



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 21 September 2017**

**LEITRIM COUNTY PEACE IV PLAN LAUNCHED**

**The Leitrim County PEACE IV Action Plan was recently launched to coincide with the International Day of Peace. The launch took place in The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon where the Leitrim County PEACE IV Partnership has confirmed over €1.8 million in funding from the EU PEACE IV Programme.**

The PEACE IV programme is funded through the European Union, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and has been designed to promote peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is the managing authority for this programme with responsibility for its implementation and delivery.

The Leitrim PEACE IV Partnership was established in 2016 as a sub-committee of the Local Community Development Committee and is led by Leitrim County Council. The membership includes representatives from Leitrim County Council, development agencies, community partners and statutory agencies. Following public consultation the Partnership has been responsible for developing the PEACE IV Action Plan for Leitrim.

The Plan was developed around 3 specific themes; Building Positive Relations, Children and Young People and Shared Space and Services. The Building Positive Relations theme aims to promote positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together. Leitrim PEACE IV Partnership will deliver this programme working with various organisations throughout the County.

Programmes aimed at children and young people will enhance their capacity to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background through cross border activities, diversity and peace learning programmes.



The Shared Space and Services theme will support a number of locally-based projects and initiatives throughout County Leitrim. This theme aims to create a more cohesive society through new shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community, leading to changes in both attitudes and behaviour.

Vice Chair of Leitrim County Council, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the launch of the PEACE IV Action Plan highlighting the importance of this funding in promoting reconciliation, understanding of diversity and good relations throughout the county.

Welcoming the funding Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer with the Special EU Programmes Body said: **“Local authorities like Leitrim County Council have made an invaluable contribution in the delivery of the EU’s PEACE Programme to the areas and groups where it is most needed, at the local level. This funding offer will build upon the peace and reconciliation work that has already taken place and provide support for new and innovative projects that will promote positive relations between all communities.”**

**“I would also like to recognise the hard work and commitment of the Leitrim PEACE IV Partnership in its development of the Action Plan and look forward to hearing more about its successes,”** she continued.

On behalf of the Leitrim Peace IV Partnership, Director of Services Mary Quinn looked forward to working with all the various community organisations in implementing the PEACE IV Action Plan in Leitrim.

The launch kicked off with Aoibhinn Callaghan from Comhairle na nÓg reciting the WB Yeats poem ‘Peace’ followed by Reverend Linda frost reciting the poem ‘Amazing Peace’ by Maya Angelou to mark the International Day of Peace. The launch came to a close with a performance by Isle Lubber and the wonderful Serendipity Singers.

More information on the PEACE IV Programme can be found on [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)



**Notes to Editor:**

**SEUPB**

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The PEACE IV Programme has a value of €270 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)