



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Belfast Local Authority Action Plan

THEME:

Building Positive Relations
Local Authority Plans

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

£14,574,876.15

MATCH FUNDERS:

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

LEAD PARTNER:

Belfast City Council

PROJECT CONTACT:

mckinneyd@belfastcity.gov.uk

Start Date: 01/11/2014

End Date: 30/06/2022



[http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/
community/goodrelations/
peaceIV.aspx](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/goodrelations/peaceIV.aspx)



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Belfast City Council's Local Authority Action Plan will help improve community relations to position Belfast as a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city.

It includes a programme of activities under three strategic objectives, Children and Young People, Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations.

The Action Plan will improve community relations and cross-community engagement through activities such as: transformational leadership; establishing local area networks; creative legacies; a significant centenaries programme; and the development of social relationships between new communities and those that host them.

These actions will promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

"This is an exciting project working towards re-connecting neighbourhoods and communities in, and around some of the most deprived parts of North/West Belfast. Providing open spaces where people can safely travel to and through, with community led projects that encourage inter-community mingling in attractive destinations of common purpose – 'to be in' and 'to use' – key to overcoming people's fears. Both elements of this project, capital and programming, will help change communities' perceptions as well as the reality of moving around a transforming city that is still on a journey from segregation, to a connected cohesive and accessible city."

SSS project manager Dermott McGann about the Connecting Open Space Project



Shared Space and Services
Connecting Open Space Project Proposals



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SHARED SPACE AND SERVICES (£5,172,449.12):

The project will focus on the creation of a shared space across 12 interlinked sites stretching from Glencairn to Bog Meadows and incorporating a core project located at the Springfield Road interface, encompassing Springfield Dam; Springfield Park; the Invest NI site; and Paisley Park. A wide range of programming activities will animate the space and encourage communities to use the site, move across the city differently and promote cross community relations.

Key Output: 600 citizens will have been engaged directly in creating an exciting shared space.

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS (£6,338,955.80):

The range of projects in this theme will encourage interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods, explore history in a sensitive manner, build mutual understanding and promote inclusion and integration of minority ethnic communities. These projects will improve relations between different communities with over 3,000 people taking part in various projects by the end of December 2021. The projects will also give marginalised groups more opportunities to participate in peace and reconciliation activities.

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

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (£3,063,471.23):

Among the different initiatives, children and young people will be involved in a range of programmes including: Play; Technology; Sports; Youth Leadership; Personal Development; and Local Networks.

Key Outputs : Number of participants aged 0-24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity: 4,612



Participants of the 'On the Right Track' project

"On the right track was an excellent opportunity for our members to challenge some stereotypes and make new friends. Whilst the majority of the group have added each other on social media, some of our girls have met up in town with their new friends from Abbey Gymnastics since the project finished. We hope their friendships continue to blossom. Grove Jujitsu club are keen to work with Belfast City Council in 2020 to be able to provide this opportunity for our younger members".

Robert Cullinan - Head Coach - Grove Jujitsu