



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: The Third Space

THEME:

Children & Young People

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€3,714,910.00

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for the Economy and
Department of Children & Youth Affairs

LEAD PARTNER:

Extern

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Verbal Arts Centre

Start Date: 01/08/2017

End Date: 31/03/2022



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An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs

The Third Space project is delivering a 26 week personal development, good relations and citizenship programme to 800 marginalised young people (aged 14—24) across Northern Ireland, Cavan and Donegal until 2020.

The project aims to positively transform the lives of its young beneficiaries, who have been identified as being vulnerable and at risk. The project is also allowing those from different communities, cultural, and religious backgrounds, as well as those from rural areas, to undertake a personalised self-development and training programme.

This cross-border project is being delivered in conjunction with partner agency Verbal, an organisation promoting the power of the spoken and written word.

"Third Space has improved my interest in being able to improve myself, but also in looking at elements about beliefs and cultural differences. Exploring factors of personality and self-esteem, in myself and other people, it has got me observing and taking more notice. The other groups I've been a part of, we did activities, but it wasn't based on self-improvement."

John, Third Space service user, Derry-Londonderry



Members of the Belfast Third Space group enjoy a shared reading session.



Northern Ireland
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As part of the programme participants will be offered the opportunity to meet new people, take part in residentials, and participate in shared reading experiences. In addition, they will acquire new skills in video production, and gain a qualification.

A key focus of the project is to help highly vulnerable young people to:

- Reduce social isolation;
- Develop a deeper sense of community awareness within their communities;
- Successfully negotiate and manage a programme of personal development for themselves, supported by qualified staff.

"Since I took part in Third Space, I've learned so many new things, and have really enjoyed the Reading Rooms sessions organised by Verbal. I feel a lot more motivated and confident now, and I would even say that the programme has helped make me a better person. I look forward to it. Now, I'd like to get more involved with youth work and share my experience with other young people."

Connor (19), former Third Space service user, Belfast



Learning new skills as part of the Digital Storytelling element of the Third Space project.

Key Outputs :

- **Pilot Phase 1.** 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: 143
- **Phase 2.** 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: 600



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