



**THEME:**

Building Positive Relations: Local Authority Action Plans

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

£5,183,258.36

**MATCH FUNDERS:**

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

**LEAD PARTNER:**

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Education Authority, Ulster University

**Start Date:** 01/01/2017

**End Date:** 30/04/2022



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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

# Project Case Study: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Authority Action Plan

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Local Authority Action Plan is supporting a number of projects, initiatives and events across three themes: Children and Young People; Shared Spaces and Services; and Building Positive Relations as means to develop and promote community relations, respect, diversity, active citizenship and working to improve people's quality of life.

The Action Plan aims to promote positive relations and mutual understanding; contribute to reduced levels of prejudice, hatred and intolerance; develop a sense of civic pride among participants and help develop good relations within communities.

*"Jacob (Stockdale) is doing this on his days off. He is very keen to do the right thing in helping to build positive relations through sport and he doesn't seek any kudos for it. Lurgan is a very polarised town. The overriding aim of our PEACE IV project is to reach the hand across the community, particularly through young people. Although Lurgan Rugby is the lead club, we're engaging with local Gaelic clubs Eire Óg and St Peter's. We have a sport like rugby which is played on an All-Ireland basis and we have an individual who could make it into a world XV team on our doorstep and who is willing to turn up at school events. It is just fabulous."*

Gavin Warwick, PEACE IV Project Coordinator, Lurgan Rugby Club



Ulster and Ireland international rugby star Jacob Stockdale with young enthusiasts at the promotion event for the Lurgan Rugby Club's Cross Community Sports Project. Jacob is the projects' PEACE IV Ambassador.



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**SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES (£2,624,936.66):**

This part of the plan will include nine projects including the development of a sports facility at St Patrick's College in Banbridge, which will be accompanied by a series of sports-related initiatives and events to develop local cross-community engagement and ensure that the facility is a community hub.

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

**BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS (£2,253,565.25):**

This part of the plan will deliver nine projects including: the Decade of Commemorations project, where 240 participants will take part in programmes/activities that explore the events in the decade of centenaries.

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

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (£1,089,252.45):**

This part of the plan will deliver eleven projects including a Sports Festivals for 675 young people, aged 8-24, which will deliver 45 sports and physical activity events and two cross-community sports engagement games.

**Key output:** The number of participants aged 0 – 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity: 3,189

*“Creative writing has proven to be a powerful medium in bringing people together to engage with one another, build trust and mutual respect, as well as gain a greater appreciation of each other's diverse backgrounds. Through this course, we have eroded pre-conceived ideas and dismantled prejudices.”*

*Tony Kennedy, Chairperson of the John Hewitt Society (delivery partner)*



Participants from the Once Alien Here creative writing course at the concluding event and launch of their publication. This project has enabled 50 participants of all ages, beliefs and backgrounds to come together and explore issues of identity and cultural belonging through the written word.