



PRESS RELEASE

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LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH COMMUNITIES INVITED TO BENEFIT FROM £2.3 MILLION EUROPEAN PEACE IV FUNDING

The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Peace IV Partnership is delighted to invite communities, groups and individuals from the Lisburn Castlereagh area to register for the launch event celebrating £2.376m worth of funding under the European Union's PEACE IV Programme.

This funding will be used to support locally-based projects and initiatives that will promote positive relations between people from different communities and backgrounds and will be focused on three key areas: 'Children & Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building Positive Relations'.

The launch aims to give different organisations, volunteers and individuals in the Council area, the opportunity to develop a better understanding of projects that are funded under the local Peace IV Plan, and how they can engage in these and hear about the benefits such projects can achieve. The Programme, which was developed in direct consultation with local communities offers a variety of ways to become involved in peace building initiatives.

Welcoming the funding, the Mayor, Councillor Tim Morrow stated: **“We are delighted to be able to offer a range of innovative projects, build upon past lessons and introduce new and exciting projects, which will benefit local communities and allow them to engage in and promote positive relations, good relations and develop new partnerships. The funding will also enable us to provide more opportunities for partnership working within our area.”**

Gina McIntyre, CEO with the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), which manages the PEACE IV Programme, said: **“Local authorities will make an invaluable contribution to the delivery of the new PEACE IV Programme by ensuring that funding is distributed at a local level where it can make a real impact.**



“The benefit of this programme is not just about the funding it brings to the area but about the partnerships it creates between the different community and voluntary organisations. Partnerships will help build trust and relationships between groups and communities, resulting in meaningful contact and greater levels of peace and reconciliation.”

“The launch is about recognising this and finding out how it will be delivered through the partnerships that have been created by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council,” she continued.

Speaking ahead of the launch, Councillor Jonathon Craig, Chair of the Peace IV Partnership explained: **“The partnership working of local groups and communities will successfully deliver the projects that are on offer through this PEACE IV funding. At the launch groups and communities can find out how they can get involved in peace building programmes over the next two years within the Lisburn Castlereagh area. Tender applications to deliver a range of programmes, will be advertised over the coming weeks and months and there’ll also be other opportunities to become involved in local projects, forums and events.”**

The launch event will be held in the Island Hall, Civic Centre, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn at 10.30am on Thursday 14th September 2017. Spaces are limited so to register please email Rosemary Burns at rosemary.burns@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk by Wednesday 6th September or visit www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk for more information.

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