



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Derry City & Strabane District Council Action Plan Update

THEME:

Building Positive Relations: Local Authority Plans

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

£6,749,330.35

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office,
Department of Rural and
Community Development

LEAD PARTNER:

Derry City & Strabane DC

Start Date: 01/04/2016

End Date: 31/12/2021



www.derrystrabane.com/Peace



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Derry City & Strabane District Council's Local Authority Action Plan aims to foster a peaceful and shared society; where good relations are embedded, communities are inclusive and connected; and where all cultures and traditions are respected.

Since the projects launch there have been many developments within the Action Plans three core themes: Children and Young People; Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations.

"You don't always hear the other side and you don't always hear the human story. See that re-humanisation? That empathy? That goes a long way. It opens a lot of doors. Most of us don't get a chance to use our voice or tell our own stories. Everybody's voice is important...It's about tackling paramilitarism as well... showing women how to empower themselves, that empowers their families, their communities. The ripple effect is immense..."

Anne, Theatre of Witness facilitator for Changing Perceptions Project

Changing Perceptions Project

A group of women from the Creggan, Bogside and Fountain Neighbourhood Partnerships took part in the Changing Perceptions project, which offered a safe environment to share stories and provide open and honest discussions on past, and present issues facing the women in their local communities. As part of the Theatre of Witness workshop the women watched a film with first hand testimony from police; army; paramilitaries; and victims & survivors. Three of the women that were featured in the film were present during the workshop. One a former member of the IRA. One, the wife of a civilian murdered by the IRA. And one, a woman who suffered domestic violence and mental health issues in a Republican family. Together, they combined their healing journey and transformation.





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As part of the Beyond Tokenism project, led by Lettershandoney and District Development Group, a conference was held in Strabane focusing on the topic of homelessness. In attendance were the people facing this issue (from Black and Minority Ethnic, Disability, and LGBT groups to political ex-prisoners and victims/survivor's groups). Participants discussed addiction; mental health; government policy; community spirit; and individual responsibility. Conversations at the conference focused on: Early intervention, Sustainable solutions, and Working together.



“Council’s changed thinking was significant. The policy, protocols, the working group... mind-sets changed. Unionist bonfires were recognised as a cultural celebration. That enabled working with communities on event management and hard conversations about what’s burned.”

Alison, Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership Manager (PEACE IV Bonfires / Alternatives Project)

“The project built on existing work. We’d already tackled tyres and anti-social behaviour. PEACE funding took us further – a culturally oriented day. Pipes. Drums. Highland dancing. With mediation the fire’s down to one flag. The event is properly stewarded. It’s the progression of five year’s effort. We need continuing education. These boys are engaging but there’ll be a next group.”

Don, Project Manager, Clooney Estate Residents Association

