



## A Look at the Impact of the BME Cultural Awareness Programme (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council PEACE IV Action Plan)

### THEME:

Building Positive Relations: Local Authority Action Plans

### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

£2,536,661.77

### MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office,  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

### LEAD PARTNER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City  
Council

Start Date: 01/06/2016

End Date: 31/05/2020 CYP &  
BPR

30/06/2020 SSS



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The Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Local Authority Plan supported a number of locally-based projects and initiatives that helped promote positive relationships between people from different communities and backgrounds.

### BME Cultural Awareness Programme

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has the second largest proportion of residents from BME communities (2.4% NI BME). Hate Incidents and Crimes recorded by the PSNI over the last 10 years showed a 70% increase in incidents with a racist motivation in Lisburn.

With a growing BME community and Syrian refugee families coming to the borough there was a real need for opportunities for integration, awareness and to coordinate provision with the existing support groups.

The BME Cultural Awareness Programme aimed to provide opportunities to understand, collaborate, create connections and support dialogue between BME communities and the wider local community across 11 areas. Participating groups included Flowers of Sudan, Castlereagh Inter-Cultural Friendship Club, Yalla Syrian Inter-lingual Group, Zimbabwean Support Group and Young refugees from Aran House.

### Key Project Outputs:

- 1) 106 people engaged across 11 areas;
- 2) Four workshops delivered in each area;
- 3) 11 Resource Allocations delivered;
- 4) BME Cultural Forum established;
- 5) Capacity building for forum members;
- 6) Audit Strategy for BME sector developed;
- 7) Seven Cross border visits and cross-council best practice visits;
- 8) One Multicultural Conference.