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**PEACE IV EVALUATION**

**June 2021**

The views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

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**Executive Summary**

Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACE IV Programme supported nearly 70 projects over the three main themes (Building Positive Relations, Shared Space and Services, and Our Children and Young People, with a further small grant element), over four years, with investment in the district of approximately £6.7 million of project funding during that period. More than 6,000 people were directly engaged in the projects. The district programme was supported by the EU PEACE Programme through the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB).

This evaluation does not focus on individual projects but the collective delivery of all of those projects over a four year period. In doing so the evaluation has utilised access to all of the monitoring and evaluation returns, interviewed projects, surveyed all project promoters, and hosted a series of workshops for those involved in projects including promoters, Board and staff of the PEACE IV Partnership. The evaluation also highlights 15 case studies both in this report and in a separate Case Study publication for the Partnership.

The evaluation weaves into its narrative and recommendations core requirements for building a positive peace, that the PEACE IV Programme in Derry City and Strabane District has done well and successfully. The report also uses an ASPIRE evaluation model, marrying the PEACE IV indicators to five critical elements of any successful project.

Amongst many other conclusions, the report highlights that the PEACE IV Programme in Derry City and Strabane District has successfully delivered a range of interventions that have led to sustainable change in the knowledge, skills and behaviour of participants; created physical changes to the district that will facilitate greater cross community and cross border interaction; and created resources that will be used for many years to come.

The programme has been effective, value for money and generated greater trust between those participating and managing the projects and programme. This includes greater engagement with and between social partners and statutory partners, and greater trust between communities and statutory partners such as Council and the PSNI, and further engagement and civic participation of minority communities including BAME communities.

The PEACE IV programme in the district has made a major contribution to the building of a positive peace in the district, albeit long term in nature with an inevitable ebb and flow as peace evolves.

Of 28 key recommendations made in the report, of relevance to the continuation of the PEACE Programme through PEACE PLUS they include:

* The Partnership should employ a dedicated statistician for assisting project promoters within communities to deliver better, for and with communities. The monitoring and evaluation process is also about helping projects do what they do better, not just seek statistics to justify the overall programme looking upwards at the EU and political oversight.
* Going forward into PEACE PLUS the Partnership should naturally abide by all requirements on monitoring and evaluation set by SEUPB at a regional level. However, especially if a statistician can assist throughout the programme, the Partnership should consider a co-design process with projects focusing on a) how information is collected, b) when information is collected during their project, c) whether some additional information can be collected that will be of use to the project as it develops its project, and d) how the project can access this additional information in a timely and useful way. An initial monitoring and evaluation seminar should be a compulsory part of the programme.
* A resource allocation should be explored before committing to a full small grant programme element in order to reduce bureaucracy and administrative burden on Partnership staff and projects. The Partnership should ask staff to provide an options paper that explores practice elsewhere and possibilities within the Programme and requirements from SEUPB. The Partnership should undertake their options review cognisant of regional SEUPB commitments to small grants and ensure that duplication is avoided.
* The new programme should embrace the need for some aspects of single identity work especially when considering the identified needs regarding young people who may be at risk of radicalisation. Their slightly lower than general average scores for confidence to challenge sectarianism and racism, understanding of their own culture, and inclusion within their own community were relevant for all sides of the community but especially PUL youth.
* Given the impact of the re-bid process, tendering for youth projects in the future should reinforce the PEACE-related outcomes anticipated, and reinforce the need for pre-tendering preparations involving organisations with strong community roots.
* Given the prolonged nature of land acquisition in some projects for PEACE IV the Partnership should avoid projects that are reliant on land acquisition unless meeting criteria that facilitate acquisition within a reasonable timeframe where the project promoter has an element of control.
* There appears clear linkage between disadvantage and disaffection with the peace process, and in an area like Derry City and Strabane that includes a potential for young people on either side of the community to be radicalised. The new programme should reflect on its ability to make a major contribution to greater community cohesion in how it approaches supporting single identity work that tackles the most disaffected communities especially with young people, and how it focuses attention on the most disadvantaged areas. Single identity work is still important when dealing with intra community fall-out and when stimulating low-level involvement in peace-building work with the most marginalised young people at greatest risk of being radicalised.
* The achievement of community background targets that were too ambitious proved not just difficult but potentially counter-productive to the useful and positive engagement in the programme of members of minority communities. The PUL population in the Council area felt over-whelmed and were concerned that their inability to sufficiently engage numbers was perceived as a lack of commitment to the programme or to relationship-building in the Council area. Targets should be realistic because the purpose of the programme is to promote reconciliation rather than achieve arbitrary statistical targets. The targets should take into account the changing demography of an area and reflect the latest Census findings which may be available for the new programme.
* The new programme should facilitate participation a) across different projects of the same person within reason and, b) involve young people at a local level and involve schools at a local level rather than prioritise participation in regional programmes. Local delivery is more meaningful and local delivery agents more sensitive to local issues.
* The Partnership, if implementing a model mirroring community planning, should avoid the pitfalls of funded projects not addressing big strategic issues across the district, while also limiting opportunity for public agencies to benefit at the expense of local community-based organisations.
* The indicators and targets were too numerous and often did not therefore become priorities for the projects. There should be fewer and more focused indicators that highlight the desired outcomes. This may include a deliberate attempt to correlate with the priority areas highlighted in TEO monitoring – Knowledge, Understanding and Behavioural change.
* The monitoring questions asked were considered particularly inappropriate for children and young people and were adapted by the Partnership as the programme evolved. Monitoring questions should be at once more sophisticated and easier for younger people to understand.

**A group of people posing for a photo

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**Let’s Talk by Destined, Kinship Care, North West Migrant Forum and Rainbow**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Let's Talk Programme was a tendered programme focusing on engaging young people at secondary school level in four thematic areas: Gender Identity, Cultural Diversity, Disability and Health & Wellbeing. In total around 500 young people were involved across the four programmes delivered by four different organisations.

**Gender Identity - Delivered by Rainbow**

The main aims were to help young people, brought together from different communities, understand how gender roles and stereotyping may influence their sense of selves and life choices.

**Cultural Diversity - Delivered by North West Migrants Forum**

This project built on NWMF's work in addressing ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural divisions and invited participation from young people from all backgrounds.

**Disability - Delivered by Destined**

This Project provided support for marginalised young people with learning disabilities and those without to meet and grow their skills to challenge prejudice, discrimination and intolerance.

**Health & Wellbeing - Delivered by Kinship Care**

This project invited young people to explore key issues such as Identity Alcohol and Drug Related Harm, Confidence and Self Esteem, Housing and Homelessness and Mental Health.

A key achievement for the four organisations, to a greater or lesser extent, was rethinking their programme to take it online during the pandemic. The collective learning around moving towards blended programming with young people has been important.

"*The Covid-19 Lockdown impacted greatly on the many of the vulnerable participants involved in this project – resulting in alternate means being used to present activities." (Destined)*

Sustaining relationships following end of project either through an expanded Youth Club (North West Migrants Forum), a city side centre (Destined), online and through further programmes (Kinship Care and Rainbow) is a key achievement that characterises all four programmes of work. The relationships established during this year with key adults are and will be critical as we emerge from lockdown.

**WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?**

1.Whilst it might seem self-evident it is worth repeating that **youth led** programmes where adults relinquish some power are those which are of most benefit.

*"We observed that we received more positive feedback from workshops as we encouraged young people to take the lead on these*." (Kinship Care)

2. "***Knowledge is only a rumour until it sits on the muscle***." The different approaches used by the four organisations shared a common characteristic of focusing on experiential learning as opposed to 'learning about' others.

"*The Intercultural Dialogue approach we used throughout cultivates trust, understanding and sustainable development through connecting people across cultures and sectors while building their knowledge, attitudes and skills to create fairer and more resilient societies. This is an excellent example of good practice, methodologies or learning that may help future work for others*." (NWMF)

"*The programme made me realise it’s not just me, that my body is not broken, that who I am is perfectly normal. I no longer felt so terribly isolated. The programme made me feel comfortable*." (Rainbow)

4.. **Inclusion by design** whether it is the attention paid to the physical or online space ensuring that it allows young people to feel that they are safe and that they matter or thinking about the design of structures and institutions which often have power over young people.

*“So many young people don’t know where they live in relation to others. We’re allowing young people to place themselves in their community*." (Destined)

5.Many of the young people who were part of this project have experienced **the dangers of a single story** which reduces us to simple stereotype and just one story of who we are.

"*Young people commented that they ‘do not care’ about someone's religious background, and that by us asking them to identify in registration forms and in group scenarios that we were creating a problem of a difference that otherwise they would not see*." (Kinship Care)

"*There were challenges in recruiting young people from the PUL communities and different challenges in recruiting young people from economically deprived and better off backgrounds. There are pressures facing young people in deprived areas in their engagement with identity, with police, with gatekeeping structures. Until the structures of education change it is very hard to make lasting changes*." (NWMF)

6. **Families** figured in all four programmes with different approaches taken to include carers. The involvement of families was also a challenge, particularly for Rainbow.

*"Northern Ireland is very good at sitting down and saying nothing. The older generation is deeply scarred by the Troubles and they have no room to consider other things such as gender. We need to work with older generations – to release them*."(Rainbow)

7. **Finding the right size for community relations and sectarianism** was a struggle for all the organisations.

"*A lot of young people didn’t identify as protestant or catholic. They were questioning their faith. On the other hand, it is still an issue in many areas and for many people. Young people need to have that conversation and we need to find ways of engaging with the gatekeepers who are stopping that engagement taking place.*" (Rainbow)

It is a very difficult learning path to shape with young people. On the one hand, many young people do not see issues of sectarianism as of any relevance to their day to day lives; there are other issues that are more pressing, and they are frustrated by the institutions and structures that seem to be from the past. For others, their lives are constrained by this single story. The craft of finding the right place and size for these issues whilst also opening up to other stories characterised the Let's Talk Programme.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The tendering process was experienced as positive, allowing the groups to take their time and work out what is possible. All commented on the support of the Peace IV staff and their flexibility, particularly when programmes were rethought in light of the pandemic. Some challenges faced included the unique participant rule. None of these organisations turned away young people if they had participated in another PEACE IV programme but they ended up having to pay for the costs due to SEUPB regulations. The monitoring forms and accessing the tablets was seen as problematic. The forms at times excluded participants due to learning or physical abilities; being supported by an adult to fill them in was sometimes experienced as disempowering. The logistics of organising large numbers of young people when the tablets became available was also challenging. Finally, all four organisations expressed real interest in working with the Council to continue exploring effective and appropriate monitoring and evaluation methods.

**Background and Process**

Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACE IV Programme supported nearly 70 projects over the three main themes (Building Positive Relations, Shared Space and Services, and Our Children and Young People, with a further small grant element), over four years, with investment in the district of approximately £6.7 million of project funding during that period. More than 6,000 people were directly engaged in the projects. The district programme was supported by the EU PEACE Programme through the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The report outline is summarised below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AIMS + PROCESS** | **CONTEXT** | **PROJECT DELIVERY** | **LEARNING AND LEGACY** | **FUTURE INTEGRATION** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Background - aims and outcomes of the programme  Key elements – PEACE priorities  ASPIRE model  Traffic light indicators | PEACE programme in the context of T:BUC and building a positive peace | Engagement across projects, people, geography, communities, sectors | Drawing on the ASPIRE model develop learning for each segment  Identify gaps or weaknesses  Identify good practice  Identify change & impact  Added value of mentoring and collaboration  Conclusions on legacy – in real terms and related to initial aims | Recommendations for the future across:   1. Management and administration 2. Project delivery 3. Monitoring and evaluation 4. PEACE PLUS. |

Included are 15 case studies from the PEACE IV Programme in the district. They are integrated into the report with a specific section on lessons from the case studies. These lessons coincide with the feedback from all projects as part of the evaluation.

A separate publication contains fuller versions of the case studies produced for the PEAVE IV Partnership in Derry City and Strabane.

***Process***

This evaluation was carried out January-June 2021. The evaluation process involved nearly 200 people and organisations and included the activities below.

Amongst others, outreach activities included interviews with organisations that had been funded, a survey of all groups receiving PEACE IV funding, workshops at the start and end of the process with funded groups, staff and the Board of the PEACE IV programme, and the identification of the 15 case studies that highlighted good practice as well as lessons and recommendations for the future. In addition, an extensive analysis of monitoring returns and project activities was undertaken.

The report uses an ASPIRE model to identify learning as well as normal evaluation processes. The ASPIRE model allows for the identification of key learning relevant to the PEACE Programme and its indicators, but also relevant to critical aspects of good project delivery and practice.

**ASPIRE MODEL**

The ASPIRE element of the evaluation is progressed within five overall programme elements leading to an overall impact assessment – the indicators for the five themes are drawn from the Derry City and Strabane District PEACE IV key indicators.

The ASPIRE programme elements are intended to identify key factors common to successful projects generally and apply that model for a bespoke evaluation of PEACE IV in the city, using PEACE indicators. The elements are:

**A: Awareness**

**S: Sharing**

**P: Participation**

**I: Influencing**

**R: Resourcing/Sustainability**

**=**

**E: Effect or overall impact.**

For each of the five programme elements, three separate indicators are measured, amounting to 15 indicators in total – all are drawn from the overall PEACE IV programme and are relevant for each PEACE IV thematic areas: a) Children and Young People, b) Shared Spaces and Services, and c) Building Positive Relations at a local level. They are:

**Awareness –** **sensitivity to, favourability toward, and empathy with people from other backgrounds and cultures:**

1. Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years?
2. Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in five years?
3. Favourability toward people from other backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic)?

**Sharing – new approaches encouraged, delivered and understanding of others developed by participants and projects:**

1. Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact?
2. Willingness to respect different cultures?
3. Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming?

**Participation – improvement in how participants and projects may engage with areas and people around them:**

1. Potential for greater participation in civic life in local areas?
2. Potential for people to go to places outside their areas?
3. Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic)?

**Influence –** **how participants or projects use their knowledge to impact the behaviour of them and others:**

1. Increased knowledge of other cultures (religious/political/ethnic)?
2. Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds?
3. Increase in number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic)?

**Resources/Sustainability – how sustainable change has been effected within people or areas:**

1. Enhanced inclusion within own communities?
2. Increased confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity?
3. Increased confidence to go to places outside own areas?

**Effect: - overall impact because of the programme and projects**

Overall impact score taking all 15 indicators into account.

The ASPIRE impact is expressed in tabular or radar form providing a colourful and accessible means to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the overall thematic areas later in the report.

**Traffic Light System**

The evaluation also utilises a traffic light system for overall meeting of targets.

**Positive Peace**

During the report we also reference the Global Peace Index definitions and encouragement for regions coming out of conflict to move from a negative peace (the absence of violence) to a positive peace (the systemic embracing of interdependence).

According to the Global Peace Index, the eight pillars of creating a positive peace include six that are directly relevant to PEACE IV, and to the wider context of peace building.

The six most impactful for this evaluation are:

The other two of the six pillars are low levels of corruption and a sound business environment.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Additionally, peace building and reconciliation are recognised as highly cost-effective activities while requiring ongoing investment. It is estimated that the cost of not undertaking peace building is x16 the possible subsequent likely social, economic and security costs.[[2]](#footnote-2)

A positive peace, therefore, in also acknowledging the cost-effective nature of reconciliation work, leads to knock-on desirable socio-economic benefits including economic performance, social inclusion and more ambitious policy making.

The PEACE Programme is contributing significantly, as the European Union has in many other ways, to moving Northern Ireland from negative to positive peace with significant investment in peacebuilding and reconciliation activities in the city and district, and in Northern Ireland and the border counties as a whole.

**PEACE IV**

The delivery is across the following four themes:

* Children and young people;
* Shared space and services;
* Our Safe Community;
* Building positive relations.

The PEACE Programme is time-limited with the PEACE PLUS programme due to be available from 2022 although there may be a delay in the onset of PEACE PLUS just as there has been with the conclusion of PEACE IV.

The SEUPB through the PEACE IV programme support several regional programmes and programmes beyond support for the local partnership. These regional programmes include Derry City and Strabane and a number of them have real and tangible impact on cross community, cross border activity and therefore on PEACE IV delivery in the district. This may not always have a positive impact, for example in limiting local access to delivery mechanisms. Example of projects supported regionally – across Northern Ireland and the border counties including Derry City and Strabane - by SEUPB in PEACE IV include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **€ m** | **Focus** |
| Education Authority | 28.9 | Shared education |
| Early Years | 4.3 | Shared education |
| Youthlink | 2.4 | Building positive relations |
| Youth pact – Co Operation Ireland | 1.4 | Quality assurance for youth projects |
| Springboard | 5.1 | Skilling marginalised young people |
| Bytes | 3.8 | Young people and ICT |
| Include Youth | 4.0 | Good relations and personal development for 800 young people |
| Ashton Community Trust | 3.4 | School and youth engagement |
| Extern | 4.0 | Personal development and good relations for 800 marginalised young people |
| YMCA | 3.5 | 800 marginalised young people |
| Ashton Community Trust | 1.2 | Sectarianism, racism and isolation focusing on 1,300 ex-prisoners in NI and border counties |
| Co Operation Ireland | 1.7 | Dialogue with 4,000 ex-combatants |
| IFA | 1.8 | Sports-related uniting community’s activities |
| Red Cross | 0.8 | Seven projects changing attitudes to asylum seekers |

[[3]](#footnote-3)

These allocations regionally are important because they have an impact, at times on specific target groups, on whether and how local projects can recruit.

The existing PEACE IV programme has been extended all over Northern Ireland for a further year due to the impact of Covid on delivery and to help funded projects finish off their projects.

The strategic context for the PEACE Programme is important and sometimes over-looked. It was the PEACE Programme that generated one of the best definitions yet of reconciliation that is at the heart of its delivery and has resonance for other related programmes including on good relations. These reconciliation criteria are:

**1. Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society**

Challenging political and civic leaders to agree a vision of a shared future requiring the involvement of the whole society, at all which is interdependent, just, equitable, open and diverse.

**2. Acknowledging and dealing with the past**

Acknowledging the hurt, losses, truths and suffering of the past including individuals and institutions.

**3. Building positive relationships**

Relationship building or renewal following violent conflict addressing issues of trust, prejudice, intolerance in this process, resulting in accepting commonalities and differences, and embracing and engaging with those who are different.

**4. Significant cultural and attitudinal change**

Changes in how people relate to, and their attitudes towards, one another where each citizen becomes an active participant in society and feels a sense of belonging.

**5. Substantial social, economic and political change**

The social, economic and political structures which gave rise to the conflict and estrangement are identified, reconstructed or addressed, and transformed.

The good relations agenda is, therefore, an important part of the reconciliation process which is more than just about cross community relationships. The impact of economic and social deprivation, changing structures that estranged people, encouraging a sense of belonging of all including those people and communities feeling estranged (before, during or after the conflict), acknowledgement and a common vision are all critical elements. These relate also to the key components of building a positive peace.

Perhaps just as significantly, Hamber and Kelly also recognise the reconciliation paradox in the conflict between an acknowledgement of a painful and harmful past while searching for a longer term and interdependent future.[[4]](#footnote-4)

There is also complementarity with the Council’s good relations programme.

**PEACE PLUS**

We have written the evaluation to be of relevance to Derry City and Strabane as it starts a process of consultation and engagement with for the PEACE PLUS programme. PEACE PLUS is due to be operational from 2021-2027 and is worth approximately €930 million.

PEACE PLUS is designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face. This coincides with the concepts and delivery of PEACE IV, building a positive peace and the aims and processes involved in ASPIRE.

The SEUPB is developing the PEACE PLUS programme after extensive socio-economic research, public engagement and engagement with statutory and public agencies including Councils. It is also hoping to ensure the final programme is consistent with public policy including the Programmes for Government in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the New Decade, New Approach agreement, and the Together: Building a United Community strategy.

The PEACE PLUS Programme will be mindful of other initiatives such as the Shared Ireland Unit and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the social and economic context in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

The initial outreach from SEUPB suggests a PEACE PLUS programme with six themes:

1. Building peaceful and thriving communities including local peace plans and re-imagining communities;
2. Delivering economic regeneration and transformation including SME development and a focus on small towns and villages;
3. Empowering and investing in young people including shared learning and a youth programme;
4. Healthy and inclusive communities including collaborative health care, victims and survivors as a priority, and rural regeneration;
5. Supporting a sustainable and better connected future including biodiversity, marine and coastal management and improving water quality;
6. Building and embedding partnership and collaboration including strategic planning and engagement and maintaining relationships between citizens.

The breakdown of anticipated, initial outline proportions of the PEACE PLUS budget are:

Theme 1: Peaceful and thriving communities = 22.6% or €210 million (including local action plans)

Theme 2: Economic regeneration = 15.4% or €143 million

Theme 3: Young People = 11.8% or €110 million

Theme 4: Health = 16.7% or €155 million

Theme 5: Sustainability = 28.5% or €265 million

Theme 6: Partnership = 5.1% or €47 million.

Over a six year period, therefore, the overall budget toward peaceful and thriving communities throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties (including local action plans, empowering communities, building positive relations and re-imagining communities) may amount to an average of €35 million per annum.

Most relevant for the PEACE IV Partnership and programme SEUPB anticipates an overall budget of €90 million for the Partnerships and their plans delivering in each of 17 local authority areas. It is anticipated these will be designed to complement the community planning arrangements currently adopted across the Programme area. Local community PEACE PLUS Partnerships will be established for designated cluster areas, which collectively comprise all areas within each local authority district. Individual local authorities may wish to build upon existing structures and/or established community planning partnership areas. Alternatively, they may wish to establish partnerships on the basis of District Electoral Areas.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Amongst other aspects of the context of the evaluation of PEACE IV, we have attempted to draw recommendations for future integration into the PEACE PLUS programme.

Key issues include:

* Important building blocks for building a positive peace are all relevant to the EU PEACE Programme including properly function government, good relations, accessible decision-making, development of skills, and acceptance of others and their rights;
* The PEACE PLUS programme will continue substantial investment from the EU in peace building in Northern Ireland and the border counties from 2022;
* Some regional delivery of the EU PEACE Programme is perceived to present challenges to aspects of local delivery such as competition or exclusion from recruitment mechanisms;
* The new PEACE PLUS programme will be consistent with the Together: Building a United Community strategy and New Decade, New Approach amongst other over-arching policy contexts;
* It is currently estimated that around €90 million will be available for local action plans across 17 Council areas in Northern Ireland and the border counties for the PEACE PLUS programme and it may be delivered through designated clusters utilising the community planning model.

**CASE STUDY**

**A group of people posing for a photo

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**Introduction**

This Junction Project on Liberation from Patriarchy for Gender Justice developed out of a previous Junction programme, on Ethical and Shared Remembering 1912-1922. Patriarchy is identified as a foundational issue that required much more exploration and understanding if the ambition of peace and reconciliation was to be achieved.

“*Peace IV funding enabled the development and delivery of a project which provided participants with a language and framework to identify and understand how patriarchy and patriarchal systems work. The hope is to empower participants, through knowledge and understanding, to identify strategies and actions that will help transform patriarchy into gender parity, equality and justice*.” (Education and Training Programme Manual)

The project was informed by an intersectional approach recognising patriarchy as a system intersected with other oppressive systems, including sectarianism and racism. If we use the metaphor of an onion to understand intersectionality, then the premise of the project was that patriarchy is the first skin of the onion, as a reflection of a layer of division, injustice and inequality.

**What was achieved**

There have been a number of components to this project including:

* The Stories We Tell, a publication emerging from interviews with 28 contributors offering insights into gender justice and patriarchy;
* An education and training resource for educationalists, facilitators and trainers;
* The delivery of two Training of Trainers (cross-community) gender based programmes.
* The newly trained trainers delivered six community education programmes with the Junction delivering another four;
* Two conferences held;
* The dissemination of the resources and key messages to wider audiences including the Equality Commission, the wider women’s sector and key influencers with a demand for workshops on patriarchy by groups and organisations visiting the city and including international study groups and delegations.

“*This project was not about giving simple or easy answers. It was about giving people access to information so that they can become change agents in their own contexts*.”

(Education and Training Programme Manual)

**What was learned**

1.The importance of an **intersectional approach** in supporting people make sense of the layers of their identity and how those layers can work together to deepen the experience of exclusion. For example, being a woman, being from a minority, being black, being a lesbian, being a wheelchair user, all individually can bring experiences of exclusion and injustice. When these form the layers in one person, then how they interact with each other need understood for any meaningful systemic change to happen.

2. Sexism, sectarianism and racism are all **socially constructed** systems, they are not natural

or innate conditions of humanness. In fact, they dehumanise everyone: the ‘victim and survivor’, the ‘perpetrator’ and the ‘colluder’.

“*Our biggest challenge is how men can be invited into this conversation and allow them to realise that dismantling patriarchy is not an attack on them, that it dehumanises them as well, and that we need each other if we are ever to change this system.”* (Participant)

3. The **community education model** used by the project remains a powerful approach to effect individual and community change.

“*We are* *never done learning about this issue – it informs every part of our lives. It affects us all and is stitched into the most intimate fabric of our lives. To unpick the seams is incredibly difficult – to make sense of it? You think you’ve grasped it and then it escapes you again. The key thing is to have a glimpse of what it means – once you’ve seen it you can’t unsee it. Then to name what you have seen – the power of language. If you can’t name it, it can’t exist. It’s about knowing, seeing, naming*.” *(Participant & Trainer)*

4. **Creativity and the arts** allows the learning about what are sometimes deeply dark moments of our own history and the history of human being across nations and cultures to be generative.

“*A key moment was when a participant, horrified by the role of science and medicine in propping up and legitimising the oppression of women, went away and created an incredibly funny sketch. She didn’t think she could be funny. To turn something so dark and awful into a hilariously funny sketch was magic. It invited more people into the space as well as allowing the healing power of laugher to work.*.” (Participant & Trainer)

5. The **nature of violence** is that it shifts and moves across different spaces of our lives. What is learned and experienced in the home can shift to the streets, to the pulpit, to politics, to schools or to the place of work. How violence works in each of these spaces is distinct but also deeply inter-related.

“*We learned to unpack the bible and how it has been interpreted. We just repeat language and words without understanding. We go along without questioning*. “

**Conclusions**

There was deep appreciation of the PEACE IV staff team for their support and encouragement with this project. The use of a tendering process rather than grant was also seen as positive. The ask was around the monitoring forms which feedback suggested were less relevant to the project with many participants expressing discomfort in filling them in. The project had to develop their own forms to gather useful data. In addition, the time needed to chase people up to fill in the PEACE IV forms was extensive. A final reflection was on the challenge of Peace IV’s requirement of ‘unique participants’ with the project having to cover the costs of participants who had already participated in another PEACE IV project.

**MONITORING INFORMATION and EVALUATION SURVEY**

This section details returns from project participants as part of the monitoring information and also findings from a survey of project promoters as part of the evaluation. This direct feedback from both participants in the programmes and projects managing the programmes, provides insightful information.

The monitoring information is based on 2,890 returns from participants and is provided both overall as well as data sliced by community background.

**Monitoring Information**

The monitoring information was acquired by project promoters directly with participants during the programme, matching SEUPB monitoring requirements. To ease the burden for projects and participants, and to reduce the administration of entering data, the PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane used iPads for the inputting of participant feedback. These iPads were shared between various projects with unique identifiers for projects and participants.

The tables below reflect feedback by community background and gender. The sample size was robust with over 3,000 participants responding to some questions. We have not included figures where the sample size was too small to ensure robustness such as data slicing relating to BAME communities.

Overall, there are several conclusions to be drawn from delivery of the PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane District:

* People from all sides of the community have developed their knowledge, skills and understanding as a result of participation on PEACE IV projects;
* While people from both a Protestant and Catholic background demonstrate significant learning, those from a Catholic community background have slightly more positive feedback in all areas – some standing out more than other areas;
* Young people from a Protestant background are consistently less positive than adults from a Protestant background (though still generally very positive);
* Adults and young people from a Protestant background are less confident than those from a Catholic background to take their learning into challenging racism and sectarianism (though still high);
* A re-tendered or re-bid aspect of the Our Children and Young People theme generated better results than the OCYP theme generally and the Partnership may wish to further explore the reasons why.

While not a significant difference both those from a Protestant background, and especially young people from a Protestant background, score consistently lower on the criteria that they have developed greater understanding about BAME culture than those adults and young people from a Catholic background.

However, the difference is more marked regarding pro-active behaviour afterwards, such as the development of confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism or to go to venues or communities that participants had not been in before. Again, feedback from all participants is high – just consistently slightly higher from some.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 77% said they learned more about minority ethnic culture as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

When asked whether participation in the PEACE IV programme has helped participants understand their own culture better, responses from Protestant young people is, while still high, lower again than responses from other participants.

Young people from both main traditional faiths score lower than the adults, but Protestant young people noticeably lower than Catholic youth. While still high just two thirds of young people from a Protestant background said the programme they participated on helped them better understand their own culture or heritage – which may not have been the focus of their programme but is certainly an important need within all sides of the community.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 81% said they better understood their own culture and heritage as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

The programme did have more significant impact again on both younger and adult Catholic and Protestant participants in terms of understanding other cultures and heritage, and trusting other identities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Better Understand Culture and Heritage of Others** | **Catholic (A)** | **Catholic (Y)** | **Protestant (A)** | **Protestant (Y)** | **Other (A)** | **Other (Y)** |
| Yes | 93% | 81% | 90% | 77% | 94% | 84% |
| No | 3% | 7% | 3% | 9% | 3% | 4% |
| Don’t know | 4% | 12% | 7% | 14% | 3% | 12% |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Better Trust Other Identities** | **Catholic (A)** | **Catholic (Y)** | **Protestant (A)** | **Protestant (Y)** | **Other (A)** | **Other (Y)** |
| Yes | 96% | 87% | 91% | 81% | 87% | 85% |
| No | 2% | 3% | 2% | 6% | 4% | 4% |
| Don’t know | 3% | 9% | 6% | 14% | 9% | 11% |

The same pattern is repeated as elsewhere with high levels overall and slightly lower levels for youth compared to adults and for Protestant youth in particular.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 85% said they better understood the culture and heritage of others as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 88% said they better trusted people from other identities as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

Nearly all adults (95% Catholic and 93% Protestant) reported they were more positive about cross community and cross border work as a result of participating in the programme – and also around 4/5 young people (86% Catholic and 79% Protestant).

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 88% said they were more positive about undertaking cross community or cross border work as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

In addition, almost all said participating on the PEACE IV programme had made them more respectful of different cultures being celebrated (94% Catholic adults, 92% of Protestant adults, 89% of Catholic youth, and 83% of Protestant youth).

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 89% said they were more positive about undertaking cross community or cross border work as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

By comparison, 49% said at the start of the programme they would have been always respectful of the celebration of cultures other than their own, 30% frequently respectful, 18% sometimes, 2% rarely and 0% not at all.

When asked whether the project had made participants feel more involved with local community life and society, most people agree that it has - with the same trends of adults being more positive than young people, and Protestant young people, while still positive, being less positive than the other groups.

Adults also feel quite included as part of their local community as 91% of Catholic adults and 93% of Protestant adults say they feel very strongly or strongly included in their local community.

Interestingly of the 1,247 adults replying, Protestant respondents feel as much part of civic life in the Council area as those participants from a Catholic background.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 86% said they feel more involved in local community life as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

The monitoring and evaluation surveys do not take account of extraneous factors that may influence the thinking of participants such as potential reaction of peers that have or have not participated, family influence, wider political and environmental factors.

These factors may also include the feedback from participants who would consider themselves in a minority within the participating “groups” in the first place.

While still very positive there is a small but clear disparity between those from a Protestant and Catholic background, with substantially more people from a Protestant background answering Don’t Know (not shown in the table).

Adults were also separately asked how confident they were to challenge sectarianism and racism in others. By religious background of the 1,247 people who responded results were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Confidence Level – Challenging *Sectarianism* in Others** | **Catholic (A)** | **Protestant (A)** | **Other (A)** |
| Really confident/confident | 83% | 71% | 82% |
| Not sure | 6% | 13% | 8% |
| Not confident/really not confident | 11% | 17% | 11% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Confidence Level – Challenging *Racism* in Others** | **Catholic (A)** | **Protestant (A)** | **Other (A)** |
| Really confident/confident | 83% | 64% | 89% |
| Not sure | 6% | 13% | 6% |
| Not confident/really not confident | 11% | 24% | 6% |

Adults from a Protestant background are significantly less confident to challenge both sectarianism and racism than people from a Catholic background or Other; but are much less confident again in addressing racism compared to sectarianism.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 78% said they were more confident about speaking up or acting to stop racism or sectarianism as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

Of course, the monitoring information doesn’t analyse why there is such a disparity and it may not be linked to the PEACE IV programme. It may be due to wider environment or political issues, and it may be linked to concerns from within their own community.

While the monitoring information also suggests extremely positive results in terms of the confidence of all participants to go to venues and places or communities which they haven’t been to before, there is also a difference in the level of confidence between adults and youth returns, especially from young people from a Protestant background.

*Overall, of 2,890 returns, 84% said they were more confident to go to venues, places or communities that they haven’t been to before as a result of participating on a PEACE IV programme.*

While the results highlight some disparities and some groups with lower scores, overall the robust monitoring information from more than 3,000 participants indicate significant, consistent and sustainable learning and development. There are high levels of overall positive feedback around changed behaviour, understanding and trust. The areas requiring further reflection (while still high) include learning about BAME culture, returns for Protestant youth, understanding one’s own culture and heritage, and levels of confidence to speak up against racism or sectarianism.

However, a separation of statistics within the Our Children and Young People highlights other learning for the children and young people who participated. Returns were data sliced for the re-tendered or re-bid projects on Cross Community Children and Cross Community Young People – and compared with the returns for the other projects within the Our Children and Young People programme. The data slicing suggests that returns from young people involved in the re-tendered/re-bid projects are similar to the returns for adults and much higher than returns for young people in the other programme elements.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question - YES** | **CCY/CCC Catholic**  **%** | **CCY/CCC**  **Protestant %** | **Other OCYP Catholic**  **%** | **Other OCYP Protestant %** |
| Learn more about BAME culture | 93 | 98 | 85 | 70 |
| Understand own culture and heritage better | 94 | 94 | 81 | 66 |
| Understand others culture and heritage better | 98 | 100 | 83 | 70 |
| Helped trust, understand, respect people from different identities | 98 | 98 | 87 | 75 |
| More positive about cross community and cross border work | 95 | 94 | 86 | 75 |
| More respectful of different cultures being celebrated | 96 | 99 | 91 | 77 |
| More involved in community life | 94 | 87 | 90 | 72 |
| More confident to speak up about racism or sectarianism | 95 | 96 | 91 | 77 |
| More confident to go to venues not been in before | 95 | 98 | 90 | 72 |

The differences are significant especially involving PUL young people but across all sides of the community. There may be a number of reasons but the principal reasons from our sense of the programme are:

* The re-bid project was more heavily involved in delivering good relations, cultural and identity delivery than other broader OCYP programmes that included significant health and wellbeing slants;
* The re-bid project benefited from preparation before the tendering process reinforcing both the benefit of tendering as a model but also the benefit of lead-in preparation;
* The re-bid was community led and the results reflect the benefit of community grounding within a project;
* The Partnership should explore the differences for PEACE Plus and other future programmes.

*Equality and Equity*

The PEACE IV Programme in Derry City and Strabane acquired significant equality-related information as part of the monitoring process. The results of that monitoring information has been utilised by the Partnership throughout the Programme, and final returns of participants demonstrate reasonable spread of participation by community background, gender and age, as well as positive rural and urban participation.

While the Council recognises an urban/rural breakdown of 71% / 29% by the end of the PEACE IV Programme a calculation by postcode estimates that 39% of all participants were from rural areas, significantly higher than the 29% estimated for the Council area.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Make-Up** | **Council Estimate** | **End PEACE IV** | **% Difference** |
| Mixed | - | 4% | + 4% |
| Rural | 29% | 39% | + 10% |
| Urban | 71% | 57% | * 14% |

During the Programme implementation the Partnership was concerned to ensure sufficient rural involvement and made particular efforts to ensure focus on recruitment and participation from rural areas. The PEACE IV Board and staff succeeded clearly in ensuring rural participation, ten percent more than Council breakdown estimates.

End of Programme monitoring returns also indicate positive returns on issues around gender, religion and age.

Using NISRA 2019 and Census 2011 statistics for comparison 57% of participants completing were female compared to 49% for the district as a while. While the age ranges do not completely match completing the Programme 60% of participants were under 18 years of age while in the district 22% of people are under 16 years of age.

The Programme also included a higher proportion of participants from a Protestant background than the district suggests regardless of the identifier used.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographic** | **Census 2011** | **End PEACE IV** | **% Difference** |
| Brought up Protestant | 25% | 40% | + 15% |
| Brought up Catholic | 72% | 53% | * 19% |
| Other | 3% | 7% | + 4% |

The programme was pro-active in its efforts to ensure inclusion of children and young people, people from a Protestant background, other minority communities, and the monitoring returns demonstrate its effectiveness at doing so.

Indeed, many projects supported by the PEACE IV Programme were specifically designed with inclusion of minority or previously under-represented groups at the heart of delivery. This included:

Gender:

* ​From Patriarchy to Gender Justice project
* Let's Talk Gender Identity project
* One Community - a men's shed project and a number of women's projects

Sexual Orientation:

* ​Proud to Be project

Disability:

* ​People Always Ask Us project
* Beacon project
* Let's Talk Disability project

Faith:

* ​Celebrating Commonality: Celebrating Difference project
* Celebrating Our Common Christian Heritage project
* A number of projects engaged with the North West Islamic Association including the Beacon project.

Race/Ethnicity:

* ​Let's Talk Cultural Diversity
* Beyond Tokenism project
* Anti-Prejudice Public Campaign
* Capacity Building project
* Intercultural Pairing project
* Advising Diversity project

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**Understanding the Decade of Centenaries by The Nerve Centre and Tower Museum**

**INTRODUCTION**

Understanding the Decade of Commemorations delivered two exhibitions focusing on 1912-1922 period (WWI, General Election, Gender Equality and Suffrage) and 1920-25 period (Partition, formation of NI, Industry and Labour movements), a community education programme using creative digital skills, a cross-community outreach programme and an events programme that included talks, music, tours, literature and drama. An end of project conference was delivered in February 2021.

**WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?**

The Nerve Centre, the Tower Museum and other partners and organisations positively filled the public space in engaging with the decade of centenaries and what it can teach us about shaping the next 100 years. The weave of historical archives and quirky facts, such as the 'fake news' of the OXO cube being a cure for Spanish Flu, with inviting people to explore their own creativity and art in using this material to make sense of the present and the future has been a very powerful approach.

"*The Nerve Centre has 20 + years of experience in good relations practice, creativity and a strong legacy of audio-visual work. Our key objective was to focus on the Decade of Centenaries and extend an invitation to delve deeper – give people the tools to explore different perspectives. If politicians can’t agree a common approach, then the political vacuum needs filled with something positive. Ourselves, other organisations such as the Tower Museum have been providing positive civic leadership*." (Nerve Centre)

The whole project helped to make visible the people and the issues that had been made invisible. The community engagement programmes developed citizens capacity to respond rather than react to history on display. The combination of Brexit and COVID-19 also brought depth to the discussions - shifting perceptions of borders in Ireland and with Britain with the restrictions of the pandemic.

**WHAT WAS LEARNED?**

1.There has been a great deal of learning for the Nerve Centre, the Tower Museum and all the partners involved in moving programmes and exhibitions online. The experience over the last year will change how programmes in the future are delivered with a more blended approach to face-to-face and online work.

"*The Slack Channel was great communication medium – posting of recipes, poetry, songs, personal stories etc.. We were lucky to move relatively quickly with COVID; 3-4 weeks and we were ready to go online. Overall, it has made us reassess our methodologies and we will sustain the idea of blended approach and engagement. Online can reach a much wider audience; it lets people engage in their own time with recordings posted; the Slack Channel allows people to comment and engage in their own time as well. For example, we had 188 participants at the Archive event last week – if we had held it at the Tower Museum at best, we would have got 20 or 30 people. Who wouldn’t shift to online?*" (Nerve Centre)

There has also been a significant increase in workload as digital skills and capacity were grown.

"*Our digital capacity was very low, so we’ve been on a steep learning curve moving an exhibition online. In some ways when you are online you learn a lot more, develop more networks, meet more people*." (Tower Museum)

There have also been clear downsides. Whilst a blended approach using digital technology allows the tracking of online access, fewer people got to see the Dividing Ireland exhibition.  Online cannot replace the loss of the curated, physical safe space where people can visually interact with artefacts.

"*I enjoy watching where people stop at things, where they go, what interests them. How they interact with others.  A digital exhibition is not a replacement for an onsite installation, but it can certainly complement what we are trying to achieve which essentially is to link with the community and help tell their story*. (Tower Museum)

2. The multi-disciplinary approach using digital technology, accessing and researching history and the creation and expression of art has been shown to be a powerful tool in giving people access to our layered and contested past. Working on such projects demands very precise and committed approaches to design, to history, to the materials and artefacts and above all towards surfacing the multiple narratives and layers.

3. There has been a very interesting mutual learning process between the museum and the many artists and makers that formed part of the engagement programmes.

"*The last year has been wonderful with so many artists now connected to us and creative makers. We have built relationships with different audiences – and allowed the artists and creative makers to start looking at our collections and museums for inspiration*." (Tower Museum)

**CONCLUSIONS**

The 'outsourcing' of the administration to the Nerve Centre allowed the small team at the Tower Museum to get on with what they do best. There was also appreciation of the conversations and planning that took place in shaping the programme with the PEACE IV team. From an administrative perspective, there was a degree of frustration with perceived inconsistent application of rules across different Council areas. Whilst there was support for the tendering approach, more clarity could be developed as to the distinction of monitoring requirements between a grant and a tender. The challenges of 'unique' participants was also raised, particularly when there were so many projects all looking for young people more or less at the same time. It was also hard to keep young people participating over the six months period. Intensive programmes over shorter periods can have equally good, and sometimes better, outcomes.

Becoming cleverer and more effective with regards evaluation approaches that actually help inform programme delivery and answer 'where to now' questions was raised as an area for development. Finally, there was praise for the networking events that had taken place between the PEACE IV projects with a suggestion that for PEACE PLUS, an interactive map be created with pins indicating the location of different projects, short summary of activities and contact details allowing groups and organisation to remind themselves of the bigger picture as well as enabling collaboration and mutual learning.

**A group of people sitting in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceCase Study**

**Beacon Project with Youth Action NI**

**Introduction**

The Beacon Project was a Youth Leadership, Social Action and Entrepreneurship Programme working with young people from 27 community partnerships across rural and urban areas in the Council as well as both sides of the border including Buncrana, Burnfoot, Fahan, Letterkenny, Lifford, Muff and Raphoe.

The project built on YouthAction NI’s long presence and work in the North West offering proper resources and time. A total of 113 young people participated in the programme and the project received £340,965.

**What was achieved**

All young people participated in the creative Leadership Development Programme which delivered a range of different accredited courses including personal development, good relations, life maps, citizenship training, positive mental health, money for life, equality, and youth work weaving in visits and residentials to a variety of different places.

