



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 25th October 2018

STRIVE-ING FOR SUCCESS – A CELEBRATION LAUNCH OF A NEW YOUTH PROJECT

Strive, an innovative and fresh approach to youth work where the programme is designed by young people for young people, will be having its official launch on Thursday the 25th October at 1.30pm in Belfast.

Strive has been supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to the value of €3,979,785.

Strive is a partnership programme aimed at bringing disadvantaged young people from diverse community backgrounds together to promote change in themselves and their local communities. Young people from both sides of the border work together to set their own learning agenda around the themes of citizenship, personal development and good relations.

Speaking ahead of the launch Strive Programme Manager for Include Youth, Dearbhla Holohan said: **“Strive an innovative and new approach to youth work bringing together five partner organisations – Include Youth, Newstart Education Centre, NI Alternatives, Youth Initiatives and Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre.**

“We all have had a hugely successful first year working intensively with over 200 young people completing cross border and cross community activities, breaking down barriers and building the skills and potential of those involved.

“Strive has been funded under the PEACE IV, Peace4youth with match funding being provided by the Irish government's Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Northern Ireland Executive and this support has made work across seven sites possible.



We are delighted that this programme has been funded to the levels it has with match-funding from the both governmental departments alongside the EU funding coming to €4m”

A young participant, Ollie, stated: **“From me being at Strive I found a lot, I found amazing supportive friends and amazing supportive staff, I found confidence and most importantly I found a better me.”**

Underlining the importance of the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), said: **“There are many vulnerable young people who feel that they have been both marginalised and excluded from society. This project will help them to build-up the self-belief they need to develop as well as the confidence to learn more about different cultures and traditions.**

“In doing so it will unlock their full potential and is part of a significant investment from the EU, through the PEACE IV Programme, which is helping to bring about a positive change for thousands of vulnerable children and young people living on both sides of the border,” she continued.

- ENDS

Notes to editor:

The event is being held at Youth Initiatives, 50 Colin Road, Belfast, BT17 0LG @ 1.30pm, Thursday 25th October

Strive

Strive is a partnership led by Include Youth working alongside Youth Initiatives, Newstart Education Centre, Northern Ireland Alternatives and Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre. Over the past year young people and staff have been working together to get the programme established across seven sites in various locations across Belfast, Downpatrick, Derry/Londonderry and Donegal. Young people aged 14 to 24 years old have set their own agenda for change for themselves and their local communities, and found inventive ways to explore personal development, citizenship and good relations.



None of this would have been as effective without the support of our Expert by Experience volunteers. They are young people who have come on board to volunteer with the partnership having previously benefitted from engaging with programmes in the partnership organisations. They have reflected on their own personal experiences and developed their leadership skills in order to shape Strive into an entirely youth led and youth centred programme for their peers.

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 promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu