



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Breakthrough

THEME:

Children & Young People

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€3,193,909.75

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for Economy (Northern Ireland),
Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Republic of Ireland)

LEAD PARTNER:

Ashton Community Trust

PROJECT PARTNERS:

See project website,

Start Date: 01/08/2017

End Date: 30/04/2022



www.ashtoncentre.com/breakthrough-youth-programme/



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

The project delivered by Youth Outreach Mentors, aims to achieve sustainable, positive change in the lives of young people by enhancing their capacity to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. The co-designed programme will bring young people from across the areas to build their confidence, abilities and widen their outlook on life.

Katrina Newell (Head of Youth & Development) Ashton Community Trust said: *“The need for this programme is evidence-based in North-Belfast and learning for Breakthrough stemmed from the successful United Youth Pilot. In developing the Breakthrough Programme, I wanted to cover the core elements of Personal Development, Citizenship and Good Relations in a way that would enable young people to express themselves through a variety of creative methods, including Art, Film, Sport, Digital Fabrication & Music. I am very excited to embrace the youth work approach methodology in working with young people on ‘Breakthrough.’”*



Beneficiaries from the Breakthrough project .



Northern Ireland Executive

www.northernireland.gov.uk



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Central to the project is the relationship between the young person and the youth outreach mentor, a critical relationship that is open and honest, rooted in a youth work approach and committed to nurturing the young person. Alongside programme delivery, one-to-one mentoring is a key aspect of the project that encourages personal reflection, builds self-awareness, and supports young people to identify barriers and goals. Empathy, respect, compassion, outreach and patience characterises all interactions with young people to create the safe conditions to help young people flourish and move beyond their current horizons.

“The Breakthrough programme has been amazing as it has helped me build my confidence and come out of my comfort zone. Whether that be through group sessions or fun activities.”

Project beneficiary Kaitlin Rhodes.



Project Key Outputs:

- The project will engage with 688 marginalised children and young people to develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.



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