

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

Programme:
PEACE III

Small Wonders II

Theme:
**Creating Shared Public
Spaces**

Funding: circa.£700,000

Lead Partner:
**Shankill Womens Centre
(SWC)**

Small Wonders II is a cross-community childcare facility, situated close to an interface area of North Belfast.

The area lies within a deprived ward of Greater Belfast, which has large levels of unemployment and experienced high incidents of sectarian based conflict between the Protestant and Catholic communities.

In receipt of over £700,000 worth of assistance the project has completely transformed a derelict church into a modern cross-community focused childcare facility with the capacity to accommodate up to 31 daytime and 32 afterschool placements.

The project was developed by the Shankill Women's Centre and includes a fully equipped IT suite for use by the local women to enhance their computer skills and employment prospects. A full-time community outreach worker is also employed under the project to promote greater levels of cross-community contact between the neighbouring Catholic and Protestant communities, through shared use of the new facility.

"Small Wonders II has created a welcoming facility where children from all backgrounds can come together to learn and play in a safe and secure environment.

"It also helps women gain the skills they need to secure employment and has helped create real and meaningful relationships with people from Catholic and Protestant communities who would not have interacted before." – Tracy Harrison, Centre Manager.

Key project outputs:

- **Recruit 12 childcare workers.**
- **Recruit 60 people to take part in Peace and Reconciliation Programmes in the first year of the project.**
- **Care for 24 children on a cross-community basis in the childcare centre.**
- **Care for 32 children in the afterschools unit on a cross-community basis.**

Website:
www.childcaresmallwonders.com

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Geographical area:
Belfast



Pictured (l-r) are Minister Nelson McCausland MLA, Pat Colgan (SEUPB), Betty Carlisle MBE (SWC) and Minister O'Dowd TD.