*“I had never been to the Fountain before; people would have told me it was not a safe place to go. It was good to go there with our group and to see murals in the area. I got the chance to learn about the culture in the Fountain and it was really interesting. I would have no problem going back there now.’* (Project Participant)

“*We visited the North West Islamic Association in Derry/Londonderry to learn about the Muslim and Islam culture and faith and dispel myths and fears. Participants had developed a series of questions prior to the visit and had an engaging question and answer session with NWIA representatives. It challenged what many of them had heard from family and media”* (End of Project Report)

Following completion of the Leadership Programme, young people were offered a number of different routes to practice and grow their interests and skills. These included:

-A Cross Community Volunteering Programme where for example, 28 young people living with disabilities took part in a cross-community intergenerational volunteering with Older People North West “Looking back, looking forward” themed events and designed a mural to be painted on the wall opposite Older people North West called – ‘Creative Ages’ project.

-Peer Leadership Delivery Programme where young people were invited through YouthBank to assess the applications for support for a number of youth led projects. Forty six young people were involved supporting 6 local community youth initiatives focusing on sports and play activities that impacted on mental wellbeing. This resulted in a positive impact on 247 children and young people.

“*Young people developing projects with then young people making the decisions has opened up our thinking in the clubs about how much they are capable of.” (Project Partner)*

-Social Enterprise Projects where for example, 30 young people who live with disabilities decided to complete a Social Enterprise training. This included completing Money for Life training that helped the young people learn money management skills and financial health before embarking on their social enterprise project. They then decided to run a peer money mentoring programme for their social enterprise project. The group submitted an application to take part in the UK Youth Money for Life Community Challenge Awards. They were successful at the Northern Ireland regional heat and represented Northern Ireland in the National Finals in the BAFTA building in London in March 2019 where they pitched their idea to a panel of judges. The group were thrilled to win the UK Champion Award.

*“Often young people with a disability are overlooked in helping shape the future of our city*” (End of Project Report)

**What was learned**

1.Good youth workers provide the scaffolding for young people to stay rooted and grow, particularly young people who need to focus so much energy on just getting through the day and the week. Holding a broader definition of Peace & Reconciliation allows young people to explore and learn to be at ease with many more identities and cultures than just ‘green and orange’.

“*We delivered visual and creative workshops looking at different cultures and backgrounds and opened this to discussion including what we all have in common. We then looked at positive roles these people played in the community. After discussion their views had changed. This was the same with all the cultures we looked at. The reason for this is that we found that young people knew very little about different cultures and only learnt the negative messages from their parents and peers. These workshops gave the young people more understanding of different cultures in their community and helped to break down barriers*.” (End of Project Report)

The lack of political leadership can be frustrating as well as the language used. A lot of the time can be spent in groups picking up on and making sense of the politics.

2. Inviting young people to experience new spaces, whether physical or developmental, was a critical part of building their confidence.

“ *For example, in Strabane we meet a few time at “Tinnies” which is just on the Donegal border. We have had young people progress on to join other youth groups and some have become volunteers and also paid workers. For example, one young man from Strabane area has now become a unit commander within the local rescue services. One of our Youth Champions got a youth work post with the Education Authority, another took up a new post as a classroom assistant and a third got a post in a child care setting*.” (End of Project Report)

3. Maintaining relationships with young people during this last year has highlighted the importance of young people, particularly from poorer backgrounds, being supported to be the creators of technology, not just the consumers. “*I think young people are learning that the binary world of social media is not how real life actually works*.” (Project Partner)

It has also demonstrated the benefits of outdoor learning and development which needs further resourced and invested in as a key aspect of youth work.

4. The pandemic became the opportunity for youth based clubs and groups to look outwards and engage in community support work. This has extended networks and relationships creating more possibilities around volunteering and community support. *“Our young people were giving out food parcels and we built new relationships on the doorstep. People want to give back now. I think this year has profoundly changed how we think and go forward in the future. This project was part of this new direction of travel”.* (Project Partner)

**Conclusions**

The monitoring forms were challenging for those young people to complete if the ‘boxes’ did not seem to fit. Being sensitive to different learning abilities was also noted as important for any future monitoring requirements. Perhaps ensuring that any documentation meets the ‘easy read’ kitemark would be a good standard to meet. There was great praise for the Peace IV team in terms of their support throughout the project and the value of networking and training events held, particularly during the pandemic.

**Evaluation Survey**

A survey was undertaken of PEACE IV recipient organisations. Overall, 27 projects returned the survey with a good spread of responses coming from across the Council area. No District Electoral Area (DEA) was unrepresented in survey responses though 64% came from the three DEAs in the city – Waterside (28% of responses), Moor (20%), and Foyleside (16%).

There was an equal spread of responses from projects across all four parts of the programme.

The PEACE IV funding for the projects was critical to the delivery of their work. More than nine in every ten replies (92%) said the work would not have happened without PEACE funding, while the remaining 8% might have done some of the work but the funding was important in helping the organisation deliver much more.

*Impact*

However, of the same organisations, post-funding, 21% say the whole of the project will now be run as part of their core work and a further 42% say some of the project will carry on regardless of further funding. While 37% say it will depend on future funding, no one says they will not continue with any part of their project.

The sustainability of projects, skills or attitudinal change is important, and this implies that a substantial element of projects funded through the PEACE IV project will carry on regardless of funding - wholly (21%) or in part (42%).

While a further 37% suggest continuation may depend on funding that does not mean there won’t be further continuation of all or part of a project without funding; and indeed many of those 37% may also secure other, additional or alternative funding.

There is interest in pursuing a PEACE PLUS application though there is some conditionality attached to it. Nearly have of those replying would be interested in PEACE PLUS definitely (48%) and 43% may be interested. A further 9% stated they would not be interested in PEACE PLUS.

That nearly one in ten already suggest no interest at all in PEACE PLUS is quite significant though far outweighed by those who are definitely interested.

The reasons given for their interest or lack of interest include (mentioned by two or more projects):

* The amount of administration;
* Monitoring requirements including the use of iPads;
* The programme may not be meeting the real needs of an area including long-term trauma, poverty and systemic change;
* Anticipated contact hours were unrealistic.

However, more projects feeding back said they would countenance PEACE Plus in order to:

* Build on the experience and impact to date;
* Continued need for peace building and good relations work;
* Now better positioned to do more impactful work.

*Sustainable Impact*

The tangible and sustainable impact of the funding on organisations is also clearer in the table below. Projects regarded significant lasting impact as being in their development of:

* Networks and contacts;
* Skills for good relations work;
* Capacity and knowledge of good relations work;
* Cross community relationships;
* Links to the local community.

These are important organisational development outcomes that will have lasting impact.

There was, perhaps, less impact than might have been anticipated for:

* Capacity for managing finances and grants;
* Development of inter-ethnic relationships;
* Development of planning tools;
* Enhanced capacity of volunteers.

There is some feedback evidence to suggest some of these skills were already regarded as adequately present in the organisation before participation in the PEACE IV programme.

However, a future programme may wish to explore how to ensure further volunteer skills capacity development and ensure sufficient inter-ethnic and intercultural relationship building; though that may also be influenced by the proportionate number of people in the area from a BAME background.

The aspects of the programmes that related to the development of networks, profile enhancement, and cross community engagement clearly had significant impact on participating organisations.

The qualitative feedback from the surveys on what had most impact on people on people or areas including the following as continually identified impacts:

* The building of relationships with people and groups;
* Footfall and behaviour of people across interfaces;
* New and increased networks embracing diversity;
* Better understanding of cultures and history of others;
* New good relations skills;
* Better understanding the PUL community and giving marginalised PUL communities a voice.

The greatest barriers faced by projects were identified qualitatively as the following – with the first two barriers each identified by nearly half of those responding:

* Covid and lockdown restrictions;
* Monitoring information and the nature of returning monitoring information;
* Recruitment and particularly not being able to recruit people already involved in a PEACE project;
* Administration;
* Maintaining the required religious balance;
* Unrealistic demands about the number of hours.

*Mechanics and Focus*

Projects were asked to rank three potential delivery mechanisms for PEACE PLUS that they would like to see used. Overwhelmingly, projects favour tendered projects with small grants projects.

The weighted average of each of the three mechanisms highlights how much preference was given to tendering and small grants as opposed to Council-led delivery. (The lower the number the closer it was to the number one ranked preferred delivery mechanism).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Delivery Mechanism** | **Weighted Average of 3** |
| 1 | Tenders | 1.55 |
| 2 | Small grants | 1.82 |
| 3 | Council-led | 2.32 |

Reference was made in feedback qualitatively to possible long-term and multi-annual funding, and that in shared projects Councils do not always have to lead.

Tendering was considered a more flexible and pragmatic option while organisations still wanted to retain the ability to apply for short-term, flexible small grants.

Few organisations replying thought requiring cross community contact was inappropriate (9%) although many believed that providing the opportunity for some single identity work in a project was useful (35%). Most organisations (57%) believed it appropriate in a PEACE programme to require cross community contact.

*Indicators*

There were 15 indicators identified in the PEACE IV programme. Most of those replying believed that to be too many indicators (61%) and none at all considered them too few.

Of the 15 indicators it was clear that some were considered more important than others. The table below highlights those responses for those ranked very important throughout and those ranked not at all important throughout. The balance not included in the table were given as fairly important but not essential.

As might be expected indicators all score relatively well – but some much more significantly than others. They indicators that project found of most relevance were:

* Acquiring information about new and different people, areas and cultures (Knowledge);
* Developing empathy with different communities and cultures (Understanding);
* Changing how interaction takes place with people from other communities (Behaviour).

Indeed, these three core indicator outcomes are a mutually supporting part of a process. The qualitative feedback from project promoters therefore largely mirrors the changed priorities of measuring good relations within T:BUC by The Executive Office – Knowledge, Understanding and Behaviour.

Indicators exploring issues such as relations between people from a Catholic and Protestant background over the last five years, now, or in the next five years, or friendships and socialising were considered less likely to be important during the projects.

Nearly two thirds of those responding (61%) thought there were too many indicators and 39% thought there were about the right number of indicators. No one replying thought there were too few indicators.

The reasons given for the replies reinforce some earlier comment about monitoring and evaluation processes:

* People thought the number of indicators helped increase monitoring and evaluation requirements that in themselves were considered a barrier to participation given the length and nature of questions;
* The inability to duplicate participation contrasted with the multitude of indicators for one unique project participant, not all of which were relevant for the project.

*PEACE IV Team*

The PEACE IV management and administration consisted of a team of five staff working to the PEACE IV Partnership and with the funded projects.

The survey returns were almost as completely positive about the PEACE IV team in Derry City and Strabane as it is possible to be – 91% thought the team supported projects very well or well and just 4% thought they were poor/very poor.

Some of the specific comments included:

Never felt worried about contacting them about anything…they were open and available

Worked in a very professional manner and made the process so much easier

Always supportive and keen to help…released the pressure where they could

Absolutely brilliant support from the PIV team on every aspect of the project from start to finish

There was a genuine sincerity and integrity in supporting groups deliver their individual projects and guidance was always to hand

DCSDC team brilliant throughout, so communicative and supportive

The staff at DCSDC deserve medals

The PEACE IV team offered a range of support to projects. Ten specific support activities were ranked by projects depending on how helpful they had been. The areas that projects believed were most helpful were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Support area** | **% in top 3 out of 10** | **% in bottom 3 out of 10** |
| 1 | Networking events and sharing ideas or GP | 63% | 16% |
| 2 | Communications | 50% | 0% |
| 3 | Administration | 45% | 25% |
| 4 | Advance awareness and information sessions | 37% | 21% |
| 5 | Tailored training | 32% | 26% |
| 6 | Financial management | 28% | 33% |
| 7 | Making introductions and contacts | 25% | 15% |
| 8 | Recruitment | 17% | 61% |
| 9 | Website and newsletter | 16% | 31% |
| 10 | Monitoring and evaluation | 11% | 39% |

Much of the qualitative feedback from projects about participation centred on the difficulties associated with the monitoring and evaluation processes.

Indeed, when asked a specific question about the monitoring and evaluation requirements 50% thought the requirements were more than necessary and 50% thought them about right. No one thought monitoring and evaluation requirements were less than necessary.

The main feedback, mentioned by three or more projects, was that they thought monitoring and evaluation a barrier to participation, overly bureaucratic, off-putting and irrelevant for younger people. The perceived problematic availability of iPads was an ongoing issue.

**Key issues**

Key issues include:

* There will be considerable lasting legacy in terms of projects or major parts of them continuing to be delivered.
* Thousands of people from all sides of the community have developed skills, knowledge and understanding; and exhibited behavioural change as a result of participating on the PEACE IV programme.
* There have been many significant and important projects supported that have facilitated sustainable physical, behavioural and attitudinal change.
* The development of skills, enhanced community links and contacts across the community will also be specific lasting legacies of the projects.
* Significant lasting impact for participating groups are identified as enhanced networks and contacts, greater good relations skills, and more and better cross community relationships.
* The learning for young PUL community participants, while still good, was lower than other groupings.
* An outcome of being confident enough to challenge sectarianism and racism, while very high for all though especially adults, was not as high as some of the other measurement indicators.
* Young people, and especially PUL young people, returned lower results for better understanding their own culture than adults – though still high. It may indicate some reflection is needed to facilitate change within young people and possibly some greater focus on single identity needs especially where communities have young people in danger of radicalisation.
* Overall, 74% of young PUL participants felt more involved in community life after participating in the programme (which is positive) but it compares to 86% of CNR young people and over 90% of all adults. Broadly the same percentages apply to confidence to go to venues that they have not been in before.
* However, results from the data slicing of OCY projects separating the re-bid projects suggested higher results when tendering was properly prepared with significant community input to the delivery and a real focus on good relations/culture/identity learning.
* Those project promoters who say they would not consider applying within PEACE PLUS often cite the amount of administration and monitoring requirements as the principal reasons.
* Tendering and small grants were regarded much more positively by project promoters as an awarding mechanism than Council-led contracting. It was thought they were more flexible and pragmatic. Community organisations were not put off by the prospect of tendering, some indicating the need for preparatory work prior to PEACE PLUS including partnership planning.
* However, projects also thought that the level of administration required for small grants was burdensome especially relative to the size of the grant.
* Cross community requirements were considered important and a core part of PEACE funding. However, groups believed an element of single identity was important especially for young people considered at risk of radicalisation. Some of the monitoring information supports this as a need.
* Promoters largely believed there were too many indicators, supported by negative feedback around monitoring requirements. The use if iPads, while welcomed by a number of project promoters, were also negatively viewed by others – partly due to the number of questions and partly due to a difficulty in accessing iPads for projects with large numbers of participants.
* The indicators considered least important – and indeed for projects supporting projects with children and young people were considered counter-productive – were those relating to relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years and for the next five years. These are referred to in the Awareness element of the ASPIRE model used in this report.
* The indicators considered most useful for projects were those relating to participants acquiring knowledge, understanding and behavioural change – mirroring TEOs changed monitoring priorities within TBUC.
* A major drawback for many projects was the limitation of participants to one PEACE project at a time – contrasting with what they perceived as a multitude of indicators which could not be relatable to one participant in one project.
* The PEACE IV team in Derry City and Strabane were praised by almost every project promoter returning surveys or who were interviewed. The support provided, their empathy and willingness to help, and their understanding of the problems working within the community sector were all greatly appreciated by project promoters.

**CASE STUDY**

**Don’t Shoot My Wane – Shoot Me! by Greater Shantallow Community Arts**

A picture containing text, person, eating

Description automatically generated

**Introduction**

The "Don't Shoot My Wane! Shoot Me!" was about informing, challenging and creating the space for deliberative conversations on punishment attacks and their impact on communities across Northern Ireland. It used participatory theatre with a vote cast at the end about whether a punishment shooting should proceed. The play was recorded as a film that has been widely distributed. The project received just under £50,000 from PEACE IV.

**What was achieved**

Using real stories and experiences from research on punishment attacks, through drama and devising workshops with 56 participants the narrative was consolidated into an original immersive drama production. The final script was developed in such a way that the story line and the names of the characters could be set in any community.

Based on the form of a debate, the performance centres on a meeting which is being held in the local community centre to discuss concerns about an elderly woman who has been assaulted in her home and whether the alleged perpetrator should be shot. “*Centred around a mixture of raw emotion, outrage, fear, honesty, despair, and good-natured banter, a thought-provoking story unfolds*.” (Post-Project Evaluation)

The production ends with the audience having to take a vote as to whether or not they agree with the shooting going ahead. The collated vote at the end of the four performances was: No: 89% and Yes 11%.

A film of the production has been distributed as DVD and online to schools and community groups

**What was learned**

This production carved out the space for deliberations and discussions around a very difficult topic. The story personalises the issues and allows the audience to step back, hear different perspectives, understand the consequences of different actions and thereby reach a more informed response.

The ‘private’ stories and experiences collected through the research were woven into a ‘public’ story that was performed in four different community venues across the city. It took real courage to shift from the ‘private’ to ‘public’ space and shift people from the conventional cultural scripts.

All sides of the community were involved in this project and relationships were formed among the participants that were unexpected and potentially long lasting.

“*One of the final output performances was held in Caw Youth Centre which is perceived as being located in a Protestant community; within this setting we had numerous friendships transpire between both sides and have had members from the Catholic community attend the performance and then to return to the Caw Youth Centre to partake in further cross community events and vice versa, to have members from the Protestant community travel to Pilots Row based in the predominately nationalist city side of Derry City and to sit and form friendships with participants from the Catholic community. This unexpected forming of friendships, the interest in finding out about each others culture, habits, routines etc was an eye opener for our creative team and a pleasure to watch grow and flourish*.” (Post-Project Evaluation Report)

**Conclusions**

The hard work and dedication of the Peace IV team based at DCSDC was very much valued by this project. “*They were a pleasure to work with and always very approachable and eager to address any issues that may have occurred during the life of the project*.” (Post-Project Evaluation Report).

**Case Study**

**A group of people looking at a dead animal

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Waterside Shared Village**

**Introduction**

This project grew out of existing relationships between Top of the Hill and Irish Street with a focus on increasing the movement of citizens between the areas thickening the relational web that can hold both places together. Historically the area has been scarred by sectarian tensions and violence.

The project received a total of £499,271.56 to run a range of high-quality programmes catering for all ages including: the Terrific Twos programme; Brilliant Babies; primary school after schools; primary school summer scheme; post-primary homework support; post primary summer scheme; detached youth programme; a number of festivals per year (including Christmas and Hallowe’en); festival arts programme; cross border programme; basketball programme; football programme

**What was achieved**

The core achievement of this project was normalising spaces, opportunities and reasons for people of all ages to meet and connect as mums, dads, grannies and grandads, and children.

“*Only see folk from the other community at events. I wouldn’t see them normally. You stick to what you know*.” (Project Participant)

With regards specific achievements, the summer scheme brought together 265 children from both Top of the Hill and Irish Street for a four-week programme. During the first year the children were bused, the second year they walked. This was a very symbolic act for many adults.

“*When reviewing the project’s best case example with regards to Peace and Reconcialtion it is hard not to focus on the Summer Scheme. Organisationally this was a huge undertaking, but it was very much a team effort from both communities. We were unaware of such a large scale cross community summer scheme on an interface in Northern Ireland at the time. Children were either bused or walked to the different centres in each area and it was heartening that they were so unware of how significant it was for the adults. One mother remarked that she used to be involved in violence on the interface growing up during the summer and now her child was going to Irish Street for summer scheme, she commented ‘this is the way it should be’*. “ (End of Project Report)

Another important symbolic event was the first Christmas Winter Wonderland. It was the first time both communities celebrated it together.

“*We were worried; we weren’t sure people would go to Irish Street. But they did. In their hundreds*.” (Project Staff)

The Cross Border programme brought older people from Irish Street, Top of the Hill and Inishowen. The programme called the ‘Great Get Together’ was run for 2 years with 94 participants. Activities included tea dances, shared history workshops, arts/crafts, day trips, lunches, exercise classes, baking and many more.

“*This is a really good starting place – we are role models for our children and grandchildren*.” (Project Participant)

As the centre manager from Irish Street Community Centre reflected:

“*One of the key highlights of the programme has been that residents from each interface community have taken part in cultural activities and events which would not normally be celebrated by their respective communities. Two stand out examples of this has been the festivals which have taken place to mark St. Patrick's Day and the Ulster Scots summer scheme. Even ten years ago it would probably have been unthinkable that Irish Street residents would be enjoying a St. Patrick's festival and that Top of the Hill children would be taking part in Ulster Scots based activities, including piping, drumming, and dancing*.”

**What was learned**

1.A strong ‘shared village’ partnership model created the space for this programme to grow and allowed the communities, staff and volunteers to take some risks. But partnership working doesn’t happen automatically; it takes intensive and continuous effort.

“*You have to work at it all the time, even with ones you know really well. You constantly have to think about people’s own communities and context and how much to push. Everything has to be checked and double checked. You have to work at partnership for it to work. Not a given at all*. “(Project Staff)

2.High quality **events** and programmes allow new patterns of meeting and **relationship** building to take place. An ongoing challenge is ensuring that there are **structures** and organisations within the community that have the resources to sustain and support these relationships grow from ‘cradle to grave’. These structures and organisations need to hold the line even when the political atmosphere changes and doors and windows can slam shut.

3. Acknowledging, understanding and transforming the attitudes and reasons for fear and hatred requires a level of conversation that takes time and patience. In some senses, funding often allows the ground to be prepared but when it’s ready, the funding is over.

“*We need more work done on the hard conversations around peace & reconciliation*.” (Project Staff)

4. Whilst there are examples of good practice, Good Relations still remains and is seen as an add on by many statutory bodies.

“*Good relations needs woven into decisions on health, poverty and capital infrastructure.*

*If we are really serious about co-design with communities then good relations needs to be at the heart of it*.” (Project Partner)

**Conclusions**

The delivery of funding through a tender process instead of a grant was a much more flexible approach which allowed changes to be made to the project delivery as it evolved over its 3-year delivery period. The monitoring forms were a challenge. The rationale behind some of the questions wasn’t clear nor seemed appropriate for different demographic groups. Ideally, SEUPB needs to be co-designing its questions with groups. The practicalities of booking the iPads was also challenging when dealing with large numbers of people.

**Consultation and Interviews**

Overall, nearly 100 people were engaged in consultation and interviews including through:

* Interviews with the project promoters and the Board and staff of the PEACE IV programme;
* Interviews with project promoters as case studies represented in this report and in a separate case studies report;
* A series of initial issue scoping workshops with project promoters across the four themes of the programme – Our Children and Young People, Shared Space and Services, Building Positive Relations, and Building Positive Relations small grants;
* A workshop with PEACE IV staff;
* A workshop with the PEACE IV Board;
* Final workshops to explore indicative recommendations with project promoters;
* Final workshops to explore indicative recommendations with the PEACE IV Board and staff;
* A survey of project promoters.

The evaluation has also drawn extensively on the monitoring reports, project materials, and the communications material provided by the Partnership, as well as the 3,000 + survey returns by participants at the start and end of their projects.

Feedback from the interviews and workshops is summarised under the T:BUC themes.

Feedback is provided when an issue was raised or discussed three or more times.

During those interviews and workshops key issues raised included:

* The Peace Programme has been a significant positive benefit in the Council area through the investment provided, the number of people engaged in the programme, relationships developed and physical renewal facilitated through the programme.
* A large number of very successful and impactful interventions have been supported that would not otherwise have happened. It is difficult to see another funder supporting what was delivered in the district by the PEACE IV programme.
* The PEACE IV team were supportive, flexible and assets that the funded projects found not just useful for what they delivered but added directly to the value of what they delivered.
* The proportion set for community background participation for the programme (48/48/4) was considered inappropriate for the area and challenging for projects. It created a number of issues around PUL participation and people participating in projects where the fit was imperfect. Community organisations from a PUL background reported feeling under greater pressure to “find numbers” and were concerned that partners perceived them as less committed to the programme when they could not find sufficient numbers.
* In addition, the fact that people were only able to participate in one PEACE-funded project at a time exacerbated the recruitment issues.
* After projects started there was a rush in some projects and programmes to get partners and participants with a PUL community background. The subsequent squeezing of community organisations may have been prevented with pre-programme or pre-tendering preparation and groundwork.
* The Our Children and Young People programme suffered by not being allowed to work in schools because of the priority given to SEUPB regional schools-based projects.
* Monitoring questions need rethought – long, irrelevant at times, offended some people, not tuned to the projects – and access to tablets was problematic at times.
* The PEACE Programme acknowledges that peace building is a broad concept and can include thematic issues according to some projects. This may reflect aspects of building a positive peace as highlighted earlier including inclusion, equity and how government (including local government and public agencies) engage with communities.
* The tendering processes were considered to have worked well with a better focus and with more flexibility. But they required some capacity work with communities first. Some thought should be given to pre-tendering planning.
* The number of hours of contact was problematic – 26 hours over many weeks – especially for young participants.
* There were mixed views about a community planning model for PEACE PLUS with concern regarding a focus on whether a) smaller areas missing cross-Council thematic priorities, and b) it might suck e funding into gaps perceived by public agencies who dominate in the community planning processes.
* The breadth and range of projects supported was positive – the PEACE IV Partnership embraced new ideas and ways of working.
* PEACE Plus should provide a focus on the most disadvantaged and marginalised – the peace process has neglected them but their participation is important in areas where disaffected republicans and loyalists are gathering support. This speaks to the potential radicalisation of young people.
* As with feedback throughout the PEACE programme bureaucracy and paperwork were considered excessive and burdensome. Some parts of the monitoring and evaluation processes were considered unnecessary and actually facilitating division between people. While some of this may be perception associated with PEACE funding for some time, some related directly to the nature and type of indicators.

**CASE STUDY**

**Growing Shared Space in Castlederg by the Shared Space Castlederg Project**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Shared Spaces Castlederg Project received £293,000 to:

* Develop, through community and stakeholder engagement, a Green Infrastructure Master Plan for Castlederg to develop new shared-use green infrastructure and to improve upon the current offering. The first phase of master plan implementation will see 1.1km of new greenway delivered, supported by DAERA;
* Improve the pitches at Dergview FC and St Eugene's GAC by Council;
* Develop and deliver a programme of shared events and activities animate the shared space area and support cross-community and cross-border participation.

Castlederg is a rural town of many stories. A dominant story has been the legacy of the Troubles and how this has shaped and still shapes relationships, groups and community behaviour. Another story is a town where music and creativity, connecting through green spaces and the environment, and sporting traditions generate energy and new civic leadership. PEACE IV invested in the latter story.

**WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED**

An aspiration of PEACE IV was to embed and sustain previous peace and reconciliation place-based initiatives as well as maintaining momentum to address the core contested issues such as flags, emblems and language. This project focused on creating activities, spaces and structures that bring people together on shared issues with the overall ambition as set out by the Greenspace Infrastructure Master Plan of creating and enhancing green shared spaces in the town where people can connect informally and grow more positive relations.

A Steering Group was established for the pitches’ improvement as well as a Steering Group of 25 individuals/groups for the wider Greenspace Master Plan.

An audience development plan was conducted over 2018 to inform the development of the programme of events and activities which took place over 2019-2020. This has now been completed with significant changes required for some of the activities due to COVID-19. The range of activities included:

* Community history project
* Community dance project
* Horticultural programme
* Water based activity programme-
* Inclusive sports coaching programme
* Make your own kind of music event held in the Alley Theatre, Strabane
* Cross-community walking event.

Overall, 141 participants engaged with this programme.

There was substantial engagement, conversations and research conducted allowing collective decision-making process at the Steering Group around where the resources should be allocated to determine a shared programme of activity and events.

**WHAT WAS LEARNED**

1.One of the challenges identified throughout the animation process was the **absence of sufficient resources** to support and sustain long term community animation and development work. The lack of adequate resources was an issue in coordinating and supporting the delivery of the programme, as well as presenting as an ongoing wider issue that has faced rural community development for many years. This can then place unrealistic expectations on volunteers.

"*All groups feeding into this Asset Development Process (ADP) process highlighted the need for increased financial support for the area, this was necessary for the following reasons: to provide a focused approach to community development locally; to ensure properly resourced activities could be delivered locally, to build local capacity and provide long-term sustainability to local actions; to ensure Castlederg and wider district is represented across statutory, community and business levels…through the animation process however, there is an expressed will for greater integration and sharing, with the key community groups stating a desire to work on a partnership basis in the future*." (ADP)

2. The focus on **assets**, whether the assets of land or the assets held by people is important to recognise. Asset Based Community Development builds on the assets that are found in the community and mobilises individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths. The energies from music, the environment and sports was a vital aspect of the project.

"*We have a troubled history and have found ourselves economically on the edge. The river has been our fault-line, our dividing line. The two clubs never associated. It took this funding to finally see the potential*." (Participant)

3. An important counterbalance to fragmentation at a community level is **place based civic leadership**. This was evidenced through people's commitment to joining the different Steering Groups that were formed, their participation in the programme of activities as well as positions taken and the courage shown in public. Civic leadership includes persistence and clarity of vision, developing the skills of consensus building and negotiation, seeking to grow knowledge. All these elements were evidenced, and need supported and nurtured beyond project timeframes. It is also important to notice and value the new leadership that emerged during lockdown.

"*There has been some change in leadership in the area in recent years that is still bedding down. Feedback received from stakeholders during the animation phase indicated a local aspiration that a more positive future lies ahead for the town and wider community. Local community voices highlight the need for less community division with a focus on commonality and activities/actions designed to bring people together and increase community pride*." (ADP)

4. Peace and reconciliation work often feels like two steps forward and one step back. Wider politics can further fracture fragile relationships and spaces. And yet, the history of places like Castlederg is that there is a resilience and commitment by so many citizens to keep moving forward.

"*If we can get small steps along the way. Incidentally even. New infrastructure brings people together, year on year. My dream is that everyone in Castlederg can belong at any time, in any place – and that the small steps we’ve taken moves us towards this vision*." (Participant)

"*The physical links are there now...The difficult bit is to keep people involved and behind this; creating spaces for people to meet and respect each other. But the two clubs can lead the way.*" (Participant)

**Conclusions**

The tendering process was a positive experience allowing much more flexibility and was easier to administer. The support of the PEACE IV staff as well as Jonathan Henderson, the Council manager of the project, was also appreciated. Issues to consider include the possibility of a pre-application development phase along the lines used by the Heritage Lottery Fund allowing the time to develop the plans and partnerships. The monitoring and evaluation tasks associated with the programme work were considered onerous, off-putting for participants and challenging for volunteers to deliver on.

**Case Study**



**“Turn the flute the other way and it becomes a tin whistle”**

**Arts, Reconciliation and Cultural Heritage Project (ARCH)**

**Introduction**

The North West Cultural Partnership (NWCP) successfully tendered for six individual Peace IV Programmes: three Cross Community Children’s Programmes (and three Cross Community Youth Programmes focusing on Derry-Londonderry, Faughan & Derg). These programmes formed the Arts, Reconciliation and Cultural Heritage (ARCH) Project. Overall NWCP received £307,680 and worked with more than 830 young people across the Council area.

The project’s overall purpose was to introduce young people to a range of different cultural activities in a way that is engaging, entertaining and meaningful. Through the activities young people’s natural curiosity would grow, they would engage with people from different cultural backgrounds and build a better understanding of the cultural identities and their associated activities.

**What was achieved**

The ARCH project built on a previous Peace IV project called Culture Fuse that was delivered by NWCP and Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin.

“*We built on Culture Fuses’ achievement and the confidence that grew through that project. We knew through Culture Fuse that the use of arts and culture works so well – if people are enjoying themselves then they will learn*.” (Project Facilitator)

This was a large project engaging with a significant number of young people across three areas. The project planned to use different approaches including: interactive day trips to places of historical interest across the wider district council area such as Noose or Necklace (a walking tour of the historic walls of Londonderry), and The Honest Sod (comedy theatre-in-education project dealing with the plantation and the different languages used); a series of themed workshops which explored drama, music, art, dance and film making; a special matinee performance at the Walled City Tattoo; a residential visit; and a final celebration event. As with all projects, Covid-19 interrupted the plans halfway through the project with residentials and the final celebration unable to happen. However, significant work and effort went into moving as much as possible online.

“*To ensure that all participants had access to the workshops we created online tutorial videos, forum theatre workshops, which were shared with participants via our social media platforms, on YouTube, our website and via email to parents/guardians, as well as group leaders*. *We are proud of how we responded to the pandemic, how we changed our approach and the delivery of the programme in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the programme and keep our participants engaged.*” (End of Project Report)

Interestingly, the change in approach allowed the project to invest much more heavily in online and physical resources which are open to be used by all and is one of the important legacies of the project.

**What was learned**

1.A confirmation that real learning comes when people feel relaxed, are enjoying themselves and feel that they matter and are valued

“*All too often peace and reconciliation programmes focus on the differences that cause division and encourage people to discuss these, which can in our opinion reinforce division. By encouraging children to experience different cultures in a positive, creative and fun way, they become more open to engaging in a range of activities without any preconceptions or misconceptions*.” (End of Project Report)

2. There were significant challenges in meeting the targets set for participants, particularly as the project wasn’t able to work in schools. This meant that time and resources were spent reconnecting and building up relationships with individual youth groups which was of significant value. This was particularly important for rural youth groups, who often find themselves isolated and solely run by volunteers. The project normalised engagement and created important networks providing a great springboard for further work.

3.The use of Forum Theatre and the online videos produced around key themes such as racism, bullying and mental health was a very powerful and empowering way of engaging with young people.

4. Inter-generational programmes and engagement is a priority. Working with the whole family will create the space for young people to truly grow. This becomes particularly important when working with teenagers who are naturally testing boundaries. This can lead to conversations about the tensions between different understandings around the concept of culture: is it static or fluid; what are young people being given that they wish to preserve and honour; what has been imposed upon them that traps them; what can they choose to embrace.

“*We perhaps need to be better at involving the older generation in delivering projects – those who are caught and trapped in old stories*.” (Project Facilitator)

5. How people perceive and and engage with different physical spaces and their stories in their landscape has always been a core part of Peace and Reconciliaiton.

“*All too often people define shared space as neutral space, where no cultural heritage is present. This in our view is a mistake and discourages people from engaging meaningfully. Certain locations will have more importance to different cultures and it is important that people from different backgrounds are encouraged to visit and gain a better understanding of the cultural heritage present at that location. Participants visited places such as the Alley Threatre, Derry’s Walls, the Millenium Forum, as well as a number of schools and community centres across the area to engage in cross-community activities. Participants have told us that it was the first time they had visted some of the places and this as well as the activities taking place at the locations, will have broaden their preceptions on what shared space is*.” (End of Project Report)

**Conclusions**

This was NWCP’s largest project to date, part delivered during a pandemic, and the relationships, networks and learning developed creates a powerful springboard for future work. The support of the Peace IV Team was also core to the project’s success. The project also noted that tenders provide more flexibility and less administrative burden of the Peace IV staff. A challenge was the number of Peace IV Projects all taking place at the same time competing for participants, often with similar invitations. The baseline and end surveys were problematic and often affected people’s willingness to participate as well as potentially the accuracy of any results. “*Case studies, testimonies and other such qualitative methods provide a better understanding of the success of the project than quantitative surveys*.” (End of Project Report).

**ASPIRE MODEL**

The ASPIRE model is designed especially for the PEACE IV programme in the district matching the 15 key indicators with the aims of the PEACE Programme to change knowledge, understanding and behaviour on peace-related issues, and leave a lasting legacy within communities.

The ASPIRE model is used to assess each of the four PEACE IV themes within Derry City and Strabane district.

ASPIRE explores within each of the three main PEACE IV themes in Derry City and Strabane District:

A – Awareness

S – Sharing

P – Participation

I – Influence

R – Resources and Sustainability

E – Effect overall.

**Shared Spaces and Services**

The Shared Spaces and Services programme supported local initiatives with the aims of making public spaces in cities, towns and villages more inclusive such as addressing sensitive topics around parades, flags, emblems, graffiti and other issues which can serve to intimidate and make some members of society, whether based on religion, race or other factors feel unwelcome in some areas.

The elements of ASPIRE are:

***Awareness*** including sensitivity to, favourability toward, and empathy with people from other backgrounds and cultures.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years;
* Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in the next five years;
* Favourability toward people from other backgrounds whether religious, political or ethnic).

There is repetition in some of the indicators and these indicators were also, according to consistent feedback from participants at all levels, inappropriate for some of the younger people on the programme. Promoters also thought their work was more relevant to forward looking relationships; and that perception of these relationships were not necessarily personal but generic and therefore attitudes could be influenced significantly by ongoing regional news and negative publicity.

In addition, feedback from the PUL community suggests that unachievably high participation ratios (initially 48%:48%:4% though eventually changed to 60%:40% including BAME) put too much pressure on that minority community and created a sense, because they could not meet those figures that the PUL community was not as committed to peace and reconciliation as others.

However, the PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane District delivered important and impactful work affecting current and future relationships. These included:

* Culturefuse blended Irish and Ulster-Scots traditional music including flute bands that included performances and visits to venues and events associated more with one side of the community such as a July 2019 community exhibition, Bready Ulster-Scots Arts Centre, Culturlann, and the New Gate Fringe Festival;
* The Bonfire programme was nominated for the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) best member-led initiative in 2019 because of the collaboration between elected members from across the political spectrum, and progress made on bonfires including movement to wood only, no flags and emblems or posters on a number, and one bonfire agreeing to an alternative to a bonfire. Indeed, at one bonfire at the Somme Historical Hall in Newtownstewart participants were observed wearing GAA tops;
* At Christmas 2019 Castlederg Young Loyalists and traditional musicians played at the switching on of Christmas Tree Lights in Castlederg;
* Waterside Shared Village delivered a first for Northern Ireland – a cross community, cross-interface summer scheme.

There were many other cross community activities that are also highlighted at other points in the report.

However, whether these activities were consciously appreciated by participants as impacting on relationships between Protestants and Catholics in the past or future five years is more open to discussion. The groundwork was certainly laid, though, for more favourability toward people from other backgrounds.

*Rationale + Score*

Because of the lack of relevance of some indicators to some of the programmes and participants, and because of the strain the PUL community felt due to initial targets, combined with significant cross community delivery, we have awarded this element of the programme 6/10.

***Sharing*** including new approaches encouraged, delivered and understanding of others developed by participants and projects.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact;
* Willingness to respect different cultures;
* Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming.

Some of the work highlighted here also impact on other ASPIRE elements. Contact theory is decades if not centuries old and therefore the formula for what works well has been broadly established. That may be why new approaches and new-to-the-area activities are important, and it is important that good practice is shared to ensure widespread knowledge of good practice and enhanced collaboration made more likely.

Significant work was undertaken by the Programme including:

* Early in the programme, by September 2017, the Partnership translated baseline surveys into Irish, Polish and Chinese partly to facilitate involvement of BAME communities most numerous in the city and district.
* Waterside Shared Village organised a very wide range of activities focusing on young people in a mixed side of the city with interfaces. Activities included basketball and football, a St Patrick’s festival and Culture Night, and many other cross community and cross border events. This included the first ever summer scheme across an interface.
* The Interface Investment Programme (IIP) organised across interfaces culture nights and environmental projects, including in 2019 a first joint carol service between The Top of the Hill and Irish Street, a highly contested interface with a peace barrier in the city. The IIP at Tullyally/Curryneirin interface, organised cross community after-school projects and two family bus trips.
* The Interface Investment Programme (IIP) also facilitated the removal and reimagining of graffiti and mural at Top of the Hill/Irish Street interface, and the siting of park benches at the interface.
* The Shared Space tendered programme in three target areas organised cross community parenting classes and facilitated tours of the city on a cross community basis, alongside a culture programme including shared family trips to Belfast.
* The Bonfire Programme issued a joint statement from Council on behalf of non-aligned republican, Sinn Fein, SDLP, Ulster Unionist and DUP Councillors together on issues of commonality on bonfires; and at an August pre-bonfire concert in 2018 residents across Top of the Hill/Irish Street interface attended jointly.
* Castlederg Animation of Shared Space capital works are continuing but is seeking additional land to expand the shared space that will be created from an old bonfire site. A new cross community walking festival, and new projects such as an historical society, dance classes and horticultural activities have also been started.
* The Partnership facilitated nearly 300 media pieces in local and regional publications and electronic media, over a four year period including the lockdown year. This amounts to approximately seven stories per month (or twice per week on average) appearing about the PEACE IV programme promoting good practice.
* Sharing of information and good practice was greatly facilitated by communications delivery by the Partnership including many events for projects to share, newsletters, on-line e-zines. Indeed, project promoters rate very highly the impact of the overall programme on their ability to network and promote their activities, make new collaborative partners, and develop ideas.

*Rationale + Score*

Given the degree of innovation and major steps forward on sensitive issues and across challenging interfaces, and both the volume of networking and communication events organised by the PEACE programme, and positive appreciation of them by project promoters, we have awarded this element of the programme 9/10.

***Participation*** including improvement in how participants and projects may engage with areas and people around them.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Potential for greater participation in civic life in local areas;
* Potential for people to go to places outside their area;
* Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

There will be replication of activities across the ASPIRE themes so not all activities are mentioned in each theme. The onset of restrictions caused by Covid-19 severely curtailed activities just as many of the projects had reached the most important point.

Increased engagement of people in civic life, especially where people are enhancing their relational skills and understanding of diversity and the rights and needs of others, with people who might proportionately come more form areas carrying the legacy of the Troubles most intently, are all aspects of building a positive peace.

Highlights for the participation theme include:

* The launch of the programme, in the cityside at Waterfoot Hotel, attracted 185 attendees with a café culture event that developed ideas and partnerships, and evaluation afterwards showed had encouraged participation in the coming PEACE IV programme.
* The launch and hosting of the Peace-Building Through the Troubles exhibition in Castlederg in January 2020 was well attended by people from all sides of the community.
* Despite Covid restrictions the Waterside Shared Village project still completed a range of activities including a summer festival between Top of the Hill and Irish Street, and a graduation day for the Terrific Twos at St Columb’s Park House Walled Garden.
* Many projects encouraged participants to attend events and activities outside their area even beyond those from interface communities. This included Culturefuse and the attendance of traditional Irish musicians at unionist festivals in unionist areas, and flute bands at Culturlann.

*Rationale + Score*

While there was significant community involvement and some of that took participants to areas doing things that would not have done before, Covid restrictions limited some of what was expected (for example an IIP proposed cross-border link with Dundalk including a BAME focus) some of the activity may not have been sustained enough at this period to continue after funding. Clearly while some has continued such as relationships in Culturefuse, areas where there has been interaction such as Castlederg and at interfaces, risk being undermined by prolonged inactivity. Therefore, we have awarded this element of the programme 8/10.

***Influencing*** including how participants or projects use their knowledge to impact the behaviour of them and others.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Increased knowledge of other cultures (religious, political/ethnic);
* Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds;
* Increase in the number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

Relationship is at the heart of the PEACE programme and this theme references the important behaviours of seeking to know others, socialise and engage with people from other backgrounds actively and positively. Some of that work can, of course, be challenging as knowledge of other can include understanding the difficulties that other communities face, which also can bring home commonalities and internal challenge because of attitudes. This element goes beyond coming in to contact with people from other backgrounds.

Highlights for how the PEACE Programme contributed to this element in the district include:

* The Interface Investment Programme (IIP) project put great emphasis on incorporating BAME communities and understanding their culture. Activities early in the project included visits, culture nights and dialogues. Participation included 86 people from the Fountain/Bogside interface, 14 people from Gobnascale/Irish Street interface, and 25 people from Tullyally/Curryneirin interface.
* The Creative Centenaries exhibition at the Tower Museum in 2018 was organised by and attracted people from across all communities to explore the meaning of 1916-1918 to the shaping of modern Ireland.
* The Valued Voices project tackled a sensitive area of the stories of the hidden victims and survivors of The Troubles and hosted a series of well-attended public events with people from all sides of the community including victims and combatants.
* In Castlederg 70 separate river-based activities were organised as part of the Shared Space and Riverine project facilitating people from different backgrounds to both socialise and undertake sports-related activity.
* Culturefuse facilitated significant musical crossover and collaboration not just with the music but in playing at events, festivals and venues usually associated with one side of the community or another.
* The Bond Street, Shepherds Glen and the Triangle areas have had few previous cross community interventions but residents from the three areas participated in the Different Perspectives programme including cultural diversity workshops, being tourists in their own city and travelling together out of the city. Included in the city tours people from different backgrounds together visited facilities such as the Siege Museum and the Museum of Free Derry to hear about their history and discuss the issues.

There are a number of other outputs and activities mentioned elsewhere in the ASPIRE summary and the case studies.

*Rationale + Score*

Covid has certainly hampered further progress on this element of the ASPIRE model but the selection of highlights above indicates some important cross community sharing and knowledge development. We have awarded this element of the programme 8/10.

***Resources/Sustainability*** including how sustainable change has been effected within people or areas.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Enhanced inclusion within own communities;
* Increased confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity;
* Increased confidence to go to places outside own areas.

This ASPIRE element looks at those indicators that affect sustainability the outcomes of a project such as changed behaviour and attitudes; and can include access to further resources for continuation of a project or aspects of it. It may also relate to changed physical resources in an area and different outlooks within communities.

Some of the highlights for the delivery of the PEACE Programme in the district for this element include:

* The Shared Space Castlederg project has made significant change to space in the town that will have lasting impact. There are efforts to acquire other adjacent land that will help transform that part of the town and make available shared space for use by all sides of the community.
* The Walled Garden within St Columb’s Park house and developed by St Columb’s Park and Derry City and Strabane District Council has transformed a previously unused space into a major resource for activities and use in the Waterside. Indeed, the space has already been used by some projects within the PEACE IV programme for events and activities. It has lent itself to the development of a training programme on sustainable living.
* Continuing within the theme of sustainable, physical change the reimaging of the murals at the Top of the Hill/Irish Street interface has not just improved the appearance of the area along with two new benches, but removed some negative graffiti and murals. Yet, at the start of the PEACE IV programme the Interface Investment Programme (IIP) believed these communities were not yet ready to address graffiti and mural issues.
* The Bonfire project identified the possibility of including it as part of the core work of the Council through the rates although, to date, that has not been possible. Council may seek to sustain the programme after PEACE PLUS and may be more open to inclusion within the rates then. However, Council did re-shape the budget of the bonfire management project to sustain it longer than initially anticipated by making a part-time contribution to the project manager’s salary by asking him to take on another part-time role elsewhere.

It is clear that some of the projects will only continue with sustained funding from PEACE or elsewhere but the projects have contributed to a change in attitude and increased relational knowledge within and between communities. Of course, Covid has meant that contact has not been sustained.

However, projects indicate in the consultation for this evaluation that some or all of their PEACE IV project will be sustained in their project.

In addition, regional and local events affect confidence and commitment to cross community work. The workers in the Fountain expressed a decline in confidence for cross community work after rioting in the area and at the interface in 2018. Brexit will have impacted on that confidence including amidst disagreements over the Northern Ireland protocol.

*Rationale + Score*

Given physical and attitudinal changes as a result of the programme there has been sustained impact. Sustainable is not just about budget and finances although some projects have made efforts to acquire other funding to continue with the project, sometimes successful.

However, Covid has restricted some of the potential for lasting change and reduced the potential for participants to continue to visit areas and places outside of their own.

We have awarded this element of the programme 7/10.

***Effect*** including overall impact of the programme.

The Shared Space and Services programme has provided some very significant outcomes for the district. Amongst other things it has changed the physical environment through the Animation of Shared Space in Castlederg, the Animation of Shared Space at St Columb’s Park House and Waterside Shared Village. The programme has left resources and infrastructure that has permanently changed the areas and will facilitate cross community contact for decades to come.

The programme has also developed many significant relational changes at key interfaces in the city and district at Bogside/Fountain, Top of the Hill/Irish Street, and Gobnascale/Irish Street, with behavioural change evident that would not have been considered possible just a few years ago.

The programme has helped further build already developing cultural relationships between communities and has almost taken the appearance of Loyalist musical expression at Culturlann or Irish traditional music and traditional Loyalist festivals, as common place and normal.

New approaches to interface summer schemes and bonfire management, amongst other things, have been evident and good practice has been shared widely and extensively through networking and communication delivery within the programme.

However, two external factors in particular have limited the impact just at a point when there may have been even more extraordinary movement – Covid-19 restrictions that led to some activities being cancelled and restricted movement within and between areas, and outside political factors including tensions associated more with the regional political environment.

**Radial Chart for Shared Space and Services**

The scores allocated to the Shared Space and Services programme using the ASPIRE model therefore allows for the creation of a radial chart of the project as below – scores are averaged out of ten.

The radial scoring, at a glance, indicates that the programme was very successful and scored well throughout:

* It was very successful at facilitating cross community and cross border contact and communicating the good practice.
* The programme substantially developed the knowledge and behaviours of participants toward other communities during the programme, although the circumstances of the last year impacted on the ability of projects to continue to deliver.
* The programme scored less well on Awareness relating to favourability and previous/next five year attitudes to “other”. It could have scored higher which may have more to do with the relevance of the indicators and projects relative lack of focus on them. Part of that criteria to display more favourability to other communities also requires sustained engagement which was not always possible.
* Availability of resources to sustain projects is always a challenge and the programme scores well due to the completion of physical infrastructure projects that leave a lasting legacy. The monitoring returns show some differences in confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and the confidence to go to places outside participants own area was limited after the onset of Covid restrictions.

**A group of people sitting at tables

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceCase Study**

**Youth Leaders & Citizenship – Strabane Brass Band**

**Introduction**

Strabane Brass Brand received a grant of £10,250 to set up the Strabane Groove Orchestra for 50 young people. From Brass Bands to Rock and Classical Guitar, Pianists and Percussionists, Drummers to those from Ulster Scots traditions and pupils with a learning disability the Groove Orchestra created a space for everyone to make music together.

**What was achieved**

This project was not designed to take young people away from their existing musical projects and traditions but rather to provide an additional, new and fresh shared platform for performance, cultural and social exchange.

As a six-months project, the Strabane Groove Orchestra achieved miracles. It brought together 50 young people from different traditions and different musical abilities and managed to create an orchestra which performed in a number of different venues over 2019-2020. These included playing at the Halloween Celebrations at Melvin Sports Track, providing festive entertainment at the Strabane Christmas Fayre and several performances as part of the Omagh Jazz Festival.

“*Our performance at the Strabane Halloween Celebrations was described by some spectators as “the highlight of the evening”. This was our first public performance and the young musicians were completely professional and fully embraced the ‘dress up’ theme. This performance had surpassed all our expectations from the first rehearsal.*” (Post-Project Evaluation Report)

“*Hearing young musicians make comments such as “I’ve never done this before, but I’ll give it a go…” (to improvising a solo over above the orchestra) has shown that this project has increased musicianship, understanding and confidence without the young person/people even realising*. “ (Post-Project Evaluation Report)

The project opened a new door to what might be possible using the magic of music and builds on a long tradition of music in Strabane with the Brass Bands at the heart of it.

“*Running this project has given us a great solid foundation for what is going to be an exciting future for young musicians in Strabane. It has been the first step in creating the legacy we are striving for*.” (Post-Project Evaluation Report)

**What was learned**

This project has been a working idea for many years but had struggled to take off until the opportunity of PEACE IV allowed Strabane Brass Band to bring this idea to a reality. It sought to do two things – create a truly inclusive space and develop musical abilities and performance.

“*There is a balance to be had between inclusion and performance. We have learned a great deal about this during this project*.” (Project Lead)

The project was also very clear that engaging on peace and reconciliation issues with young people needed to be done in a completely different manner than the conversations with adults. If we deal with these issues in the same way with young people, we will never change the stories.

“*Music allows young people to grow and the town to grow*.” (Project Lead)

**Conclusions**

The support and willingness to go the extra mile of the PEACE IV staff in relation to this project was strongly stated. The downside was the paperwork, and in particular the monitoring forms which were deemed as less appropriate for young people.

**Our Children and Young People**

The Our Children and Young People programme is assessed under the ASPIRE model as outlined below.

Within the context of the PEACE IV Programme in Derry City and Strabane the Our Children and Young People (OCYP) programme was designed to enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others from a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. In particular, young people who are most disadvantaged and hardest to reach were expected to benefit from the investment. Action plans were to target age 0-24 years with good relations interventions. Programmes were to invest in children and young people to reach their potential and contribute to a cohesive society. Good relations interventions were to reduce community division, sectarianism and racism, and enhance reconciliation. Citizenship interventions were to develop participants capacity to positively contribute to family, community and society.

Within the context of ASPIRE, matching the indicators for PEACE IV with the qualities of a successful project, the OCYP programme is measured as follows.

***Awareness*** including sensitivity to, favourability toward, and empathy with people from other backgrounds and cultures.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years;
* Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in the next five years;
* Favourability toward people from other backgrounds whether religious, political or ethnic).

As already highlighted the indicators included some repetition and because of the initial community background targets placed substantial pressure on the local PUL groups and community to fulfil numbers of participants. The inability of local projects to work in schools, inhibited recruitment of children and young people for local projects.

However, the PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane District delivered important and impactful work affecting current and future relationships. These included:

* The Council-led wellbeing focused project, Changing Forms, organised by SWMYP project exploring body shape and perceptions and confidence of young people including work on the Media and Me, creative workshops and a good relations workshop.
* The Youth Leaders and Citizenship project organised a series of cross community and cross border exchange visits including to the war memorial, the Free Derry Museum, Fort Dunree, and the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall. The completed their programme with a celebration event for 160 participants to award certificates and recognise the achievement.
* A Youth Participation and Youth Democracy project organised a Let’s Talk events exploring cultural diversity with 123 participants completing it. Another Let’s Talk Gender identity had 80 participants and let’s Talk Health and Well-being also had 123 participants.

*Rationale + Score*

Like other aspects of the PEACE IV programme in the district there was a significant amount of activity. The theme was hampered by a slow start of which lessons should be learned for PEACE PLUS. It was also possibly inhibited more than others on the other side of the Programme timeline, by the onset of Covid restrictions. Some of the events were less intensely focused on cross community relationships and related issues, while events and activities had cross community participation. These three Awareness indicators also were considered particularly inappropriate for children and young people who, it was suggested, did not think in those terms as much as adults, and who were not conscious of the state of relations five years ago or today. Indeed, some projects had to introduce the concept of religion and real or perceived differences between people from a Protestant and Catholic background.

As a result, we have awarded this element of the programme 5/10.

***Sharing*** including new approaches encouraged, delivered and understanding of others developed by participants and projects.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact;
* Willingness to respect different cultures;
* Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming.

Some of the work will cross several of the indicators given they are repeated. On the Sharing element of ASPIRE that work included:

* Youth Leaders and Citizenship facilitated young people to make a bid to a panel for a share of a small grant of £10,000 to undertake important relevant work. Those that were successful included £1,000 grant for life skills training, £2,000 for a mental health bootcamp, and £7,000 for a re-imaging of Strabane town centre.
* The reimaging in Strabane included a graffiti workshop held at the Alley Theatre with Strabane Academy and Holy Cross Secondary School pupils; and the creation of artwork which has been installed at the back of the theatre.
* The Council-led marginalised youth programme, along with HURT (Have Your Tomorrows) an organisation specialising in alcohol and drug dependency for young people, organised cross community and cross border sessions on Love the Life You Lead. It included participants from Magee College, Innishowen Development Group, Holy Cross High School in Strabane, St Mary’s Limavady, St Mary’s in Derry/Londonderry and a further 30 young people form the District. With Covid restrictions and move to Zoom the numbers had to be reduced, however, from 200 to 100.
* A new street band was established to perform at civic festivals under the Youth Leaders and Citizenship – Street Art Programme aiming to introduce young people to a new musical tradition as well as the young people continuing to engage in their existing musical performances that were more traditional. The newly formed brass band did play at a number of events.

*Rationale + Score*

The strand of ASPIRE included some innovation and a considerable degree of cross community and cross border focus. Hampered by Covid delivery nevertheless often carried on through Zoom or other on-line means. As a result, we have awarded this element of the programme 7/10.

***Participation*** including improvement in how participants and projects may engage with areas and people around them.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Potential for greater participation in civic life in local areas;
* Potential for people to go to places outside their area;
* Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

There will be replication of activities across the ASPIRE themes so not all activities are mentioned in each theme. The onset of restrictions caused by Covid-19 severely curtailed activities just as many of the projects had reached the most important point.

Highlights for the participation theme include:

* The Youth Participation and Democracy project completed over 500 surveys of the opinions and priorities of young people in order to produce a youth manifesto for the district. The development of the manifesto with North West Ministry of Youth also included presentations from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Rainbow and elected representatives from the Council.
* The Pilot Youth Zone, a Council-led project, hosted on-line workshops exploring participation for young people on issues such as communications, public speaking and leadership.
* The Colour Run, good relations workshops and activity days involving six schools (Strabane Academy, Holy Cross, Castlederg High School, Oakgrove Integrated College and St Marys) were organised by Youth Participation and Democracy Day. Some of these are highlighted within the case study sections.
* Along with 20 young people the Youth Leadership and Citizenship project developed a Businesses Youth Charter which 15 organisations signed up to by the end of the programme.

*Rationale + Score*

While Covid and the late start for the programme restricted some activities many hundreds of young people participated through the programme with delivery of activities that impacted on civic life and young peoples’ participation, and increased contact with people from other communities within the district and outside it. Therefore, we have awarded this element of the programme 8/10.

***Influencing*** including how participants or projects use their knowledge to impact the behaviour of them and others.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Increased knowledge of other cultures (religious, political/ethnic);
* Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds;
* Increase in the number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

Changing behaviours is therefore an important part of these indicators associated with the Influencing theme within ASPIRE. Highlights for how the PEACE Programme contributed to this element in the district include:

* The Cross Community Youth Programme (CCYP) hosted a series of workshops on music and dance, exploring what culture means to the young people. The Cross Community Children’s programme (CCCP) hosted a series of workshops focusing on arts and crafts, jigsaws of Northern Ireland and creation of face masks. The exercises were designed to develop a greater understanding of other cultures and backgrounds as well as their own.
* An Ambassadors programme organised a Youth Participation and Democracy Programme which included the recruitment of 15 mentoring organisations for young people as mentees. It also organised speakers for the youth manifesto including organisations such as Rainbow talking about gender identity.
* The Youth Leaders and Citizenship project organised a Take Back the Streets arts and performance event in 2019.
* The Let’s Talk series of events sought to develop better understanding and changed behaviour on issues such as gender identity, cultural diversity and health and well-being, and were attended by many dozens of young people each evening.

*Rationale + Score*

Covid has certainly hampered further progress on this element of the ASPIRE model but the selection of highlights above indicates some important cross community sharing and knowledge development. However, some activities focus on issues other than those relating to the core peace and reconciliation aims of the PEACE IV programme and building a positive peace, though of undoubted benefit to the young participants. We have awarded this element of the programme 7/10.

***Resources/Sustainability*** including how sustainable change has been effected within people or areas.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Enhanced inclusion within own communities;
* Increased confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity;
* Increased confidence to go to places outside own areas.

This ASPIRE element looks at those indicators that affect sustainability the outcomes of a project such as changed behaviour and attitudes; and can include access to further resources for continuation of a project or aspects of it. It may also relate to changed physical resources in an area and different outlooks within communities.

While the overall monitoring and evaluation information suggests confidence and change was less for young people than adults than all of the PEACE IV Programmes (other than the re-bid community projects), the results were still high for those participating in the children and young peoples’ programmes.

Some of the highlights for the delivery of the PEACE Programme in the district for this element include:

* The business youth charter was signed up to by 15 organisations and businesses in the district including Derry City and Strabane District Council. It also included MIM Engineering, NU print and the North West Regional College.
* Through the Young Leaders and Citizenship project young people helped to clear up the canal basin area in Strabane, an historic industrial heritage site. They are now seeking to create an art piece for it involving young people from Strabane Academy and Holy Cross Secondary School.
* The mentoring programme with YPDP, the mental and physical health bootcamps with Youth Leadership and Citizenship project, and the various engagements by the Council-led marginalised youth project, may provide examples of projects that created sustained change for young participants in their health and wellbeing.
* Leadership training and opportunities for engagement in activities throughout all projects will have helped develop an understanding of personal capacity and an understanding of other cultures and identities.
* The CCYP and CCCP projects across the district will have developed a better understanding of young peoples’ own cultural identify and therefore their personal confidence as they engage in other aspects of community life. Its statistics show better results for young participants than the other OCYP projects.

*Rationale + Score*

Given the significant investment in children and young people and the variety of projects that have engaged so many young people, the PEACE IV programme will have had lasting impact on the district. Of course, working with young people is a constant need as young people continually pass through youth systems and services. The programme made an effort to facilitate sustainable change in the skills and outlook of young people, and in the areas in which they live. Progress was restricted by a slow start to this element of the programme and by the impact of Covid restrictions once the projects had got into full swing.

We have awarded this element of the programme 6/10.

***Effect*** including overall impact of the programme.

There was significant and sustained cross community work, and efforts to facilitate systemic change with initiatives such as a youth manifesto, mentoring and a business charter. The programme also facilitated physical change in areas leading to increased use of shared space and the young participants involvement in shaping that space.

However, the Our Children and Young People programme started nearly a year later than other themes and was perhaps most affected by lockdown and the need to deliver on-line more than in person by the end of the programme. However, many new initiatives were piloted and many young people involved in activities that built relationships. There were other activities focusing on the mental health and physical well-being of young people at risk of marginalisation and radicalisation.

**Radial Chart for Our Children and Young People**

The scores allocated to the Our Children and Young People programme using the ASPIRE model therefore allows for the creation of a radial chart of the project as below – scores are averaged out of ten.

The radial scoring, at a glance, indicates that the programme was very successful and scored well especially regarding the Participation and Sharing aspects. It scored less well on Awareness and Resources/Sustainability. Issues coming out of the ASPIRE model for Building positive Relations include:

* The programme was delayed a little at the start taking more time than usual to recruit and gain the trust of young participants – and was probably most affected toward the end of the programme by the effect of Covid and lockdown.
* Ease of recruitment became a major inhibiting factor as SEUPB rules governing the large regional projects meant that local projects could not recruit from schools.
* The monitoring returns show young people did not develop confidence as much as adults to challenge or go to areas that they were not familiar with.
* The monitoring returns also showed that young people did not indicate as much development of respect for their own or other cultures as much as adults, other than results shown for the re-bid projects.
* The programme included major time and investment in learning around mental health and well-being, important in itself though less a focus of the PEACE IV indicators.
* Young people and children were not able to properly engage in indicators set by SEUPB around attitudes to Protestants and Catholics five years ago and today, and their favourability toward people from other religious backgrounds (Awareness under ASPIRE); and setting baselines within those indicators proved a challenge.
* There were sustainable outcomes in terms of skills and resources such as the Canal Basin clean-up and mental health and physical health bootcamps, but those outcomes referenced PEACE IV indicators less.

**Peace IV Case Study**

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**Natural Connections: Peace Tourism**

**Introduction**

This was a Council led project connecting citizens and groups across the city from different cultural heritages, backgrounds and experiences to develop a community led tourism offer of stories and the histories of conflict and reconciliation that have shaped the city.

“*Among the objectives of the overall project is allowing Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area to position itself as a place for community, local, regional and international field trips and residential and training/awareness experiences for the benefit of dialogue and peacebuilding*.” (https://acityforpeace.com)

**What was achieved**

There were a number of strands including:

The establishment of a **Steering Group** of around 20 community-based groups and organisations from across the city wishing to grow their community led tourism provision.

“*The relationship with Council and with each other as stakeholders has been invaluable. To be part of and connect to wider networks. This will last well beyond the Peace IV funding*.” (Project Staff)

A **Development Programme** to grow the skills and confidence of those wishing to become community led tourism providers. This included the funding of minor infrastructure such as Museum Archival software and an audio system to help with presentations in the Free Derry Museum; an audio tour guide system to help facilitate tour groups at the museum, and also incorporating visits to the Derry Walls and Walkers Plinth, which is being developed by the Siege Museum as a tourism attraction; audio tour guide systems to facilitate tours focused on St. Columba across the city by the Churches Trust; re-plastering and restoring Free Derry Corner with the Gasyard Development Trust.

An **Animation Programme** linked to eight key areas including the City’s Walls and significant shared spaces.

“*The animation programme enabled local, regional and international visitors to explore the often contested stories on or around the Walls. The animation allowed our communities and visitors to step back in time and discover our contested history through the implementation of innovative animation and interpretation.”*

(Post-Project Evaluation Report)

The development of a **brand** with three **experiences and pilot packages** created: Crucible City; Walled Town; Island of Derry. Website <https://acityforpeace.com>.

“*It is hoped that the brand will be incorporated into future marketing, which can showcase the experiences developed as well as the improved offerings from members of the steering group, as well as working toward including experiences in larger scale campaigns such as “Embrace a Giant Spirit” which is the new Northern Ireland tourism experience based brand launched in 2019*.” (Post-Project Evaluation Report)

Research initiation/engagement around **Migration and Maritime Museum** including historical Irish/Ulster Scots and contemporary migration/refugees, tackling racism, promotion of diversity.

**What was learned**

Right from the outset, the project was clear that this was not about creating one agreed shared narrative.

“*It’s ok being a city with different narratives – we haven’t tried to create one story. Each group and organisation could shape and tell their own narrative within a set of guidelines we created. Within the collaborative network, people heard each other’s stories and learned about different perspectives*.” (Project Staff)

**Conclusions**

There were reflections on the level of paperwork required and the slowness of the system with regards getting approval for spend, particularly when changes to the programme had been agreed in principle. A broader reflection is how entrepreneurship and social enterprise can be supported with ease through PEACE funding.

“*PEACE Plus needs to imbue an entrepreneurial spirit.”*

**Building Positive Relations**

The Building Positive Relations programme is assessed under the ASPIRE model as outlined below.

As already indicated the indicators included some repetition and because of the initial community background targets placed substantial pressure on the local PUL groups and community to fulfil numbers of participants.

Building good relations is one aspect of building a positive peace according to the Global Peace Indices, alongside properly function government, including local government and public agencies.

Within the context of PEACE IV in Derry City and Strabane Building Positive Relations was set to target the promotion of 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. Activities were anticipated to focus on developing strong inclusive civic leadership promoting positive relationships, encouraging dialogue, and supporting practical efforts to bring about change between individuals and communities. Initiatives were expected to evidence commitment to tackling real and complex issues, such as sectarianism and racism.

Within the context of ASPIRE, matching the indicators for PEACE IV with the qualities of a successful project, the Building Positive Relations programme is measured as follows.

***Awareness*** including sensitivity to, favourability toward, and empathy with people from other backgrounds and cultures.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years;
* Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in the next five years;
* Favourability toward people from other backgrounds whether religious, political or ethnic).

The PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane District delivered many different and impactful projects within the Building Positive Relations theme, both through tendered and grant aid including small grants. These included:

* The One Community programme identified eight good relations champions and facilitated a number of good relations workshops. The project received 26 formal applications from people wishing to take part.
* The Exploring Identity project hosted a number of dialogues and discussions as part of the new Gate Fringe Festival including around Ulster English, the legacy of the Troubles, Unionism and community relations, and on a new Ireland. This also included a cross border collaboration with St Johnston Loyal Orange Lodge in Donegal.
* The We All Belong campaign highlighted many different cultures and backgrounds in an outdoor billboard and poster campaign to promote a message that all people of whatever background belong in the district equally – backgrounds and identities featuring in large billboards throughout the district included BAME, Traveller, LGBT, flute bands, Irish dancers, and people with disabilities.
* Unheard Voices included participants completing an Open College Network level Three qualification in positive encounter storytelling including through dialogues and workshops between different communities.

*Rationale + Score*

While a significant volume of work was completed the Awareness theme in ASPIRE references relational change between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years until now, and participant favourability toward Other. Monitoring and evaluation results are also positive but the indicators do not always match projects and projects valued these indicators least of all. As a result, we have awarded this element of the programme 7/10.

***Sharing*** including new approaches encouraged, delivered and understanding of others developed by participants and projects.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact;
* Willingness to respect different cultures;
* Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming.

Significant work was undertaken by the PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane included:

* The Riverine Cross Community Cross Border Environmental project physically improving an area of Strabane, was supported with 73 letters of intent to use the site including, for example, the Bahai Community North West Success group. The project was launched by the Mayors of Derry City and Strabane District Council and of Donegal County Council.
* The Beyond Tokenism project produced a new educational resource, Just Us, arising from a planning your health conference organised during the project. An education pack was also produced as part of a linked project, We All Belong.
* The Decade of Commemoration project through one of its activities, a new exhibition at the Tower Museum “Making History, 1918” referenced issues such as the end of the Great War, local participation in it, the 1918-1920 flu epidemic, women’s suffrage and the ongoing relevance of these issues today. There were 25 people involved in the community outreach. Post-Covid the outreach went on-line successfully.
* The Decade of Commemorations project ran three outreach initiatives “Drawn from Borders” with 30 people participating from the district and Donegal. Participants visited Clady to talk about mutual experiences living in a border town.

*Rationale + Score*

As there was significant cross community and cross border engagement, and real efforts to make physical and perceptual changes about the welcoming nature of different areas throughout the district, we have awarded this element of the programme 9/10.

***Participation*** including improvement in how participants and projects may engage with areas and people around them.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Potential for greater participation in civic life in local areas;
* Potential for people to go to places outside their area;
* Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

There will be replication of activities across the ASPIRE themes so not all activities are mentioned in each theme. The onset of restrictions caused by Covid-19 severely curtailed activities just as many of the projects had reached the most important point.

Promoting a positive peace also reinforces the importance of good relations and increasing participation in civic life and addressing exclusion in socio-economic terms.

Highlights for the participation theme include:

* Examining Patriarchy and Patriarchal Attitudes Post Conflict included 37 people on baseline training, storytelling and a conference. This included cross border community education projects. A publication of good practice included interviews with 30 people. The project ran seven community education initiatives when the initial target was for three, including participation by 14 young women in Letterkenny.
* The project Uniting Through Sports focused on six sports some of which are associated with one side of the community more than another (e.g. Gaelic football, hockey and cricket) including community relations workshops and dialogues.
* The Leadership and Co-operation programme for marginalised young people and adults provided leadership and development programmes with a new play trail working in association with Foyle Down Syndrome.
* The natural connections tourism conference, a Council-led initiative, hosted the Our Place, Our Voice conference involving people from across the community in the district.
* The small grant facilitated the development and production of a community arts project, Don’t Shoot My Wane, Shoot Me, exploring issues around punishment attacks in disadvantaged areas and affecting marginalised young people in danger of radicalisation. The showings were extremely well received across the community.

*Rationale + Score*

While Covid significantly affected all aspects of the programme significant participation and increased contact was achieved, with significant and meaningful cross community and cross border dialogue. Therefore, we have awarded this element of the programme 9/10.

***Influencing*** including how participants or projects use their knowledge to impact the behaviour of them and others.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Increased knowledge of other cultures (religious, political/ethnic);
* Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds;
* Increase in the number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic).

This element relates to how participation has led to possible changes in behaviour and therefore influenced change. Highlights for how the PEACE Programme contributed to this element in the district include:

* The Unheard Voices project had participants completed an OCN level three in Encounter Storytelling including the publication of a resource for future projects and programmes. The project also facilitated a 200 word/one picture exhibition in Central Library that was also hosted in other libraries in the district. A series of storytelling sessions including cross community dialogue sensitive issues such as the Guildford Four
* The United Communities Through Sport included the immediate participation of 15 sports clubs from across the community.
* Under Exploring Identity various initiatives included a common threads tapestry project involving women from across the community telling the story of women in the last 100 years, and Traditions Meet involving marching bands, traditional Irish music and contemporary music to compose unique pieces of music, choreographed with Irish and Highland dancing.
* The Beyond Tolerance project produced a Travellers Needs report as part of a health conference and series of discussions and workshops involving Travellers.
* As part of a leadership and Co-operation project 50 young people from across the community in Greysteel, Donemana, Lifford and Strabane visited and dialogued with the Chinese Association, North West Islamic Association, Londonderry Bands Forum, and also started an OCN as well as develop relevant resources for future use.

*Rationale + Score*

The programme engaged with some of the most difficult and sensitive issues and also with different groupings within all sides of the community including age, gender, and BAME groupings. We believe the programme has influenced and facilitated change relevant to peace and reconciliation. We have awarded this element of the programme 8/10.

***Resources/Sustainability*** including how sustainable change has been effected within people or areas.

Key indicators for this element of ASPIRE are:

* Enhanced inclusion within own communities;
* Increased confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity;
* Increased confidence to go to places outside own areas.

This ASPIRE element looks at those indicators that affect sustainability the outcomes of a project such as changed behaviour, attitudes and the confidence that participants have picked up to further change attitudes. It may also relate to changed physical resources in an area and different outlooks within communities.

Some of the highlights for the delivery of the PEACE Programme in the district for this element include:

* The Just Us publication through the Leadership and Co-operation project is being used by 16 youth practitioners, linked to a multi-media training package.
* The Examining Patriarchy project included production of a number of publications and resources that may have longer term impact. This included a training the trainer’s resource, and a gender justice training resource. A copy of the Liberation from Patriarchy publication has been presented to the United Nations. Over 500 copies of the Reimagining Human relations publication has been produced.
* The Riverine project while physically changing a shared space in Strabane also delivered a litter picking initiative with new equipment and signage as part of a new Environmental Toolkit library.
* The We All Belong project produced an educational pack for use by schools in the district.
* The Decade of Commemorations project managed to adapt to the new Covid environment with a number of on-line events including OUT North West Queer history of the Irish revolution publication, A Day in the Life a contemporary look at l8ife during lockdown, Art for All with people with disabilities, Create your own comic for young people during lockdown, and photos of the border during an invisible borders initiative.

It is clear that some of the projects will only continue with sustained funding from PEACE or elsewhere but the projects have contributed significant resources. Of course, Covid has meant that contact has not been sustained though some projects clearly and ambitiously reviewed and reinvented their project during lockdown.

*Rationale + Score*

Given the number of resources and publications produced, and the impact of leaving resources and the impact of the various dialogues identified we have awarded this element of the programme 7/10.

***Effect*** including overall impact of the programme.

The Building Positive Relations programme has created significant impact especially in the participation of large numbers of people from different backgrounds, the identification of good practice and sharing of models, including through the publication of so many resources and publications.

The programme has made substantial contribution to building a positive peace in the district through the volume and quality of good relations work, and how government and public agencies have been engaged with people across the community on sensitive issues.

The programme has ensured many more people have been engaged in civic activities and have developed their skills and knowledge to further engage in the future. Many of the initiatives funded through the PEACE IV programme have also promoted more inclusion within harder to reach and previously disengaged communities.

**Radial Chart for Building Positive Relations**

The scores allocated to the Building Positive Relations programme using the ASPIRE model therefore allows for the creation of a radial chart of the project as below – scores are averaged out of ten.

The radial scoring, at a glance, indicates that the programme was very successful and scored well especially regarding the Participation and Sharing aspects. It scored less well on Awareness. Issues coming out of the ASPIRE model for Building Positive Relations include:

* The *Awareness* indicators were considered less relevant than other PEACE IV indicators.
* There was considerable activity with large numbers on a cross community and cross border basis that affected the *Sharing* and *Participation* aspects of ASPIRE. The participation of people in civic life through the many dialogues and events organised by the programme will have long-term consequence especially in exploring issues and this level of understanding on sensitive issues.
* The *Influencing* element of the ASPIRE model was also strong through relational and cultural activity and the exploration of many issues beyond those of traditional divisions.
* Therefore, many BAME issues and groups were involved in many projects including projects dedicated to developing understanding on target groups such as Travellers, BAME and LGBT communities.

**CASE STUDY**

**A group of people posing for a photo

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**North West Ministry of Youth – ‘Dancing to our own tunes’**

**Introduction**

The voices as well as the growth and personal development of young people across our society truly matter to both Co-operation Ireland and the Education Authority who worked together on a Peace IV Project from September 2019. The North West Ministry of Youth – Youth Voices Project was a local youth engagement project for young people aged between 14 to 18 recruited from Strabane, Derry and Donegal. Those involved became a voice for other young people for the North West and the project delivered in partnership with EA and local provider Pennyburn YC provided a range of opportunities for youth to create change for the better.

The project received just under £80 000.

**What was achieved**

A participative structure was established made up of a diverse group of 35 young people aged 14-18 years, representative of each of the post-primary, special education schools and further education colleges. “*We’d had loads of career talks over three days, and this felt so different. I felt that this was the first time ever that something was being set up by young people for young people.”* (Ministry of Youth Member)

All eight District Electoral Areas are represented on the first cohort with two cross-border representatives from Donegal. The project was launched in October 2019. “*A key memory for me was the first time the young people came together in Pilot’s Row – they were terrified out of their minds. The journey that they have been on has been incredible. To see now their confidence, skills, ability to speak out and presentation.*” (Project Partner)

The young people had five months together, pre-COVID, growing their relationships, participating in training and engaging with elected representatives and Council officers. In early March 2020 they went on a two-day study visit to Wales which turned out to be a significant turning point for young people and adults alike. “*We were asked at short notice to quickly prepare a presentation on our process and journey. The adults were trying to sort out a few things at that moment, so we had to let the young people get on with it themselves. And they just blew everyone away. The diversity of voices and their clarity and confidence was incredible. People were amazed that they had only been meeting since 5th October*.” (Project Partner)

The trip to Wales opened up the possibilities around what was possible and allowed a shift of power from adults to the young people. From April 2020 onwards, there has been an impressive amount of online work done by the young people: the development of a Manifesto, participation in media interviews, City Deal, campaigns such as the ‘Trousers for All’ leading to a motion passed unanimously within the Council Chamber setting out to change the school rules and allow young female students the opportunity to wear trousers if they so wish.

“*The Trouser Campaign was phenomenal. And it has rippled out across the schools. Through a small Zoom conversation there started off a conversation about how unfair it was that girls had to wear skirts all year round. And it rippled out from houses, into the street and then into the classroom*.” (Project Partner)

The bulk of the work was been conducted online as the project shifted to mainly Zoom. The role of the supporting youth workers in making the online experience work for the young people with everything they were dealing with is significant, particularly as they were also learning and thinking on their feet. “*During the beginning of COVID, nothing else was happening. This kept me going – the only thing that kept me going*.” (Ministry of Youth Member)

In addition to what was achieved in the project, there have many ripples as the young people in their own areas take on projects as well as learning within the EA with other statutory agencies as they grow the Youth Voice structures regionally and at a local government level.

**What was learned**

1.The willingness to keep things going despite Covid and the working relationships that developed between the key practitioners (those that delivered and facilitated sessions) involved was noted as a key strength of the project.

2.A distinctive feature of the North West Ministry of Youth was that there was a greater shift of power from adults to the young people. There has been clarity with regards the levels of participation and the young people’s ambition. This project has opened up understanding around the different levels of engagement, what is possible and what the dream is. To sustain this requires structural changes in hierarchies, ways of working, assumptions, power structures within institutions, and resource allocation.

3. The ‘what if’ and ‘why not?’ attitude of the supporting adults was critical. “*Our recipe was team work and being able to bounce off each other. We also had great leaders who just kept saying, go for it. Give it a go*.” (Ministry of Youth Member) This kind of entrepreneurial outlook does not necessarily sit easily with the culture of many statutory organisations and in particular financial processes and it is credit to the partnership that it became so much part of the culture of this project.

4. A strong partnership grew between the youth workers of the supporting organisations. Investing in these relationships at the start, building trust, ensuring shared understandings and clarity on roles created the space for the young people to grow and flourish. Without this investment in relationships between adults, the space for the young people can quickly be one of control as opposed to ‘letting go’.

5. The North West Ministry of Youth has been treated with a greater level of seriousness and respect than many previous youth engagement structures have been. There seems to be a number of different reasons for this including the nature and strength of the partnership, as well as the creation of a formal structure with departments that reflected the areas of responsibility within the Council. This allowed a mirroring of the adult structure and a formal engagement with key areas of responsibility. However, the NW Ministry of Youth did not just reflect the Council structures, it also offered a different way of making decisions. “*Whilst there were departments, the young people jumped in and out of departments if others needed help, were missing or sick. Each young person could talk about all departments. They understood the full picture*.” (Project Partner).

**Conclusions**

This project was Council led sub-contracted through a tendering process to Cooperation Ireland working in partnership with the Education Authority and Pennyburn Youth Centre. The nature of this partnership was vital to the success of this project with a clear accountability path back to the Council in terms of taking the young people seriously. Post PEACE IV funding, a new cohort of young people are being recruited now with the project supported by the EA, Pennyburn Youth Centre and the Council. Finally, a plea was made with regards the development of monitoring and evaluation surveys that are relevant and appropriate to young people.

**Joint ASPIRE Radial Chart**

A radial chart to compare each of the three programme themes is included below. The overall programme had most impact around Sharing and Participation reflecting some of the numbers involved especially in cross community and cross border activities. Indeed, these aspects were and are strengths of project promoters, as organisations, participating in the PEACE IV Programme.

The aspect of ASPIRE presenting most challenge was around Awareness relating especially to the plethora and relevance of monitoring and evaluation indicators and those focusing on relationships between Protestants and Catholics five years ago and now.

Covid had an impact on sustainability/resources and perhaps especially on the Our Children and Young People programme, although the late start of that programme also impacted on its ability to deliver even greater cross community and cross border engagement and long-term attitudinal change.

**CASE STUDY**

**A group of people posing for a photo

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**Culturefuse by Culturlann and the North West Cultural Partnership**

**INTRODUCTION**

Culture Fuse brings together and celebrated the distinct and diverse cultural expressions found in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area and the wider cross-border region including the Irish language community, Ulster Scots and Marching Bands traditions.

The origin was in a ground-breaking and courageous relationship between Culturlann and Droichead with the Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF) that included a loyalist band playing at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. The relationship has grown and strengthened since and developed into Culture Fuse.

**WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?**

The aim of the project was to promote cultural diversity, inclusion and peace through an extensive programme of activities. This included:

**Women in Culture** - Exploration of women’s contribution to cultural expression and the understanding of how they define their identity;

**Language Initiatives** - The delivery of Irish Language classes in perceived shared and neutral spaces, engaging learners from broadly PUL communities and other non-traditional learner

**Traditions Meet** - The exploration of traditions, heritage and culture inclusive of PUL, CNR, Rural, Urban, Irish, Ulster Scots and minority ethnic communities;

**Dialogue and Discussions** - A forum for frank, honest conversations and debate and discussions on all the subjects related to sensitive topics;

**New Gate Fringe Festival and Walled City Tattoo** – Expansion of the Tattoo to include cross-cultural performances particularly from the local Irish traditional sector;

**Mentoring & Advocacy** with St Johnson's groups across the border.

The project enhanced relationships with all participating organisations including the Londonderry Bands Forum, Bready and District Ulster Scots Development Association, Sollus school of Highland Dance, Sollus Cultural Promotions, Bob Harte Memorial Trust and Blue Eagle Productions

An independent evaluation indicated that the largest number of participants out of those who responded to a survey took part in the Walled City Tattoo activity (61%) followed by Traditions Meet (22%), Irish Language Initiatives (10%) and Women in Culture (5, 7%). Most participants completed the activities (94%). A critical measure of success for this programme was the impact that the activities would have on participants everyday support for more inclusive and integrated communities.

There was an increased confidence in 74% of participants to challenge racism and sectarianism going forward. As the report concludes, "this is a profound outcome and another critical impact to be celebrated by the Culture Fuse team."

**WHAT WAS LEARNED?**

1. This project's biggest strength was the foundation on which this project was built. It was created from a successful engagement and relationship that was established from 2013. Trust is key for any engagement to work and this had been well established prior to the project starting.

"*No one dominated. All parts leading and equal. Often the PUL is seen as the weaker player – not in this project. We were able to challenge misconceptions around the PUL community and culture*." (Culture Fuse)

This web of relationships helped create mediative opportunities and spaces with other individuals and places beyond this project.

2. The approach of using music and dance was very important at an individual level as people engage on the basis of enjoyment and fun. The establishment of friendships where people are perceived as culturally different and formed friendships based on a shared love of music or dance exemplifies the potential of finding common links. Engaging with language can however be more problematic.

"*There is still gatekeeping with regards the Irish language. Music and bands etc. can be much easier. With the language, politics and the media keep the barriers up*." (Culture Fuse)

3. We all inhabit different spaces: secret, private and public. There are always challenges in any projects focusing on change when people can say and behave differently across the different spaces as well as depending on who they are with. This can sometimes be very hard for workers.

Gender relations were also tackled. What might be seen as ‘acceptable' expression of women's cultural identities in private space might not be 'acceptable' in public cultural space often shaped by men.

4. Building and challenging relationships through cultural activities isn’t just about singing and dancing.

"*It's what happens before and after the performance and the human connections and relationships that are built up. Projects have to be given the space, resources and time to grow from the performance.*" (Culture Fuse)

It's also important that cultural activities don't focus on 'observing the other' but shift the gaze inwards.

5. When reconciliation is based on equality rather than equity it can often compound differences. If you have an Irish Dancer you need to have an Ulster Scots dancer; the 50/50 rule cements the two tribes.

"*The monitoring and the funding and the whole system contradicts the objectives and what people are trying to do. We play the game and in the playing the rules are upheld. and the system is maintained."* (Culture Fuse)

6. As a sector, the reconciliation/good relations sector can be competitive as groups compete for limited resources. We need to be a sector that acknowledges that working with middle class communities is as valuable as working in economically deprived areas.

An area that requires more critical thinking is the relationship between poverty and cultural identities, choices around engaging with a variety of cultural activities and how power can be exercised as a consequence of those choices.

"*Those areas with very little resources have few options with regards cultural expression and life. They are offered a limited menu and they take it. In more affluent areas they can choose which cultural activities to go with*." (Culture Fuse)

7. Sustaining the web of relationships and civic leadership grown over the last number of years between key organisations has been challenging during COVID-19 and the many lockdowns. This is in a context where political activity around identity, culture and the Decade of Centenaries has not stopped and where a strong mediative space is important.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The importance of an existing strong partnership and preparatory public information sessions to better understand processes and requirements prior to applying was invaluable to this project. The tender process was also experienced as much more flexible and easier to manage than a grant. There was a recurring theme around needing more resources to manage the level of administrative accountability required through this programme. Droichead has also been doing a lot of work and thinking about monitoring and evaluation with a recent report 'Measuring Up' outlining their recommendations.

**Case Study.**

A picture containing sky, person, outdoor, group

Description automatically generated**“***Saoirse! Get back here, the Fountain’s this way.*’

**Connecting Communities Project**

**Interface Investment Programme - Fountain & Bishop Street area**

**Bogside Brandywell Initiative**

**Introduction**

This project continued the long journey within the Triax area of Derry/Londonderry of connecting neighbours and growing resilience as communities get buffeted by wider events and uncertain politics. The Triax area is the Neighbourhood Renewal area covering the Bogside, Brandywell, Creggan, Fountain and Bishop Street. Delivered by the Bogside and Brandywelll Initiative, the Connecting Communities Project received £80 000 to run a diverse programme of activities for different demographics, continuing to build relationships across all sections of the community with a specific focus on citizens from a black, Asian and/or minority ethnic background (BAME). It built on previous IFI Peace Walls and Urban Villages funding.

