



PRESS RELEASE

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**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PEACE-BUILDING PROJECTS UNDER
PEACE IV ACTION PLAN**

Louth County Council recently launched its PEACE IV Local Action Plan at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dundalk. The innovative plan signifies a €2.2 million investment in social development within the county, and aims to bring communities from all walks of life together. It also represents a major economic boost for the area.

The European Union's PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Thirteen peace-building programmes will be delivered under the PEACE IV Local Action Plan, which will fall under the following themes: children and young people, shared spaces and services, and building positive relations. To ensure a wide reach, the programmes will be delivered through a broad spectrum of activities, including sports, arts, heritage, youth and community. The management and delivery of the Louth County Council PEACE IV Local Action Plan will be supported by the PEACE IV Partnership.

Commenting, Chief Executive of Louth County Council and Chair of the PEACE IV Partnership, Joan Martin said: **"The PEACE IV Local Action Plan was developed following an extensive public consultation in 2016 and designed specifically to address local needs identified within the community. Each initiative within the plan has been carefully designed to support peace building and cross community interaction, enabling people to live, learn and socialise together."**

Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, Gina McIntyre commented: **"The European Union's PEACE IV Programme has been specifically designed to promote greater levels of reconciliation within local communities. Approximately one third of the total value of the programme has been allocated to councils like Louth to help to deliver this, through PEACE Action Plans. The support available under these plans will**



be delivered at a local level, where it is needed most, in order to develop new cross-community partnerships that will help to heal divided communities.”

Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council, Cllr Colm Markey added: **“This is an exciting time for the residents of Louth; the PEACE IV Local Action Plan will engage all ethnic communities, providing a platform for people from all walks of life to come together. I am looking forward to working alongside those involved and seeing first-hand the results of the important work carried out on the ground.”**

The Louth County Council PEACE IV Action Plan received 85% funding from the European Regional Development Fund. Match-funding for the remainder has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Executive Office in Northern Ireland. The funding will be invested across the county over a two-year period.

Chief Executive of Louth County Council, Joan Martin added: **“We are confident that with the full support of the PEACE IV Partnership, the SEUPB, and most importantly, engagement and participation from the wider community, that the rollout of the Local Action Plan will help to promote and to stimulate economic and social development in Co Louth.”**

For further information on the Louth County Council PEACE IV Local Action Plan visit www.louthcoco.ie.

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Notes to Editors:

The PEACE IV Local Action Plan is supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Thirteen peace-building programmes will be delivered under the PEACE IV Local Action Plan, which will fall under the following themes:



Children and Young People: Programmes under this theme will enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background, and to make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

Shared Spaces and Services: Programmes under this theme will support a number of projects in County Louth. This theme aims to create a more cohesive society through new shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community.

Building Positive Relations: Programmes under this theme 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.

About SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel 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 address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu