



PEACE IV Newsletter April 2017

Ready, Get set... Go?

In February the PEACE IV Team in council were delighted to let you know in our first E-Newsletter that £6.1 million of EU Peace IV Funding is on its way to Derry City and Strabane District Council. So what has happened since then?

In a nutshell, along with the other councils in Northern Ireland and the border counties, we are working hard to receive 'Permission to Start' from our funder, the Special European Programmes Body. To ensure we get the go ahead to start as soon as possible, the PEACE IV Team have been busy developing up the detail of each intervention (programme) under our 3 themes - 'Children & Young People'; 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building Positive Relations'. This has included providing a 'Cross-Community Contact Plan' and a 'Procurement Plan' to the funder along with other detail. The programme will run 'on the ground' roughly from June 2017 to December 2020.

Council have also been recruiting to get our full PEACE IV team in place, and by the end of April all four of us will be in post – one manager (Sue Divin), two project officers (Mary Claire Kerlin and Fiona Lafferty) and one Finance, Verification and Administrator post (Jennifer Coyle). We look forward to working with you over the lifetime of PEACE IV.

Whilst the PEACE IV programme, like its PEACE III predecessor is strongly focused on reconciliation, challenging prejudice and promoting understanding of diversity and good relations, there are some key differences community groups on the ground should be aware of. Thinking through the priorities of the PEACE IV programme now, may help you to find ways to link in with and benefit from the programme when it gets up and running in the near future. The following list includes some key points to consider.

1. Programmes are already developed up and quite detailed.

This time last year our consultation began in earnest and the Stage 1 application was submitted in June 2016. It was successful and council progressed to Stage 2. This meant further consultation was conducted and a detailed Stage 2 bid was submitted in September 2016. Council held a total of 42 consultation sessions including 7 public events. 180 people participated in the consultation including representation from an extensive range of Community Voluntary Sector groups and 10 statutory agencies. Thank-you! As a result of your input our council area was able to submit a bid with 25 key interventions in total under the three themes set out by SEUPB. We held three further well attended public information sessions in October for anyone interested to receive an update on this.

2. Strong emphasis on cross-community work.

Single-identity work (as in work predominantly within a particular community identity group eg. CNR Catholic/Nationalist/Republican, PUL Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist or BME Black and Minority Ethnic) will be highly rare within the PEACE IV Programme. This is because



there have already been three PEACE programmes to date. With minor exceptions to the rule, where issues are highly sensitive e.g. Victims/survivors, punishment attacks etc. the funder expects that participants should be able to engage in meaningful and sustained cross-community work from the outset. For the rare exceptions to this, single identity work will be permitted at the start but work must progress to meaningful and sustained cross-community work by the middle of the project.

3. Ambitious Cross-Community Targets.

It was a funder requirement that all council's taking part in PEACE IV set an 'ambitious' cross-community target. In our council area that is set at 48% CNR, 48% PUL and 4% BME. This means that all our interventions, whether council-led projects, tendered projects or small grants, will have to think carefully and work hard to try to engage with minority communities as well as the majority community in our council area.

4. Measuring participants

The funder has set us a target of reaching a minimum of 4868 participants in total. At first this total doesn't seem ambitious, however when you realise what counts as a measured 'participant' it is a significant challenge. A participant can only be counted if they engage consistently in a project for a minimum of 26 hours spread regularly in a sustained way over a minimum of 6 months on a cross-community meaningful basis. If they start but drop out, you can't count them. If they attend a 'one-off' event, you can't count them (in fact 'one-off events are not really eligible under PEACE IV). If they're already taking part in a different PEACE IV project you can't count them twice. Each participant will have to do a baseline survey provided by the PEACE IV team and an end of project survey to show how their attitudes have been impacted (hopefully positively) by the project. Of course it is also expected that the PEACE IV programme will also have a much wider impact and benefit on those we aren't actually counting as measured direct participants.

5. Geographical Area and Cross-border

Our PEACE IV programme aims to make a positive difference across the entire geography, rural and urban, of our council area. Cross-border work, in particular with our Donegal hinterland is also vital. It is possible to have some participants from outside these areas, but the strong emphasis is on reconciliation benefit to our local area.

6. Equality and Sustainability

Both Equality and Sustainability are cross-cutting themes in the PEACE IV Programme. It is important that we make a positive difference to all 'Section 75' groups listed under Equality Legislation. Deprivation and rurality are also aspects of equality to consider within the work of the programme. Sustainability is about ensuring that the work leaves a lasting legacy – physically, environmentally and socially. Right from the start of the programme we have to consider what will be the end result after the funding has finished. How will it continue to have made a difference?



All of the above points are things that you can be thinking through now, before our programmes start. There will be opportunities to engage with the PEACE IV programme in a number of different ways. Maybe you are keeping in touch because you want to be a participant in a programme? It could be that you or your organisation wishes to Tender for work? Perhaps you have an interest in being on a project steering group – inputting your expertise into a programme without having to handle complex funding or ensuring benefit to people you work with? Possibly your organisation is interested in applying for our small grants when they are developed? (If so, keep in touch via this newsletter and more detail will follow – we expect our grants to be live by September approximately.)

In the meantime, please encourage other organisations and individuals to sign up for PEACE IV e-bulletins by going onto the web page www.derrystرابane.com/Peace-IV where there is also more detailed information on the programmes.

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