**What was achieved**

The project’s activities included seasonal festival, cross-cultural workshops, history and heritage, crafts, volunteering, trips, health & wellbeing programmes, learning new languages, and ‘get togethers’ over food. Anything and everything was tried which triggered a shared interest between people and created the space to feel safe in each other’s company and to be proud of welcoming each other into their spaces and communiites.

“*In terms of shared space, we’d progressed, but we needed more events. Initially some people refused to go to the Fountain out of fear. After reassurances they did and found a great welcome. We’ve found a changing attitude. When we plan events or bus pickups we don’t have to say in advance where they’ll be. There’s a willingness to go wherever we can get a space… open doors now for residents from across the area to access services. People are moving more freely.”* (End of Project Report)

A highlight for the project was developing relationships with citizens from BAME backgrounds.

“*This is best demonstrated by the Cross-Culture Initiative project where we brought together the members of the Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group and the Islamic Society. This created the opportunity for the Pink Ladies to visit the Islamic Society, where eight different nationalities come together to share and learn about their different cultures and traditions. This permitted for learning on both sides with the Pink Ladies providing Cancer awareness information to the BME groups, while promoting understanding tolerance and respect, and incorporate cross cultural engagement*s.” (End of Project Report)

The project is rightly proud that since the project there has been a reduction in tension, sectarianism and violence within the area which has an immediate impact on people’s sense of safety and opportunities to focus on key issues such as poverty, mental health and education. Relationships make things possible. The lack of them reduces opportunities.

“*The Mela event we held at the interface was the most successful event we have ever held with 3,500 people. PEACE IV gave us the confidence to hold it*.” (Project Coordinator)

**What was learned**

1. Starting with people’s skills, gifts, and what they are proud is a powerful way of connecting neighbours in new ways, often generating new answers to shared wellbeing concerns. It is a kind of organizing that offers a contrast to one based on anger and fear.

2.The monitoring surveys indicate that greater number of women were involved than men. This is a common pattern within wider community development and highlights the importance of understanding how gender dynamics play out in wider community relations and change.

3. It was at times challenging to find facilitators who are skilled in supporting inter-sectional learning, helping people critically engage with all their layers of identities as opposed to just one. Investing in building this capacity for the city might be a useful consideration for any pre-programme work and investment. Without these skills, it can be difficult to deliver programmes that take people into much deeper conversations.

4. Peace and reconciliation work is multi-track: different levels and working with people who are all at different stages, often shaped by age and generation.

“*Peace work is so hard – it’s about nudging it forward in tiny steps. And we need to engage differently with different generations and peoples. We still need the bread-and-butter work – those coming behind us. And we need to push others deeper. Those born 1995 onwards are still being educated on their history. You then have pre-ceasefire generation, post ceasefire and then older folk* *– all with different stories and experiences*.” (Project Coordinator)

5. The pandemic pressed the pause button for BBI which was very welcome. It allowed staff and volunteers to step back and have to space to think about things as well as allowing new relationships to be built through the delivery of food and hampers.

**Conclusions**

The Connecting Communities project was a tender process, which worked very well with the Peace IV team always really and available to help with any issues or problems. There was an interesting reflection about whether different Council departments had different tendering and procurement rules and processes and whether these could be aligned. The absence of a designated officer in Donegal County Council to liaise with, with regards connecting to groups for cross-border Peace IV work was also noted as challenging. Finally, the pre and post questionnaires were felt to be too long, with many repeated questions. Feedback indicated that a number of people were put off participating in other elements of the project if they had experienced the questionnaires. There was also a strong recommendation that any future Peace funding there should continue to focus on the integration of current or emerging BAME groups in the region.

**Lessons From Case Studies**

The PEACE IV Programme in Derry City and Strabane District supported many dozens of projects and initiatives. It is difficult to highlight some over others. However, we have focused on 15 such projects through this report as tasters of the work supported and facilitated through the PEACE IV Programme.

These 15 case studies are also part of a separate publication provided to the Partnership.

There are many commonalities about the 15 case studies in terms of lessons learned of relevance to the PEACE Programme, how it operated in PEACE IV as well as learning for PEACE Plus.

The case studies all complimented the PEACE IV team for the support to their project as it rolled out. The PEACE IV team were considered supportive and available to assist; and provided development opportunities for projects and organisations. The regular networking events that brought projects together focused on learning to improve the projects and organisations which was welcomed and thought to be of real benefit to projects and participants.

The tendering process was preferred as a model of delivery offering flexibility and clarity over other methods. Projects felt that a pre-application or tendering phase may, though, be of benefit. That would include a pre-application or tendering phase when partnerships could be developed so that delivery was as strong as it could be by the time a project was due to start.

The level of administration was criticised as burdensome by many projects as were the monitoring and evaluation requirements. The projects thought there were too many indicators and that they were unhelpful. The process of monitoring and evaluation, including the use of iPads, could have been improved according to many of the projects especially where they engaged large numbers of participants.

Projects thought that the unique participants rule – allowing one participant to participate in one PEACE project at a time – was problematic. Projects reported they might not turn participants away but would then have to hide the participant or find funding from elsewhere. Most projects did not accept participants if they were on another PEACE project. The competition to sign up young people was especially criticised.

Some also believed the number of hours and requirement to keep young people on projects for six months did not work well for the young people and was impractical.

Feedback from case studies and key issues include:

* Projects had a clear preference for tendering and continued access to small grants in some form, though they also believed the administration for a small grant was disproportionate to the size of the grant.
* A preference for a pre-application or tendering phase that allowed for skilling up and for partnerships to be properly developed before a project started – this may include a framing of projects and project delivery before the tendering process and certainly the development of key partners before the tendering process and tender award.
* Council involvement in projects was often praised and found to be valuable but it was preferred that Council not lead on a project.
* When land acquisition was involved, care should be taken at the potential time and effort required to acquire land – and the Partnership may wish to set limits on the type, nature and extent of land purchase.

**Conclusions**

The PEACE IV programme in Derry City and Strabane District has successfully delivered a range of interventions that have led to sustainable change in the knowledge, skills and behaviour of participants; created physical changes to the district that will facilitate greater cross community and cross border interaction; and created resources that will be used for many years to come.

The programme has been effective, value for money and generated greater trust between those participating and managing the projects and programme. This includes greater engagement with and between social partners and statutory partners, and greater trust between communities and statutory partners such as Council and the PSNI.

The PEACE IV programme in the district has made a major contribution to the building of a positive peace in the district, albeit long term in nature with an inevitable ebb and flow as peace evolves.

The Board worked well together and provided sufficient and significant support to staff and projects. The early engagement of the Board in PEACE Plus would provide further comfort to staff and potential projects. Attendance at Board meetings has been good and particular recognition should be acknowledged by elected representatives from all parties, social partners giving their time and experience on sensitive good relations issues for the benefit of other social partners, and statutory agencies many of whom engaged strongly throughout the programme especially the PSNI and NIHE representatives. The Board should continue to be aware of the importance of maintaining good attendance rates across all sectors.

The impact of Covid occurred just at the wrong time for many projects as they had built momentum and were about to enter the final year of delivery. However, while some projects struggled to cope with the impact of Covid and lockdowns, other projects embraced digital and on-line delivery especially if their project lent itself to that type of engagement.

Other regional and political-related issues affected delivery or made delivery more challenging, especially Brexit and the contention around the Northern Ireland protocol. While the contention strained relations politically in Northern Ireland, projects continued to deliver meaningful cross community and cross border collaborations.

There were several examples of innovation and good practice many of which have been highlighted in the report through case studies and reference during the ASPIRE summaries.

The important of EU PEACE monies and the support offered by SEUPB cannot be over-estimated in importance for Derry City and Strabane. SEUPB have a difficult role be accountable for all of the PEACE funding for the whole region while also liaising and supporting sub-regional funding bodies such as the PEACE Partnerships.

However, the projects supported in Derry City and Strabane highlighted a number of aspects of the programme that they felt inhibited their delivery in their areas and with their participants. This especially included:

* Monitoring and information requirements;
* The number and relevance of indicators;
* Limitations placed on participants regarding participation in more than one PEACE project.

The Executive Office has recently focused on three aspects of delivery, reflected in a shorter and more focused good relations evaluation process – Knowledge, Understanding and Behaviour. The indicators identified by the PEACE programme often come back to these three changes applied to relational development.

Indicators and the requirements for community background participation rates are important and cross cutting aspects of delivery of the PEACE programme. While many differing views exist about the needs and detail of the indicators, the programme is still a peace programme designed to promote reconciliation between people from different community, religious and ethnic backgrounds. As such, monitoring participation rates and delivery across backgrounds is necessary.

However, in Derry City and Strabane district the proportionate balance between people from a Protestant and Catholic community background was initially unrealistic and placed too much pressure on projects to recruit from the minority community in the area. Indeed, that minority community (Protestant background) often reported the additional pressure it put on them – beyond that they feared other participant organisations might question their commitment as they were unable to meet quotas.

The Partnership in the district benefited from the services of a dedicated statistician which facilitated initial plans for the monitoring and evaluation processes. However, the post was not sustained and, while it may not have been missed so much in the middle stages of the programme, it was a significant miss toward the end and as the overall programme sought to shape and deliver on its monitoring and evaluation commitments.

Monitoring and evaluation should be a two-way process between the sub-regional funder (the Peace Partnership) that monitors upwards to justify the funding and evidence change, and monitors downwards to help projects identify ways to improve delivery. The monitoring and evaluation process was regarded as focused much more on the upward priority (types of monitoring questions and where information was shared) as opposed to benefiting delivery on the ground.

The availability of a statistician throughout the programme, to work with project promoters as well as facilitate obligations to the regional funder, would have made the monitoring and evaluation processes easier but also more likely to have provided useful information to projects to improve delivery.

The cross community focus of the programme is essential to the PEACE programme given its aims and objectives. Other funding is available for community support, health and mental health or job-related training. However, the importance of recognising and incorporating the effect of disadvantage and marginalisation, especially on younger people, is clear as an inhibitor to reconciliation. Marginalised young people on all sides of the community, and their vulnerability to radicalisation, is an aspect of peace-building or extremist prevention that lends itself to at least initial intervention on a single identity basis. It may be through PEACE IV there has been greater recognition of this aspect of reconciliation, of an element of single identity work being important to initially make contact and engage with these young people. This is not about mental health and confidence building it is the most challenging core need for engaging young people at risk of radicalisation.

Perhaps PEACE Plus should reinforce the need to engage with these young people and be mindful of shaping up to its relevance through the lens of reconciliation rather than a lens of mental health and well-being.

Interventions such as these need a local presence, knowledge, reputation and trust locally. They also need specific skills around the engagement, and ultimate contact between marginalised young people from both a Protestant and Catholic community background. However, the degree of single identity work should be carefully monitored and young participants should be clear that it is part of a continuum toward cross community engagement.

The programme has also delivered sustained and significant interventions with minority communities, including BAME, LGBT, people with disabilities, and Travellers amongst others. This has helped enhance civic participation by and within those communities and section 75 groups.

Indeed, the significant efforts to ensure issues of rural and minority inclusion are evident in an analysis of the monitoring returns by the end of the Programme, and the Partnership and staff are to be commended for using these returns during the Programme to further shape its response to inclusion.

A process of tendering may allow for greater flexibility in the delivery of such challenging programmes. This would include the need to develop partnerships early in a project. The tendering mechanism with preparation and pre-application planning, was the most popular future programme mechanism identified by project promoters. Promoters also favoured continuing small grant availability although both projects and the Partnership highlighted the considerable work involved in assessing, decision-making and monitoring small grants. The potential for a resource allocation methodology may provide small grant access while reducing the administrative burden for projects and Partnership staff.

Many cross border projects have been supported by the PEACE IV programme in the district and a number of physical infrastructure developments. Issues surrounding Brexit give an added impetus to cross border relationship building while the infrastructure projects have enhanced and increased availability of shared space in sensitive areas.

Of course, infrastructure projects often have longer lead-in times and any future projects should be cognisant of issues of delay surrounding PEACE IV projects with protracted and ultimately unresolved issues around ownership of land or/and property.

Derry City and Strabane district has a formidable reputation for innovative and ground-breaking peace and reconciliation work, with equally formidable promoters and deliverers of such work. The PEACE Programme provides an opportunity to continue to build on that good practice and the deserved Northern Ireland-wide reputation. However, like relational work itself, the practice needs sustained and continually updated and strengthened. The PEACE programme in the district should be mindful of the need to continue to challenge project promoters and continue to expect even better.

Equally, the structure and delivery of support for PEACE IV in the district is extremely well regarded. Those involved in the programme, at Board and staff level, have experience, a considerable and positive reputation and track record. The Partnership is well-respected as a local funder, trusted by project promoters and has provided sound judgement in their balancing of the needs of projects on the ground and the needs of SEUPB and the PEACE programme at regional level. Part of that is because support to the Partnership is provided by an equally trusted, respected and experienced staff team.

PEACE IV has made a major contribution to building a positive peace in a district that experiences the most significant challenges for peace building and relational development through Northern Ireland and the border counties.

**CASE STUDY**

**A group of women posing for a picture

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Restoration of a Walled Garden by St Columb’s Park House and Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**INTRODUCTION**

St Columb's Park House recently celebrated 25 years of reconciliation and peace building work in the heart of St Columb's Park. The restoration of the Victorian Walled Garden, which lies at the back of the house, was identified as a priority in Derry City and Strabane District Council’s Parks Development Programme and the Strategic Growth Plan.

"*The vision was the physical transformation of space – a derelict community space bringing back the history and ethos of a walled garden in a historic domain. The garden needed to be true to the history of the place and the people around it*." (Colin Kennedy DCSDC)

**WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?**

Once the funding was in place the construction and restoration work was relatively straightforward which included clearing the site, laying out the historic path network and the rebuilding and restoring of the Walled Garden enclosure, completed in September 2019. Then the animation programme could begin, inviting people into the space to explore how they might wish to connect to it and grow a space where they could feel valued and safe. A one year 'taster programme' focused on a number of different areas including Health & Wellbeing, Young People, Permaculture, History. It employed one development worker for 20 hours a week with a target of 150 people participating for 26 hours each.

**WHAT WAS LEARNED**

1.It has been well documented that over this last year, shaped by intermittent lockdowns, there has been renewed interest and focus on our relationships with the **rest of the natural world** and the benefits of these relationships to our wellbeing. Outdoor spaces can be places of conflict or reconciliation. St Columb's Park has been an area of anti-social behaviour and sectarian attacks and a great deal of work has taken place to ensure that it is a safe space for all to access.

2. It is important to understand not only the history of people but also how this history is connected to the **land** itself. St Columb's Park have been shaped by the power of many institutions including the church, the military and the families who lived there This project was about opening up the grounds to all communities and backgrounds as an important part of tackling any sensitivities to exclusion.

3. The relationship between the **capital and animation phases** of this project generates important learning. Traditionally the results from capital projects are much more visible and often seem more attractive in terms of investment. The investment in people is where the buildings, the parks begin to come alive, but it takes time. if we are to shift from service delivery to community development.

4. More than ever local authorities are struggling with the challenges of ever-increasing complexity, growing demand for services, and continuing reductions in resources. The **evolving relationship between the Council and SCPH** through this project offers important learning as the possibilities and challenges ahead around the shared management and care of natural spaces and assets.

**CONCLUSIONS**

This experience of managing a tender was referred to as positive by SCPH, and both the Council and SCPH reflected on the value of having development plans and partnerships in place as a pre-application process. A challenge was ensuring sufficient resources to deliver on the development work required to meet the targets as well as the administrative tasks. There was an overall reflection about the need to design a monitoring and evaluation system that responds compassionately to change and to the realities that participants’ lives change.

**Recommendations**

Recommendations are drawn from the evidence and feedback outlined throughout the report, often in summaries of key issues after each section. We have also attempted to separate the recommendations into sections for consideration by the existing and future Partnership, and for SEUPB in terms of issues that are of regional rather than sub-regional relevance.

*Management and Administration*

Recommendations include:

1. The tendering process worked well and was regarded as offering greater flexibility for both promoters and the Partnership. At the same time, consultees were also keen to have a small grants programme continue to be facilitated. Tendering for larger projects should be the preferred model for future delivery.
2. The Partnership may wish to explore the potential for a resource allocation process as a means of reducing the administration burden of small grant allocations while avoiding duplication of any small grant programme operating regionally through SEUPB.
3. As part of a greater focus on tendering the Partnership should see evidence that partnerships, where required, have already been progressed before the submission of tenders. The Partnership should support a programme of preparation for tendering for the local voluntary and community sector.
4. The array of support products offered by the Derry City and Strabane PEACE IV Partnerships was well regarded by project promoters. The new programme should continue the focus on those aspects of support that included a) personal support from staff, b) ability to network and promote projects, c) building stronger cross community and cross border collaboration, and d) empathetic support on the administration requirements of the PEACE programme.
5. The use of iPads was well intentioned and despite some criticism from projects the Partnership should continue to embrace new technologies to help with the management and administration of projects. With fewer monitoring questions and more iPads for those projects with larger numbers of participants, the iPads may have worked better. The Partnership should explore further technological aids in association with a dedicated statistician, and blend new technology with continued use of hard copy and more traditional means of gathering relevant information in confidence.
6. The new Partnership Board should engage early in the PEACE Plus programme but there should also be a review of its membership and how to continue to ensure engagement from all sectors and partners. The review can be carried out by local PEACE staff involving the Board as appropriate and should include reflection on a) sustaining attendance rates and the engagement of partners throughout the lifetime of the programme, b) ensuring that for social partners there is both representation from community planning area based structures but also social partners that bring broader strategic focus on issues and on good relations, c) providing appropriate balance of partners between elected representatives and social partners in particular. Statutory partners had the lowest attendance rate in PEACE IV (while still good) and should a) name specific alternatives, and b) only agree to participate on the Partnership if attendance is adequate and they are contributing positively for the lifetime of the programme.
7. The Partnership, in its recruitment process, should maintain a list of reserves for co-opting on to the Partnership if a member leaves the Partnership due to poor attendance or other commitments. A reserve list will facilitate smooth maintenance of numbers. While mindful of proportionate representation across the sectors reserve list participation, when needed, may allow recruitment and replacement on need rather than by sector.

*Process*

The monitoring and evaluation of the programme was raised consistently during the evaluation. In many ways the mirroring of the Life and Times questions for monitoring and evaluation appeared to project promoters to speak more to the ambition to prove the worth of the overall Northern Ireland wide programme than to help projects deliver better and more targeted projects. Recommendations include:

1. The Partnership should employ a dedicated statistician for assisting project promoters looking to communities to deliver better for and with project promoters. The monitoring and evaluation process is also about helping projects do what they do better as well as provide statistics to inform the overall programme looking upwards at the EU and political oversight.
2. Going forward into PEACE Plus the Partnership should naturally abide by all requirements on monitoring and evaluation set by SEUPB at a regional level. However, especially if a statistician can assist throughout the programme, the Partnership should consider a co-design process with projects focusing on a) how information is collected, b) when information is collected during their project, c) whether some additional information can be collected that will be of use to the project as it develops its project, and d) how the project can access this additional information in a timely and useful way. An initial monitoring and evaluation seminar should be a compulsory part of the programme. The Partnership may usefully agree a monitoring and evaluation framework for and with projects. The framework would obviously need to meet all obligations for SEUPB and the funding, but may also incorporate key outcomes around Knowledge, Understanding and Behaviour and the dynamics of building a positive peace.
3. A resource allocation should be explored before committing to a full small grant programme element in order to reduce bureaucracy and administrative burden on Partnership staff and projects. The Partnership should ask staff to provide an options paper that explores practice elsewhere and possibilities within the Programme and requirements from SEUPB, without regional duplication on small grants.

*Programme Delivery*

We have not provided recommendations by theme but rather for delivery of programmes as a whole. The PEACE IV programme in the Council area was successful at delivering many projects touching on sensitive and challenging issues with capital projects focused on shared space, and both inter-generational and youth projects, as well as many others. Good practice and successes within the PEACE IV programme should be built on. Recommendations include:

1. The PEACE Partnership should identify what has worked particularly well during the programme and seek to sustain the achievements. We believe this includes the engagement of young people around interfaces; identifying and tackling issues linked with marginalised young people at risk of radicalisation; and making further progress on sensitive and contentious issues.
2. The new programme should embrace the need for some aspects of single identity work especially when considering the identified needs regarding young people, often at risk of radicalisation and their slightly lower than general average scores for confidence to challenge sectarianism and racism, understanding of their own culture, and inclusion within their own community. These were relevant for all sides of the community but especially PUL youth, other than for the re-bid projects.
3. Given the impact of the re-bid process, tendering for youth projects in the future should reinforce the PEACE-related outcomes anticipated, and reinforce the need for pre-tendering preparations involving organisations with strong community roots.
4. Given the prolonged nature of land acquisition in some projects for PEACE IV the Partnership should avoid projects that are reliant on land acquisition unless meeting criteria that facilitate acquisition within a reasonable timeframe where the project promoter has an element of control.
5. The Partnership should ensure, especially with the potential for a reduced overall amount of funding and with a focus on DEAs for at least part of the delivery, that the hard good relations and peace-building issues have priority. Gateway issues should be minimised at this stage of the PEACE programme.

*PEACE PLUS*

The forthcoming PEACE Plus programme provides an opportunity to sustain and develop the successes of the PEACE IV programme in the Council area, learn some lessons and further embed the commitment to the PEACE programme as a whole. The Council area has performed strikingly well in the promotion of peace and reconciliation, not just through the EU PEACE Programmes, but in other aspects of peace-building. The new iteration of the PEACE programme will provide opportunity to further enhance the work.

