



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: HEROES (Helping Equality, Respecting Others, Enabling Success)

THEME:

Children and Young People
aged 14-24

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€1,785,364.44

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for Economy
(Northern Ireland),
Department of Children and
Youth Affairs (Ireland)

LEAD PARTNER:

Royal Mencap Society

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Devenish Partnership
Forum, Health Service
Executive, Londonderry
YMCA

Start Date: 01/07/2018

End Date: 30/06/2022



[northernireland.mencap.org.uk/
our-services-0/heroes](http://northernireland.mencap.org.uk/our-services-0/heroes)



@HeroesPeace4

HEROES is an inclusive, cross-community, cross border project that supports young people with and without learning difficulties with personal development, citizenship and good relations. The project aims to break the downward spiral of exclusion and negative behaviour and develop confident, self-aware and engaged young people who are able to work, live and socialise with young people of different communities, backgrounds and abilities using an outcome-focused, youth development approach based on core principles.

"It's been the best thing in my life so far" – Michael Henshall, Participant Fermanagh.

"The best thing about the project has been getting together and having fun in the group" – Keelan O'Hagan, Participant Derry-Londonderry.

"I liked meeting new people, learning new things and having fun." – Lewis Morrow, Participant Belfast.



Young people from the HEROES project signing the peace walls in Belfast as part of their Hop On Hop Off bus tour of the city.



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HEROES allows young people to take part in group work, individual mentoring, cultural trips, and free residential. All activities are based on the young people's interests and what they like to do. The project will be delivered across 3 geographical locations: Greater Belfast, Londonderry/Donegal, Fermanagh/Border Counties.

"We want young people from all communities and abilities to get involved in the HEROES Project so they can develop their confidence, have new experiences and build positive relationships that will last. This includes those with learning difficulties. These young people experience many of the same legacy issues as other young people, but without programmes specifically designed to include them it can be difficult to access the help and support available to others." – Margaret Kelly, Director of Mencap NI

Project Outputs:

The number of young people aged 14-24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity: 327



Young people from the Derry-Londonderry YMCA HEROES wearing the compliment capes they designed as part of a self-esteem and positivity workshop.