



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Belfast Local Authority Action Plan: Update on Children and Young People

THEME:

Building Positive Relations
Local Authority Plans

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

£14,574,876.15

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office NI
& Department for Rural
& Community
Development Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Belfast City Council

Start Date: 01/11/2014

End Date: 30/06/2022



[http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/
community/goodrelations/
peaceIV.aspx](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/goodrelations/peaceIV.aspx)



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Children and Young People is one of three strands being delivered by Belfast City Council as part of their PEACE IV, Local Authority Action Plan.

By December 2021, it's anticipated that over 4,600 children and young people will have participated in one of the various

projects under this theme. A range of age appropriate, creative and innovative activities for children and young people have been developed that will be fun, interactive and engaging. The activities will provide opportunities for sustained, purposeful interaction, with others from a different background so every child can reach their full potential.

On The Right Track! Sports

Delivered by Belfast City Council's Sports Development Unit, this project targets 13-16 year olds to help build lasting cross-community partnerships between sports clubs and community groups across the city. Young people are engaging in a wide variety of sports including: boxing, gymnastics, dance, tennis, cricket, jiu jitsu, basketball, rugby, soccer, GAA and hockey. By January 2021, more than 150 people had taken part, with more than 40 Coaches up-skilled through a Vocationally-Related Qualification (VRQ).

On The Right Track! Personal Change

Delivered by Extern, this project is aimed at 13-16 year-olds across Belfast who have been involved in the youth justice system for incidents related to sectarianism and interface issues. It offers intensive one-to-one support work and cross-community work, providing young people with the opportunity to explore issues of equality, identity, diversity and peace-building; helping develop their understanding and confidence and creating changes in attitude and behaviour / acceptance of cultural diversity and difference.

To date (January 2021) more than 25 young people have taken part in the programme with tailored one-to-one personal development sessions as well as group sessions and activities; gaining OCN level 1s in: Decision Making; Personal Motivation; Confidence and Self Esteem; Prejudice and Discrimination and Understanding Diversity and Equality.



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Young Advocates

Led by Co-operation Ireland, Young Advocates is a citizenship intervention project for young people aged 16-24 to equip them to be leaders of the future and advocates for peaceful change.

Focusing particularly on interface communities and areas that sit within a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, participants have gained recognised qualifications in Good Relations, Diversity and Mentoring.

The programme has also allowed participants to organise and deliver youth-led social justice campaigns, engaging with up to 800 of their younger peers. By championing issues across the political divide, they will create positive social change.

With the first sessions beginning in early 2019, more than 45 Young Advocates have so far completed the programme and have engaged their peers, delivering campaigns, workshops and sessions across the city. Campaigns to date focused on Crime and Mental Health.

Tech Connects

Tech Connects is a new Children and Young People project targeting 6-24 year olds across the city. Its purpose is to future-proof young people through the exploration of free, open and inclusive technology, helping to create positive relationships and peace-building skills. It also aims to develop new skills and improve confidence and social interaction. Three programmes are available:

1) Digital Arts Academies, delivered by GIGA Training

Afterschool clubs, community and school setting for primary school children.

2) Creative Tech Camps, delivered by GIGA Training

Mid-term, summer camps, tech camps for post-primary school children.

3) Technology Insights, delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College

Two-day course (flexible) and mentor support for young adults (aged 17 to 24).