



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 14th May 2018

Journeys Project Launches

Springboard Opportunities Limited, as lead partner, with Roe Valley Residents Association and Cavan/Monaghan ETB have launched the EU PEACE IV funded programme, Journeys.

This is a project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme – Children and Young People strand, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match-funding for the project has also been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Children and Youth Affairs in Ireland. The aim of the programme is to enhance the capacity of young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

Journeys is a 4-year project open to 14-24-year olds within Belfast, Limavady and Cavan/Monaghan. It is an innovative cross-community/cross-border initiative of tailored programme interventions; to support distinct groups of disadvantaged and at-risk young people from diverse communities in Greater Belfast/Limavady & Monaghan/Cavan. Young people will realise their potential and become active contributors in building a shared, united and more cohesive society. Together they will build individual capacity, develop an appreciation of diversity and active citizenship.

Over 4 years the initiative will bring about positive change for young people from across traditions and cultures.

Speaking at the launch, Angila Chada Executive Director of Springboard, said; **'We are delighted to formally launch the Peace IV Journeys programme today. The 'wrap around' programme model offers young people an opportunity to increase personal and social capabilities and wellbeing, value and engage positively with people of diverse backgrounds and circumstances, as well as contribute positively to communities through active citizenship.'**



All programmes will have the overarching theme of being youth led whilst exploring good relations, personal development and citizenship. Working creatively through residential, workshops, team building activities and social action projects, the young people will develop respect for diversity, become empowered and equipped to find their path in life. At the launch, aligned to building citizenship amongst young people, Springboard also formally announced their #DayOn charity, where all groups will raise awareness of mental health and support the work of Lighthouse charity during 2018.

Speaking at the launch of the EU PEACE IV funded project, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB said: **“This project will make a real and positive difference to the lives of hundreds of young people on a cross-border basis. It will give them opportunities to meet with and learn from other young people from a different community background and culture. By participating in the project they will also be able to build and strengthen their own self-esteem, confidence and resilience. In doing so they will be better prepared to help, not only themselves, but the communities that they live in, creating a more forward-thinking and inclusive society,”** she continued.

ENDS

For more information contact:

Julie Burgess

Engagement Officer

Springboard Opportunities Limited

7 North Street

Belfast, BT1 1NH

Tel: 02890 315111

Email: julieburgess@springboard-opps.org

Notes to Editor:

Journeys Programmes

There are seven individual programmes to choose from, each tailored to specific needs of young people.

Led by Springboard, are 5 cross-community programmes:



- Xceler8 – aimed at young people who are potential leaders and can develop their leadership skills to impact positively on others.
- Gener8 – design and development of good relations, citizenship and personal development, led by young people for young people.
- Fusion – for young people who are members of the marching band community or with an interest in music, explore identity and culture.
- Gamechanger – encouraging personal development, greater self-esteem and a sense of direction for young people.
- Ignite – working with young people within schools located in North and West Belfast (Christian Brothers School, Trinity College, Belfast Boys Model School, Belfast Model School for Girls and Hazelwood Integrated College) to support development through creative group work.

Led by Roe Valley Residents Association, are 2 cross community programmes:

- DEFINE – targeting young people aged 14-16 and 17-24-year olds encouraging mutual understanding and building personal and civic capacity.

Led by Cavan Monaghan ETB, a programme

- Options – building understanding and skills on good relations, citizenship and encouraging personal growth.

PEACE IV Programme

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland.
- It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The PEACE IV Programme has a value of €270 million and aims to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.



- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu



Springboard Opportunities Limited

- Established in 1992, Springboard's focuses on building capacity, encouraging citizenship and promoting peace and mutual understanding.
- They have a proven 25-year track record, and have worked with 10,800+ people in over 380 programmes, leading to exceptional outcomes of significant personal growth and increased aspiration.
- For more information, please visit www.springboard-opps.org
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @springboardopps