Recommendations looking ahead to the PEACE Plus programme include:

1. Given the ongoing impact of Brexit and the challenges presented in a wider regional context but also to relationships across the border, the programme should even further enhance its commitment to cross-border work and cross-border relationship building. Already there have been similar commitments from other funders such as from the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, the Shared Island Unit and the Reconciliation Fund. However, they have relatively small overall budgets compared to the PEACE Plus programme.
2. Any future cross-border programmes, given the sensitivities involved and focus on east-west barriers, should prioritise social well-being and the important aspects of building a positive peace.
3. There appears clear linkage between disadvantage and disaffection with the peace process, and in an area like Derry City and Strabane that includes a potential for young people on either side of the community to be radicalised. The new programme should reflect on its ability to make a major contribution to greater community cohesion in how it approaches supporting single identity work that tackles the most disaffected communities especially with young people, and how it focuses attention on the most disadvantaged areas. Single identity work is still important when dealing with intra community fall-out and when stimulating low-level involvement in peace-building work with the most marginalised young people at greatest risk of being radicalised.
4. The new programme should consider international learning and visits especially if organised on a cross-community and cross-border basis. The early years of the peace process and, indeed, of the PEACE Programme highlighted the benefit of getting people off the island into a different environment for open, honest and challenging reflection on the peace-building needs for individuals and communities; and to develop long-lasting individual relationships. Given the current context of Brexit and polarisation, it may be a useful time to consider international experience to set a context for important conversations with local impact.
5. The achievement of community background targets that were too ambitious proved not just difficult but potentially counter-productive to the useful and positive engagement in the programme of members of minority communities. The PUL population in the Council area felt over-whelmed and were concerned that their inability to sufficiently engage numbers was perceived as a lack of commitment to the programme or to relationship-building in the Council area. Targets should be realistic because the purpose of the programme is to promote reconciliation rather than achieve arbitrary statistical targets. The targets should take into account the changing demography of an area and reflect the latest Census findings which may be available for the new programme.
6. The new programme should facilitate participation a) across different projects of the same person within reason and, b) involve young people at a local level and involve schools at a local level rather than prioritise participation in regional programmes. Local delivery is more meaningful and local delivery agents more sensitive to local issues.
7. The Partnership, if implementing a model mirroring community planning, should avoid the pitfalls of funded projects not addressing big strategic issues across the district, while also limiting opportunity for public agencies to benefit from funding at the expense of local community-based organisations.
8. The ongoing participation of minority groups in civic participation and leadership should continue to be a priority for the PEACE Programme in the district going forward.

*SEUPB*

These recommendations are not in the gift of the Partnership but would assist sub-regional funders like the Partnership in the context of the challenging set of relationships they have as a funder to local projects and as a partner to a regional funder.

Recommendations include:

1. The indicators and targets were too numerous and often did not therefore become priorities for the projects. There should be fewer and more focused indicators that highlight the desired outcomes. This may include a deliberate attempt to correlate with the priority areas highlighted in The Executive Office monitoring – Knowledge, Understanding and Behavioural change.
2. The questions asked were considered particularly inappropriate for children and young people and were adapted by the Partnership as the programme evolved. Monitoring questions should be at once more sophisticated and easier for younger people to understand.
3. From the outset the programme should have a more realistic target for beneficiary background balancing. The PUL/CNR participation should reflect the area and also consciously avoid putting unnecessary pressure on PUL-led partners in Derry City and Strabane district. A more realistic balance may be 65%-35% including BAME and PUL communities, depending on new Census information.
4. Any programme focusing on work with children and young people should a) adopt suitable indicators and, b) allow local projects to facilitate all means of access to children and young people including schools and colleges.
5. Within reason, projects should be allowed to recruit a participant even if they are already participating in another PEACE project. This limit and therefore participant accessibility to the PEACE Programme should be recalibrated especially when there is greater pressure to find community background balance and minority ethnic participation. Aside from that, allowing participants to participate on more than one project may reduce the need for some of the more intrusive monitoring questions and, importantly, help projects with financial planning.

**Case Study**

**A picture containing skating, person, outdoor, trick

Description automatically generatedTake Back the Streets**

**Introduction**

This was a powerful project exploring concepts of identity, shared space and physical, social and mental borders using four different street art forms: circus; dance; graffiti; parkour. In Your Space Circus, Create Dance, UV Arts and Jump NI worked as a partnership with over 200 young people recruited from across the Council area and Donegal with activities delivered across the region. The project received £45 000.

**What was achieved**

Take Back the Streets was delivered in four phases with initial open recruitment to attract unattached young people. The first phase offered introductory classes in each of the street art forms; the second phase was an intensive Summer Academy.

“*We took over Derry City for one week in July with our Big Top tent erected in Guildhall Square and using facilities around the City including Playhouse (Graffiti), Pilot’s Row (Parkour) and Nerve Centre (Dance). The Academy week involved intense training in each of the disciplines, coupled with the Peace and Reconciliation content and exploration of incorporating the themes into the development of the final showcase work for each discipline*.” (End of Project Report)

The Academy week was a major component of the Derry City and Strabane District Council’s REWIRE festival which finished with a Street Arts Festival and was attended by more than 12 000 people. The young people were at the very heart of the Festival in terms of planning, delivery and performance. The week culminated in a performance in the Big Top.

“*This was an incredible journey of growth and development culminating in an intensive week with our performance at the end. The adrenaline, the pep talks, the excitement…we were living and working together for a whole week in the lead up to that event*! “(Project Facilitator)

The fourth phase focused on recruiting existing groups of young people. These included: Killygordon Community Group – based in Donegal; Jigsaw Project – Autism group based in the Waterside area; Londonderry YMCA – Based in Drumahoe on the Waterside; IYSC Aerial Flyers Group – based in the centre of Derry City. COVID-19 hit in the middle of this programme. However, an online programme of Circus and street arts was later developed which included a digital Christmas showcase and daily sessions in various circus disciplines.

“*Online delivery was a great success, much to our surprise, and ensured we could engage new participants alongside existing Circus School members. These young people were engaged in online classes alongside Good Relations ‘homework’ activity sheets (developed through another Good Relations project we have been delivering*. “(End of Project Report)

**What was learned**

1.The narrative ‘taking back our streets’ was very powerful, lending itself to art forms which expanded young people’s sense of self and confidence as well as expanding their ease in moving their bodies through their physical spaces.

“*We constantly wove this narrative through all the art forms. Reclaiming our streets, our town. Make this town yours. Stamp your identity on to it. Have courage and walk with your head held high*.” (Project Facilitator)

“‘*This project really helped my daughter's anxiety, had a positive impact on her mental wellbeing and helped her confidence. The people who ran the circus were amazing and Luke's wise words "just be yourself, but if that's too hard be whoever you want to be" was exactly what she needed to hear and meant she was able to perform in front of crowds! I cannot thank you enough!’ (Parent)*

2. There was great learning across the four street art disciplines with regards stitching in Good Relations into the practice. For example, circus equipment and practice was used to metaphorically explore issues.

“*We used the tightwire to discuss moving from one place to another, crossing a border, and how it feels to be on that journey. The tightwire is also useful for exploring balance, both literal and attitudinal*.” (Project Facilitator)

3. The concept of borders was viewed differently, often depending on where the young people were coming from with the facilitators learning and adapting with the young people.

“*It was interesting to see how rural based groups (including a group from Killygordon in Donegal) raised different issues in term of attitudes towards borders, as did people from different backgrounds, and the metaphorical border between those living in towns/cities and rural communities*.” (Project Facilitator)

5. Differences in understanding between the lived experience of young people and the lived experience of bureaucracies around political and religious identities was a tension. This became most apparent in the completion of the Peace IV monitoring forms.

“*Often the people who work in these structures and bureaucracies are living in a completely different world to young people. A different constellation. They need to work with young people to develop the questions in the future. The forms seemed to introduce a very different narrative than that of the project They felt extractive, putting us into boxes rather than inclusive, empowering and layered*.” (Project Facilitator)

A lot of the young people didn’t know that these differences existed. What mattered to them were issues around sexuality, education, mental health, having craic with mates. We need to develop that larger definition of how we achieve a peaceful society.

Taking Back the Streets closed as a project as there is was growing realisation of the emergency facing young people who have survived the pandemic in a very difficult political environment. “*We need to grow that sense of collective emergency. But there is limited money at the moment, so our focus is on surviving internally before we can look outwards. There are just no resources*.” (Project Facilitator)

**Conclusions**

The tender amount for this project was not enough for its size and and the targets expected in terms of numbers. This caused significant challenges for existing Project Staff. The retention of young people was also difficult over a long period of time, particularly with a limited budget. It was far easier to engage with participants in a more deep and meaningful way over an intense, shorter time period. Finally, there was very positive feedback about the support of the Peace IV staff, their encouragement kindness and flexibility.

*We are extremely proud of the project; it has laid a template for future projects and partnership development. There is also a legacy of a number of participants who are now engaging across our other projects and programmes*. (Project Facilitator)

**APPENDIX A**

ASPIRE

Impact and Recommendations

| **ASPIRE theme** | **Indicators** | **Conclusions** | **Recommendations for future** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Awareness | 1. Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years? 2. Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in five years? 3. Favourability toward people from other backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic)? | These indicators were considered less relevant for projects especially within the OCYP theme.  Nevertheless, contact and improved relationships between people form different political and religious backgrounds is a core part of the PEACE Programme.  Impact was also restricted by Covid and by a later start for some programmes.  Potential for single identity work where there is a need based on marginalisation and radicalisation, as part of continuum toward cross community contact. | In the future there should be:   * Better focus from indicators and fewer indicators. * Continued focus on core PEACE outcomes, but with the potential for single identity work to tackle radicalisation and as part of a continuum. * Ongoing commitment to the type of cross community engagement there has been on the programme in the district to date. * A dedicated statistician that may help projects identify in real time improvements to outreach and impact of their delivery on people from different backgrounds. |
| Sharing | 1. Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact? 2. Willingness to respect different cultures? 3. Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming? | Dozens of experiential learning activities, often recognised as high quality and impactful.  Innovation and ambitious projects.  Real crossing of areas by people from either side of the community.  Building on existing cultural exchange and good practice.  Significant BAME inclusion and projects. | In the future there should be:   * Pre-tendering focus which may help develop greater concentration on cross community and cross border contact. * Continuation of networking events and assistance with communication and good practice identification. * Increased contact and further dialogue and focus on sensitive or contentious issues. * Further integration of BAME related issues in mainstream programmes. |
| Participation | 1. Potential for greater participation in civic life in local areas 2. Potential for people to go to places outside their areas 3. Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic) | Significant numbers in involved in important and impactful projects and skills development.  Meaningful cross community and cross border visits.  Innovative work within and between communities that would not have been considered possible a few years ago.  Greater visibility of minority communities in civic life. | In the future there should be:   * Continued focus on cross community and cross border work and focus on peace and reconciliation key issues. * Continued efforts to engage BAME and other minority communities into civic leadership positions. * Learning from other areas of conflict and division. * Further use of local, challenging facilities that would be more associated with one or the other side of the community. * More empathetic and relevant monitoring of participation and learning. |
| Influencing | 1. Increased knowledge of other cultures (religious/political/ethnic) 2. Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds 3. Increase in number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (religious/political/ethnic) | Evident and significant learning.  Development of relationships, though with OCYP the late start to the theme and Covid toward the end restricted opportunities to a degree.  Genuine learning and enhanced respect across traditional and non-traditional cultural backgrounds, especially when projects were rooted locally within communities. | In the future there should be:   * Focus on those initiatives that have the potential to transform relationships between people and government, local and central as well as key public agencies such as the PSNI. * Explore communication materials to help get the message across re successes on core peace building issues, relationship development, engagement with government and public agencies. * Continued focus on peace and reconciliation core issues. |
| Resources/  Sustainability | 1. Enhanced inclusion within own communities 2. Increased confidence to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity 3. Increased confidence to go to places outside own areas | The participant monitoring returns demonstrated significant positive feedback from participants.  Projects have indicated that some or all of their project will continue within their project, mostly regardless of whether further funding is acquired.  Skills development within participants is evidenced in the report.  Many activities have led to physical change within areas conducive to enhanced cross community contact.  New working relationships have been formed between people and organisations across the community. | In the future there should be:   * Continued focus on cross community and cross border engagement. * Continued concentration on sensitive and contentious issues, the more difficult conversations and on peace and reconciliation criteria. * Exploration of the reasons for slight dip in confidence for younger participants and amongst the PUL community, while still high, for learning for PEACE Plus. * Exploration of other funding sources for projects beyond PEACE Plus. * Incorporating an developmental aspect exploring other funding and sustainability opportunities for after PEACE Plus is completed. |
| General | 1 The PEACE IV programme has facilitated a large number of very positive activities, initiatives, influenced policy and practice, involved new people and provided a close examination of good practice in civic engagement;  2 The programme, going forward, also needs to reflect on how it communicates the large amount of activity and outcomes associated with the programme. | The six relevant pillars of building a positive peace include effectively functioning government, good relations, open decision-making, recognising others and their rights, skills development, and the equitable distribution of resources.  The networking events and publications supported by the Partnership in the district were very well regarded by projects. | In the future there should be:   * Continued focus on equitable distribution of PEACE funding, including by geography and community background. The monitoring processes, while overly burdensome at times, are important in keeping a record of equity and helping projects within communities as well as evidencing impact upwards. * The involvement of public agencies in the processes is important as recognition of the role of effective government and institutions, as is continued efforts to ensure openness and transparency in decision-making. * The inter and intra community work highlights both the building of trust and increasing recognition of others, and their rights. * The Partnership may wish to further reflect on continuing to support such positive engagement with funded projects, and how they may more directly provide communication and promotional support to funded projects. |

**APPENDIX B**

Consultation

The following stakeholders participated through interviews, workshops and case study engagement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Organisation** |
|  | Molly | Rainbow |
| Allen | Brian | North West Cricket Union |
| Anderson | Lisa | Culturefuse/Droichead |
| Barr | Tommy | Strabane Brass Band |
| Bell | Ann Marie | Pennyburn Youth Club |
| Blakeley | Luke | In Your Space |
| Bonner | Dominic | Youth Action |
| Brennan | Harry | GAC |
| Brennick | Emma | Kinship Care |
| Brown | Morris | Dergview FC |
| Cooke | Catherine | Foyle Women’s Information Network |
| Coyle | Jennifer | PEACE IV Partnership |
| Cummins | Cara | Ministry of Youth |
| Curran | Chris | New Gate |
| Deane | Gerard | Holywell |
| Deeney | Gerard | NIHE |
| Devenney | Nuala | Rainbow |
| Devine | Sinead | OLT |
| Divin | Sue | PEACE IV Partnership |
| Doherty | Sharon | St Columb’s Park House |
| Doherty | Conor | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Doherty | Roisin | Tower Museum |
| Dougherty | Brian | Culturefuse |
| Fegan | Fiona | Inner City Churches Trust |
| Fennel | Barry | Cooperation Ireland |
| Ferguson | Cllr Rachel | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Gallagher | Cllr Paul | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Gibbons | Wendy | Outer West Neighbourhood Renewal |
| Green | Olive | Greater Shantallow Community Arts |
| Hampsey | Melita | Shared Space Waterside |
| Healy | Kat | Beyond Tolerance |
| Henderson | Jonathan | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Hetherington | Maureen | The Junction |
| Higgins | Cathy | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Kee | Megan | Kinship Care |
| Kelly | John | Nerve Centre |
| Kennedy | Colin | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Kerlin | Maryclaire | PEACE IV Partnership |
| Lafferty | Fiona | PEACE IV Partnership |
| Lewis | David | Nerve Centre |
| Luczak | Agniszta | Polish Abroad |
| Lynch | Claire | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| McBride | Cath | Take Back the Streets |
| McClintock | Ald Hilary | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| McCloskey | Donna | BBI |
| McGuikan | Ren | Rainbow |
| McLaughlin | Margaret | Dennet |
| McTaggart | Anne | Youth Action |
| Moore | Derek | Culturefuse/Londonderry Bands Forum |
| Mullan-Carlin | Rachel | BBI |
| Nicol | Chris | Education Authority |
| O’Donnell | Jennifer | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| O’Hara | Caroline | Destined |
| O’Kane | Philip | Rapid |
| O’Neill | Grainne | St Columb’s Park House |
| Pollock | Catherine | Culturefuse/Droichead |
| Quigley | Enya | North West Migrant Forum |
| Redpath | Caroline | Youth Action |
| Reilly | Cllr Martin | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Scrivens | Karen | Beyond Tolerance |
| Shenahan | Sorcha | Makey Uppers |
| Tau | Nikki | Beyond Tolerance |
| Thompson | Kyle | Culturefuse/New Gate |
| Tierney | Cllr Brian | Derry City and Strabane District Council |
| Walker | Gemma | Makey Uppers |
| Wallace | Alison | Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership |
| Walsh | Danny | Ministry of Youth |
| Walsh | Bernadette | Tower Museum |
| Wooller | Rhonda | Shared Space Waterside |

**Workshops and Survey**

Eight workshops were held – six at the start of the evaluation and two at the end to discuss indicative findings. At the start separate workshops were held by four themes (Our Children and Young People, Shared Space and Services, Building Positive Relations, and Building Positive Relations small grants) as well as for PEACE IV staff and the PEACE IV Partnership board. Overall, 45 people attended these workshops.

A survey was distributed to all projects during the evaluation. A total of 27 returns were made by projects.

**APPENDIX C**

Traffic Lights

by

Indicator

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Indicator** | **Clear Delivery** | **Comment** |
|  | | | |
| 1 | Positivity about relations between Protestants and Catholics over the last five years |  | Questions relating to attitudes to people from other backgrounds were especially problematic for the Children and Young Peoples’ programme and alternative indicators were sought or projects developed explanatory processes given the age of some of the children. Some of the children involved were of primary school age so had neither the capacity or memory to answer the questions. Those delivering the programmes expressed dissatisfaction with this indicator in particular. |
| 2 | Positivity for relations between Protestants and Catholics being better in the next five years |  | Some participants, especially on the OCYP programme theme, were unclear about the meaning of this indicator or the meaning to them as children and young people. |
| 3 | Favourability toward people from other backgrounds regardless of religious, political or ethnic background |  | Clear indicator of progress on a key peace and reconciliation behavioural impact. The programme recorded significant positive feedback. The feedback reflects a large number of projects supporting cross community contact. |
| 4 | Willingness to engage in cross community or cross border contact |  | Of the 6,000 or so participants, almost all engaged in some form of cross community or/and cross border contact. These were direct participants with other aspects of delivery touching on many more indirect beneficiaries. |
| 5 | Willingness to respect different cultures |  | Monitoring feedback suggested progress on this indicator, including BAME, PUL and CNR participants of all ages, though especially strong for adults. The re-bid projects demonstrated stronger outcomes for young participants than the OCYP projects as a whole. |
| 6 | Change to reality or perception of areas as safer and more welcoming |  | Good progress across the communities and age ranges involved, though less confidence generally for PUL young people especially. |
| 7 | Potential for greater civic participation in civic life in local areas |  | Participants demonstrated that clearly throughout all themes with a number of initiatives that tackled peace and reconciliation beyond contact theory, and included efforts to facilitate systemic changes. A consideration for PEACE Plus may be to even further encourage more active participation especially within BAME and PUL communities. |
| 8 | Potential for people to go to places outside their areas |  | Clear progress from indicators especially within adult programmes. Some innovative ways for people to engage across interfaces and visible progress on sensitive issues. |
| 9 | Potential for greater contact between people from different backgrounds (whether political, religious or ethnic backgrounds) |  | There was clear and measurable increased contact between people from different political, religious and ethnic backgrounds. |
| 10 | Increased knowledge of other cultures (whether religious, political or ethnicity) |  | There was clearly more knowledge about other cultures and traditions, about the issues, concerns and drivers of uncertainty across different communities. Not just that, but the projects were also delivered in ways that allowed people to demonstrate that additional knowledge in an empathetic fashion. |
| 11 | Increased socialising or playing sport with people from other backgrounds (whether religious, political or ethnic) |  | Projects were timebound and monitoring did not occur afterwards to determine whether relationships developed were sustained into social activities. There were considerable social and sporting activities delivered as part of projects directly, and also a major number of indirect beneficiaries of people from different communities participating in festivals, concerts or events. |
| 12 | Increase in the number of close friends between people of different backgrounds (whether political, religious or ethnic) |  | It was difficult to assess this within the programme and another indicator that did not necessarily speak directly to the demands of the programme or the delivery of projects. Monitoring and evaluation stopped after funding therefore it is difficult to measure ongoing relationships. |
| 13 | Enhanced inclusion within participants own communities |  | Monitoring and evaluation returns showed participants felt more inclusion within their own communities across all target groups; lower generally for PUL communities and young people, though still high. |
| 14 | Increased confidence of participants to challenge racism and sectarianism and to encourage others to support diversity |  | Participants generally across all programmes and themes demonstrated progress on confidence to challenge sectarianism and racism (still high for PUL and younger participants but lower than adults). |
| 15 | Increased confidence to go to places outside their own areas |  | An indicator that was a core part of much of the delivery in all themes and across interfaces and between communities. Results from monitoring and evaluation returns were very positive reflecting progress by the programme. |

Participants considered there to be too many indicators that did not reflect the work they undertook and that were decided on more to justify the programmes to overall funders than to help them deliver better projects. The most significant indicators relate to the new outcomes from The Executive Office for measuring delivery of T:BUC outcomes:

* Knowledge
* Understanding, and
* Behaviour

1. Global Peace Index, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Global Peace Index calculation, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. SEUPB list of PEACE IV funded projects [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A Working Definition of Reconciliation, Hamber and Kelly, 2004, p4 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. SEUPB European Territorial Cooperation, Preparing the EU Peace Plus Programme 2021-2027 pp27-29 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)