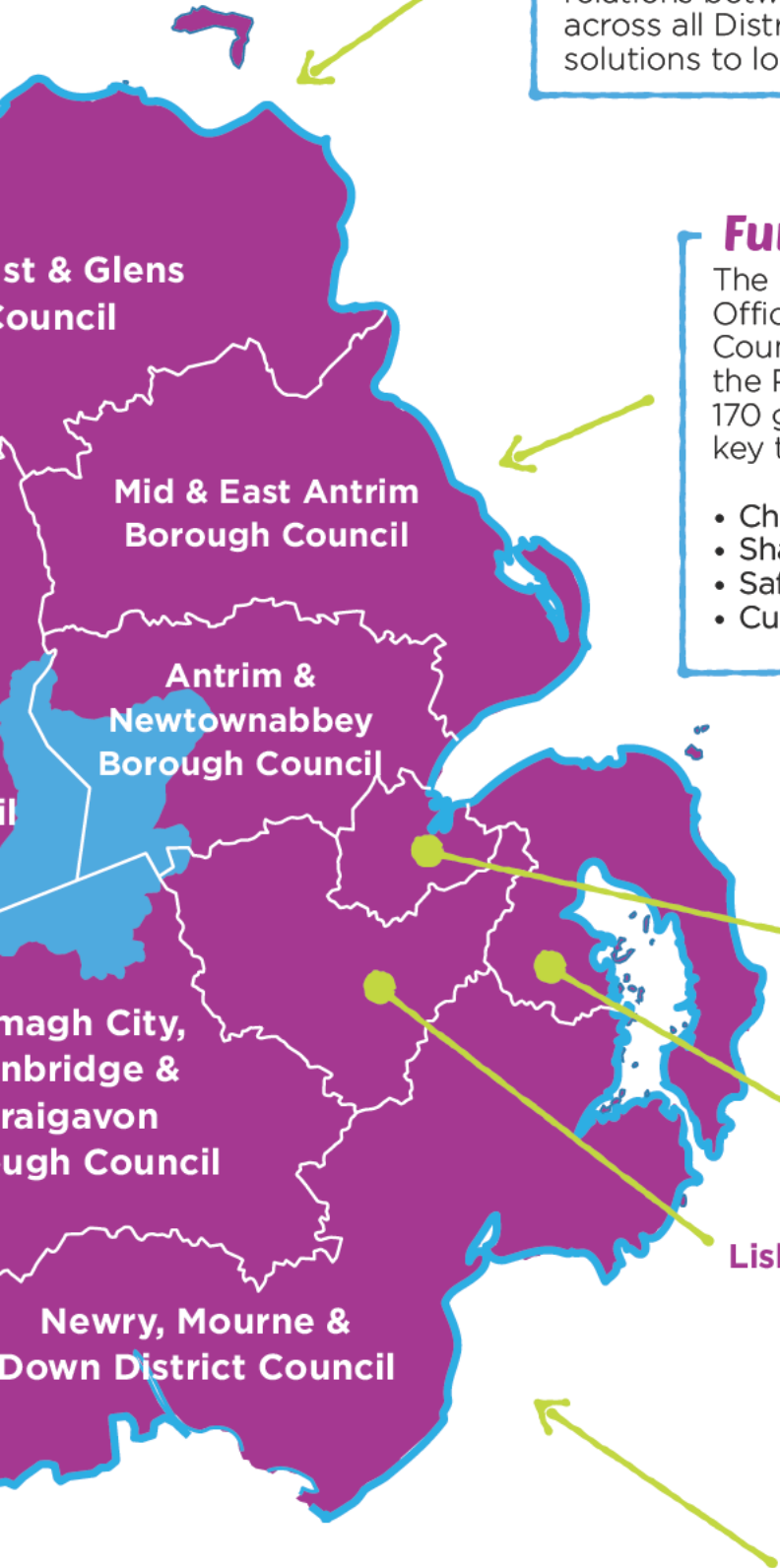
■ Children & Young People
 ■ Cultural Expression
■ Shared Community
 ■ Safe Community



Outcomes Focus:



The Programme has a strong focus on the outcomes of delivery. Every funded project has one or more defined and measurable good relations outcomes linked to the wider strategic aims of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.



Aims:

The aims of the Programme are to improve relations between and within communities across all District Councils and to promote local solutions to local good relations issues.



Funding:

The Programme is funded by The Executive Office in partnership with the eleven District Councils. In 2017/18 over £4m was allocated to the Programme and enabled the delivery of over 170 good relations interventions across the four key themes of the T:BUC Strategy:

- Children & Young People
- Shared Community
- Safe Community
- Cultural Expression



Belfast City Council

Ards & North Down District Council

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Local Experts:

Every Council uses Good Relations Officers (GROs) to manage and deliver their Programmes. Officers provide local knowledge of good relations issues within Council areas, and work with local partner organisations to deliver targeted, bespoke good relations interventions in areas of identified need.



Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Within Fermanagh & Omagh District Council there are currently four Good Relations Officers (GROs), two full-time and two part-time. The Good Relations Officers play an ever increasing developmental role both internally and externally, within the Council. The Officers play a pivotal role in making sure that good relations is at the heart of what all others do in the Council. They act as enablers, facilitators and mentors allowing for greater additionality in terms of the implementation of good relations activities in the Council area.

The role of the Good Relations Officers also includes building relationships and partnership working links with communities, groups, agencies and others across the Fermanagh and Omagh area. Through this relationship building activity, greater trust will be built, which will lead to more co-operation and collaboration across the Council district. The Good Relations Officers also continue to play a key part in working with the PEACE IV team to develop and implement a solid Peace Plan.

As part of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's ongoing commitment to promoting good relations and diversity it conducted an audit of minority faith communities in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. This is part of a wider piece of work which aims to build leadership, understanding and respect between the different faiths and beliefs that exist across the Council area and to promote good relations and dialogue across the District.



The aim of the audit was to help identify different minority faiths which exist in Fermanagh and Omagh and look at potential support which can be offered to ensure integration and inclusion of these faiths into the wider community.

The Report provided an overview of key statistics of minority faiths in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area, as well as an audit on specific needs of people of minority faiths which were identified through consultation exercises. It set out conclusions and recommendations on a way forward. The document, and associated research, acts as a useful tool/resource for the Council and other organisations and agencies in helping to identify the needs of interfaith groups and outlines proposed actions to be undertaken by the Council, in conjunction with other agencies, in order to promote integration within the District.



Contact:

The Grange, Mountjoy Road,
Lisnamallard, Omagh, BT79 7BL

Townhall, 2 Townhall Street, Enniskillen,
BT74 7BA

T: 0300 303 1777



Case Study:

One History, Many Stories

Project Summary:

The project's objective was to examine the period 1914-1918 through a shared history lens and enable participants to increase their knowledge and understanding of our past and how it shapes our future.

This programme built on last year's 'One History, Many Stories' project. Following feedback from last year's participants where many felt strongly that school pupils also needed to learn about this period of our shared history it was decided to organise two events for secondary school A-Level History pupils, one in Omagh and one in Enniskillen as well as another conference for the general public.

Participants:



125
participants

participants
from both main
communities
and other
ethnic groups



£2,600.00
Total Cost

How much did we do?

3

workshops in total
aimed at both the
general public and
A-Level students in
local schools



What difference did we make?



attending the
general public
event said they
felt they gained
a better
understanding
of British & Irish
history for the
period.

taking part in
the A-Level
school events
said they gained
a good or very
good
understanding
of British & Irish
history after the
event.



How well did we do?

"This was an excellent opportunity & highly interesting and enjoyable. Not only a deeper understanding of the past but reminds us of our individual responsibility in helping to share the future."

"A wonderful morning, we need more!"

"Personal history very informative for pupils."

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council delivers an annual Good Relations Programme through the part funding it receives from the District Council Good Relations Programme via The Executive Office.

The Good Relations Unit works to promote the key aims of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy, promoting a community of mutual respect and understanding, which is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

The Good Relations Unit in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has three staff including one Community Support Officer and one Good Relations Officer who provides support for communities to promote good relations within and across communities in the Council area.

The Good Relations Officer works throughout the Council area with community groups, youth groups, statutory agencies and schools to ensure the outcome focused Good Relations Action Plan agreed with the Executive Office is delivered in the most efficient and effective manner.

In 2017/2018, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Good Relations Programme provided grant aid support to fourteen local community organisations who are engaged in the delivery of programmes and initiatives which focus on reconciliation and cultural diversity.



