



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Donegal County Council Local Authority Action Plan

THEME:

Building Positive Relations
Local Authority Action Plans

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€5,546,206.96

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office NI
& Department for Rural
& Community
Development Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Donegal County Council

Start Date: 01/01/2017

End Date: 30/04/2022
CYP & BPR
30/09/2023
SSS



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The Donegal County Council Local Authority Action Plan will build on the positive work accomplished in Donegal since the previous PEACE III Programme.

It will see the delivery of projects, interventions and initiatives that will continue to play an important role in reinforcing progress towards a more peaceful and stable society.

The Action Plan will focus on three key themes; supporting Children and Young People, Building Positive Relations and developing Shared Spaces and Services throughout the County; and across the Border Regions of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

"The project has been a great success for all young people involved. Many young people from across Donegal have come together to share their experience within their communities, building friendships and strengthening relationships. During my experience facilitating this project it is very apparent that there is very little in Donegal for young people along the border towns. This project gives young people a chance to meet new people and share a safe space, enabling them to meet with friends. The young people involved have a voice and they are learning to use it, communicating and debating with others from different communities, with a common goal to improve their own community. Many young people have had the opportunity to meet with people that have experienced the troubles of Northern Ireland, giving them opportunity to make improved decisions for their future and those around them".

Catherine O'Neill, Project Worker for the Diversionary Youth Programme



Diversionary Youth Programme - Summer Tayto Park Trip



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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (€1,166,471.01):

The plan will engage children and young people in meaningful activities which will develop their soft skills and respect for diversity, increase the percentage of young people in the County who play sports or socialise with others of a different religious community.

Key Output : The number of participants aged 0 – 24: 1,374

SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES (€2,385,129.99):

The plan will help create and enhance the shared usage and nature of public areas and/or buildings in the area, thereby increasing the percentage of people who perceive their neighbourhood as neutral, those who would prefer to live in a mixed religion environment. Projects include the development of a multi-use training facility between the townlands of Ballybofey and Stranorlar.

Key Output : Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings: 1

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS (€1,994,605.95):

The plan will deliver initiatives which will create an environment where cultural diversity is respected and celebrated. This will increase the percentage of people who know about the culture of minority ethnic groups, and those who think relationships between Catholics and Protestants are better than they were 5 years ago, and will be better in the future. Projects include a cross-border Shared Heritage Programme, an Ex-Combatants Programme and a Community Leadership Programme.

Key Output : Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities: 1

“The Project is designed to provide an opportunity to learn lessons from the past and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future.”

Tracey McRory, Project Co-ordinator (Cross Border Shared Heritage Project)



With the oldest participant aged 85 and the youngest 20 years old, the Action Plan is engaging, educating and creating strong peace and reconciliation impacts for all beneficiaries.