



THEME:

Building Positive Relations: Local Authority Action Plans

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

£4,753,280.02

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office NI and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Start Date: 01/06/2016

End Date: 30/09/2022



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SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Action Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Authority Plan will support a number of locally-based projects and initiatives that will promote positive relations between people from different communities and backgrounds, develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity and facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.

The Action Plan will focus on three key areas: Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and services, and Building Positive Relations.

“We listened to well-versed accounts from a wide range of experts of battles, plots and motives from both sides of the divide. We also learned of our shared heritage and that we once stood together for the greater good of all the people of Ireland. Not only did we read and listen to stories, but we also became part of the story by visiting battlefields and engaging in military tactics and how battles were won and lost.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed all the talks and visits, but for me, this story has brought it all to life. I am halfway through the book but totally hooked!”

Participants taking part on the ‘Understanding History Course - the United Irishmen and the 1798 Rebellion building Positive Relations’



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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (£999,203.40):

Eight projects have been approved under this theme including: a personal development programme for children which will work to develop social, emotional and soft skills of 4-9 year olds through age appropriate activities, as well as a shared history and cultural programme for young people, which will explore local areas/sites; shared Christian heritage; different faiths and cultural roots; and hate crime.

Key Output: Number of participants aged 0 – 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity: 1,651

SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES (£1,688,257.32):

12 projects have been approved under this theme including a number of legacy programmes for ex-military sites including Ballykinlar; Forkhill; Bessbrook; Ballyhornan and Ballynahinch. This project will see engagement at both a local and district level by opening up spaces for learning which previously were connected to the historical back drop of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

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

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS (£2,065,819.30):

Nine projects have been approved under this theme including an ethnic minority cultural programme which aims to engage groups and individuals in positive learning to dispel myths and perceptions of the 'other' community; and cross-community and inter-cultural workshops, which will lead to inclusive events organised by the community.

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

"It's about connecting people together and about saying no to racism and most importantly we shouldn't judge people too quickly."

"A small change can make a big difference."

"It doesn't matter what country you are from, we are all humans and humans deserve love and respect'."

Young Participants on the Children and Young People 'One team, One Goal' project



Children and Young People 'One team, One Goal' project Celebration event where young people were presented with their completion certificates