The aim of the fund is to promote good relations between people of different religious and political beliefs and different racial groups.

The Good Relations Programme also successfully delivered on a number of key projects throughout the year, namely the Decade of Centenaries Programme, Holocaust Memorial Day, 2 Mini Melas in Lisburn & Dundonald and the bespoke #BEPARTOFHERE media campaign which was aimed at promoting Lisburn & Castlereagh as a safe and welcoming space for all through the use of all local residents in photographs in their place of work, education settings and businesses that was spread across bus rears, adshells and billboards over a 4 week period.

For more information please email lynsey.gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk, call us on 028 9244 7713 or visit our website <https://www.castlereaghcommunity.co.uk/>

Contact:

Bridge Community Centre
50 Railway Street
Lisburn
BT28 1XP

T: (028) 9250 9508



Case Study:

Annual Cultural Showcase - Mini Mela

Project Summary:

As part of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Councils Good Relations Action Plan there was a commitment to improve awareness and education about cultural diversity and support integration through hold two multi-cultural Mini Mela events linked to some on-going support from the Council Good Relations Officer.

The events which took place in Wallace Park Lisburn and Moat Park Dundonald during August 2017 aimed to increase awareness within the Council area of all cultures breaking down prejudices that exist among local communities, building trust and encouraging the sharing of local Council parks. The events contributed to place planning, integration, increasing tolerance and understanding of diversity within the area of other cultures and enabled the sharing and participation of communities in other cultures locally.

Participants:



630

participants

participants from both main communities and other ethnic groups



£7,000.00

Total Cost

How much did we do?

2

multi-cultural Mini Mela events events.



What difference did we make?



stated that they felt the event had supported community integration & relationship building among different cultures in the LCCC area.

believed this event helped improve feelings of acceptance / respect of other cultures.



participants stated that the event had increased their understanding of cultural diversity in the LCCC area.



participants stated that the event had increased their feeling of shared community spaces in the LCCC area.

How well did we do?

"I really liked all the costumes they're very different to what we would usually wear."

"The event really brought the world to our doorstep."

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council continues to develop a unique Good Relations Programme for citizens, in the hope that everyone in Mid and East Antrim feels welcome, safe, respected and celebrated.

In 2017-2018 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council District Council Good Relations Programme:

- Delivered 17 Headline Programmes and upwards of 30 projects, events and activities under the four key regional TBUC Themes – Children and Young People; Our Shared Community, Our Safe Community and Our Cultural Expression.
- Achieved all 19 anticipated good relations outcomes, plus additional new outcome - engaging a new audience at good relations activities (eg 42% increase Community Relations & Cultural Awareness Week Conversation events (Sep 17), and eg 45% increase of new participants at The Messines Story (Nov 17).
- Engaged with approximately 4500 people from throughout Mid and East Antrim's Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne areas during programme delivery.



- Facilitated the delivery of a dedicated £50k Good Relations Grants Scheme available to constituted groups within the Mid and East Antrim Borough, in line with governments Good Relations TBUC Strategy and outcomes focused on TBUC key themes.
- Conducted Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's first Good Relations Audit and Strategy as a new borough, engaging with over 1000 citizens, stakeholders, elected members and community/voluntary and statutory representatives.

Underpinning all of the above, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council continues to develop mutual understanding, respect for cultural traditions, the principle of interdependence and positive cross-community/race relations through its Good Relations programme. In its delivery, the Good Relations Team focuses much effort on capacity building within communities, as well as working in partnership with the community and voluntary sectors and other statutory agencies on a wide variety of programmes of work and themes. The Good Relations Team have also played a key role in the facilitation of Mid and East Antrim first ever Community Plan – Putting People First, helping to establish an important link to local communities as well identify opportunities of collaborate gain for all stakeholders within the borough.

Contact:

1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena
BT43 5EJ

T: 0300 124 5000



Case Study:

The Messines Story

Project Summary:

As part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme, the Messines Story event, held at the Braid Arts Centre on Tuesday 28 November 2017, was an evening of reflection which looked at the shared history around the Battle of Messines, respectfully remembering key historical events from 100 years ago.

In addition to a reception & exhibition on arrival, the event included a performance of the play Meeke and the Major. This was an emotive community production, in partnership with the Building Communities Resource Centre, Ballymoney, and performed by local people from the borough. The event was well received and prompted much interest from a wide audience throughout Mid and East Antrim, many of whom had never attended a good relations event before.

