

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

South West Peace PEACE III Partnership (Speedwell Trust Initiative)

Programme:
PEACE III Programme

Theme:
Building Positive Relations

Funding:
circa £6.8 million

Lead Partner:
Magherafelt District Council

Website:
www.swpeace3.eu

Project contact:
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Geographical area: South
West of Northern Ireland

The South West PEACE III Cluster is made up of a number of Council areas including Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh and Magherafelt.

The Partnership includes 16 elected representatives (four from each Council area) and 16 'social partners' made up of representatives from the business, community/voluntary, farming and rural sectors.

The Partnership is responsible for the delivery of the South West PEACE III Action Plan (Phase I and II) which addresses issues of reconciliation, sectarianism and racism.

Funding is provided to **many hundreds of different local community based projects** and initiatives within the Partnerships area.

For example, the Partnership supports the Speedwell Trust initiative which brings Catholic and Protestant primary schoolchildren together through a number of shared activities. The Partnership has funded its 'Connecting Communities' project, which involves schoolchildren from three different local primary schools, representing all sections of the community in Magherafelt.

The project gives these children the opportunity to explore diversity in their local community with input from key local agencies including the PSNI and local churches. All of the participating children were given the opportunity to meet with representatives from four of the main churches in the local area to learn about different cultures and traditions.

Key Project Outputs:

- **Address racism and sectarianism.**
- **Promote social integration with ethnic minorities.**
- **Build relationships on a cross-border basis.**
- **Promote leadership at a local level to create a shared society.**



Children from all sides of the local community participate in the 'Connecting Communities' Speedwell Trust initiative.