

PEACE IV Programme Delivery Update (July 2022)

The Council secured £3.3 million from SEUPB under PEACE IV and over the past 7 years have delivered 19 projects under the 3 strategic priorities –

1. Children and Young People
2. Shared Spaces and Services
3. Building Positive Relations

The combined efforts of the PEACE IV Partnership, the Delivery Agents and the wider community have helped deliver an extensive programme of activities and a greater understanding and respect for different cultures and traditions while building relationships within our local communities to enable people to live, learn and socialise together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

The PEACE IV Partnership began working on the plan as early as 2015 when they began consulting with the local community. They held public meetings, met with groups and sought out the views of the community on peace building. Colleagues including Community Planning and Statutory Agencies were also consulted. As a result, a number of key issues were identified and by working with large numbers of groups, best practice was utilised and ultimately a total of 19 different programmes were developed.

With regard to the Children and Young People priority, 5 programmes were delivered with over 1,200 young people participating in various projects which ranged from:

- Capacity Building and Youth Leadership, delivered by the NI Youth Forum working with young people aged 12 – 24.
- Active Diversity and Good Relations, delivered by Todds Leap working with primary school children outside of school hours to bring young people together through sport.
- Community Based Sports, delivered by Todds Leap aimed at those aged 11-18 and again bringing people together through sport but in addition including and creating sports coaches to ensure the continuation of the good work.
- Children and Young People Diversity, delivered by Todds Leap working with uniformed youth organisations across the Borough.
- The installation of 3 Youth Shelters across the Borough in Portavogie, Comber and Ards to provide a safe space for young people to meet.

The Shared Spaces and Services priority focused on 4 towns and villages across the Borough namely Comber, Holywood, Portaferry and Portavogie. Holywood was a natural and sympathetic scheme which included works such as new entrance signage and gate, new paving and improvements to existing paths, tree planting and wildflower meadow seeding.

Comber Muckers Field works included a new skate park with fencing and lighting, a concrete base foundation to enable a teen youth shelter to be installed, and an upgrade and widening of the existing path surrounding the entire field to connect to the Comber/Newtownards Greenway.

In Portaferry, improvements to Nugent's wood have been made to the existing walking trail path, seating, the installation of wooden sculptures and the installation of new entrance signage. Repairs have also been made to the existing stone wall along the path and new fencing installed along the boundaries. In addition, an official walking trail gravel path was installed at the Ropewalk with new entrance signage also being installed.

Finally, in Portavogie a new skate park with fencing and lighting was installed together with a concrete base foundation to enable a teen youth shelter to be installed. In addition, outdoor gym equipment was installed at the Anchor Car Park of the village. In terms of Building Positive Relations, 10 peace building projects were delivered which have benefited local communities by promoting positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. The projects which were delivered were wide ranging and included the following:

- Personal Development and Training, delivered by Kilcooley Women's Centre which provided a menu of accredited and non-accredited community based training programmes designed to support personal development and further education primarily to areas which are educationally disadvantaged.
- Open Dialogue, delivered by NI Alternatives who engaged with 'hard to reach' groups in the Borough, providing independent facilitation, mediation and training to address sensitive post conflict issues and enabled dialogue around sensitive issues including flags and murals. The project aimed to build the capacity of groups and representatives and explore cultural expression through building on existing agreements and protocols developed over the last few years with local communities.
- Connecting Communities, delivered by Copius which brought people together from a number of villages and communities in the peninsula through maritime history.
- Cross Community Intercultural Theatre, delivered by Terra Nova brought together a group of people of disparate backgrounds, and engaged them in an 18-month theatre project of 'A Midsummer Night Dream' with PEACE themes at its core. All the activities associated with the delivery of the successful theatre project were engineered to bring about greater awareness of racial and sectarian issues and equip participants with the skills to deal with cultural and value differences.
- Cross Border Intercultural puppetry, delivered by Blu Zebra was a cross-community and cross-border Puppetry programme between young people of different backgrounds. This project explored history, heritage and diverse

cultures of the Ards and North Down area and its cross-border partners in Dundalk and Co. Louth, through art and puppetry creations.

- Genealogy and Storytelling, delivered by Kilcooley Women's Centre offered participants research into their family history and provided participants with a sense of identity and belonging. Individual stories were captured through genealogy study programmes, a series of workshops and conversations in safe spaces resulting in 4 drama productions.
- Musical Traditions, delivered by Blu Zebra saw various bands, musicians and dancers from different traditions come together to produce a unique piece of music and dance.
- Celebration of Minority and Ethnic Communities, delivered by The Nerve Centre built on the rich history we have in the borough with the Chinese, Korean and Japanese communities which resulted in a festival held at the North Down Museum.
- Community Based Arts, delivered by The Institute for Conflict Research who worked with key villages from across the Borough to create beautiful pieces of public art. These pieces of art in the form of stone seats were created by the residents based on local history events and placed in 6 villages, namely Donaghadee, Millisle, Ballyhalbert, Portaferry, Kircubbin and Greyabbey.
- Celebrating Cultural Diversity, delivered by The Rural Centre examined different faiths and issues around local culture, identity and diversity to enable participating groups to explore how racist and sectarian attitudes can be reduced across ANDBC.