Participants:



100

Participants

participants
from both
main
communities



£2,251.00

Total Cost

How much did we do?

1

evening event,
featuring
exhibition, play
performance and
discussion.



What difference did we make?



stated their awareness has been raised around shared history as a result of attending this event.

said they felt this event has helped the Mid and East Antrim Community to remember The Decade of Centenaries in a shared and fair manner.



stated this event has increased their understanding of their own role in helping to promote good relations.

How well did we do?

"I was unaware of the particular story [Meeke & Redmond]. It proved to be heart wrenching and proves we are all equal in life together. Helping and aiding one another as we should irrespective of cultural, religion or stature in life."

"Remember to work with people as people, not as Protestant or Catholic."

Mid Ulster District Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

The Mid Ulster District Council Good Relations Programme focuses its efforts and resources to deliver good relations activities and events as outlined within its Good Relations plan and the four key themes detailed in The Executive Office strategy, Together: Building a United community.

Our Children and Young People
Our Shared Community
Our Safe Community
Our Cultural Expression

The Council's good relations programme seeks to encourage and supports activity that promotes good relations between people from different backgrounds and diverse communities, including our new ethnic communities.

The good relations programme engages with a range of local community and statutory organisations to deliver a programme that focuses on reconciliation and cultural diversity.

The good relations officers work throughout the Mid Ulster region with community groups, youth groups, schools and statutory agencies. Our Good relations team also play a key role in the integration of Peace IV with good relations.



A key element of our Good Relations programme focusses on engaging our young people. In partnership with schools, youth organisations and the community we deliver bespoke youth activities that promotes good relations and tackles sectarianism and racism in our community. Our programme:

- Promotes relationship building between people of different backgrounds.
- Promotes positive cultural activity that is open and inclusive to all.
- Supports diversity and our ethnic communities.
- Promotes diversity and respect for diversity.

For more information please contact us via Email on info@midulstercouncil.org or by Telephone on 0300 013 2132. Alternatively, you can visit our website: <http://www.midulstercouncil.org>



Contact:

Burn Road, Cookstown, BT80 8DT
Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT
Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN

T: 0300 013 2132



Case Study:

Mid Ulster Schools 'Speedwell' Programme

Project Summary:

Primary schools engaging in a safe facilitated shared space to learn about each other's culture, traditions and to explore areas of difference.

Impacts -

- increase pupil awareness of diversity within the local community
- schools have the opportunity to establish and build relationships with their peer group from their partner school through participation in a variety of practical, focused, age appropriate curriculum based activities
- dispel negative perceptions and images about those who are different from them.
- Speedwell, the lead partner, has 23 years' experience of managing projects which facilitate bringing children together from the controlled and maintained sectors to participate in a range of curriculum based programmes at its base in Parkanaur and within schools

Participants:



240
school children

participants
from both
main
communities



£21,600
Total Cost

How much did we do?

60

workshops
with an
additional 3
celebratory
events



What difference did we make?



said they felt
more
comfortable
mixing with
people from
other
communities.

said they felt
more more
comfortable
using shared
space/
services.



said they
gained a
greater
understanding
of the culture
of another
community
background.

What we did well?

The programme continues to reach its targets & exceeds expectations. Schools & teachers are very positive about the programme.

The programme deals with relatively sensitive areas of community relations in Mid Ulster - flags, emblems, bonfires & impacts of segregation.

The programme is delivered in a 'shared' and unique tranquil rural setting. The programme changes annually to deal with emerging issues in our community & reflects the growing BME community in Mid Ulster.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Good Relations Programme

Overview

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Good Relations Programme is managed by the Council's Engagement Section which sits within the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate. The Council's Good Relations Programme seeks to encourage and support activity that promotes good relations between people from different backgrounds to help improve people's quality of life.

In seeking to do so, the Council's Engagement Section works with a range of local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and other sectors to deliver its Good Relations Programme.

The Council's Good Relations Programme supports a range of activity to foster good relations throughout the Council area.

Support is provided for:

- Council's District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums
- Council's Good Relations Small Grants Scheme
- Council's Ethnic Minority Support Centre
- Newry, Mourne & Down (inter-agency) Intercultural Forum
- Newry, Mourne & Down (inter-agency) Traveller Forum
- Council's annual St Patrick's Day Cross Community Celebrations in Downpatrick and Newry
- Other miscellaneous activities



Staff also provide:

- Advice and guidance on Good Relations matters
- Assistance with organisational development through capacity building initiatives
- Regular communication by email on Council and non-Council events, training, funding etc.

Our Key Good Relations Programme Themes & Outcomes are:

- Children & Young People -
- Shared Community -
- Safe Community -
- Cultural Expression

Contact:



Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road,
Downpatrick, BT30 6GG

O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry,
BT35 8DJ

T: 0300 013 2233

Newry, Mourne and Down Ethnic Minority Support Centre

Centrum pomocy mniejszościom narodowym

Център за помощ на етническото малцинство

Центр поддержки этнических меньшинств

Etninių mažumų paramos centras

Centrul de asistență pentru minorități etnice

Office of the
First Minister and
Deputy First Minister

Ceannaisle Ceannair
an Iúir, Mhúrn ag
an Iúir, Mhúrn ag

Case Study:

Ethnic Minority Support Centre

Project Summary:

The centre provides a comprehensive advice and support service for ethnic minority residents of the area. Clients can get help on a range of issues, from registering with local GPs, getting school places for their children, help writing CVs and looking for work to information and advice on their employment rights and assistance with taxes and benefits.

The centre also provides significant support for good relations delivery in the area, working in partnership with local ethnic minority groups and the council's District Electoral Area (DEA) co-ordinators to organise information sessions and cultural awareness events. In 2017/18, this included a Bulgarian Information Session in Newtownhamilton on 15 March 2018 and a Polish hand craft workshop for children and young people in association with the Newry Shamrock Youth Club's Intercultural Day on 24 March 2018.

Participants:



3,063
service users in
2017/18

advice and information
provided in English, Bulgarian,
Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and
Romanian

How much did we do?

5

days of operation per week offering a range of services to clients.

4

outreach clinics offered weekly throughout the council area.

2

information and cultural awareness events.

What difference did we make?



found the
Bulgarian
Information
session in
Newtownhamilton
useful.

of Polish children
and their parents
participating in
the Intercultural
Day found the
event excellent
for promoting
the awareness of
their culture.



How well did we do?

"Being a part of that intercultural event has not only been a great fun, but has also made all the present people aware how important it is to maintain your own tradition, preserve language, history and heritage while living abroad."

"We are grateful to the Ethnic Minority Support Centre for the invitation and giving us this fantastic opportunity to present our achievements as a school and our contribution to the local culture."

2017/18 District Council Good Relations Programme Overview

Key Facts & Figures



97,000+
Participants

179
Good Relations
Programmes

Impacting over **600** different areas
across the **11** Councils.



Programmes by T:BUC Theme:



37
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations
between
Children &
Young People



47
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations
through
Cultural
Expression.



41
programmes
focusing on
promoting a
safe
environment
for all.



54
programmes
focusing on
improving
relations for
a shared
community.

Outcomes Focus:

The Case Studies in this report are examples of the outcome focused programmes delivered by individual District Councils as part of the wider District Council Good Relations Programme.

A focus on outcomes in good relations provision is very important. It allows us to:

- Measure the difference we are making with the funding we providing in terms of improving good relations between and within Council areas
- Clearly link the outcomes of individual good relations programmes with the key aims of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community strategy.
- Learn lessons from delivery that can inform the design and structure of future good relations provision.



Looking ahead:

Thank you for taking the time to read this report on the 2017/18 District Council Good Relations Programme.

I hope it has given you some impression of the breadth and depth of good relations provision the Programme is funding, and the positive difference it is making to good relations between and within District Council areas.

The Programme is continuing in 2018/19, if you would like more information on any aspect of the Programme please contact the District Council Good Relations Programme Team using the contact details provided.

Gavin King

Manager

District Council Good Relations Programme

T:buc

Changing for the better, together

District Council Good Relations Programme



Contact Details:

Gavin King

District Council Good Relations Programme Manager

Marie Muldoon

District Council Good Relations Programme Support Officer

The Executive Office
Room E3.19
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT3 4SR

T: (028) 9052 3154

E: gavin.king@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

E: marie.muldoon@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



