



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 26th March 2018

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN CELEBRATE £3.3M OF PEACE IV FUNDING

Ards and North Down Borough Council's PEACE IV Partnership has celebrated its PEACE IV Programme launch event on Thursday 22 March in the Town Hall, Bangor to formally announce the award of £3.3 Million towards peace building projects within the Borough.

The money has been provided from the European Union's PEACE IV Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match funding for the PEACE IV Plan has also been provided from the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.

This will be used for the delivery of the local PEACE IV Plan, which includes a variety of projects that aim to support peace and reconciliation across the Borough. This will focus on three main themes of 'Children and Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building Positive Relations'.

Speaking at the Launch event, Alderman Angus Carson (Chair of the Ards and North Down PEACE IV Partnership) said: **"I am thrilled that £3.3 M of funding has been awarded to Ards and North Down Borough Council to deliver the PEACE IV Programme. The Programme will promote positive relations where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance."**

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), said: **"Local authorities like Ards and North Down Borough Council make an invaluable contribution to the EU's PEACE IV Programme. They help to ensure that funding is delivered at grass roots level where it will have the greatest impact. They also support the development of new cross-community partnerships that will foster the creation of positive relations within divided communities."**

The event was attended by members of the community and several local groups who had the opportunity to hear about some of the projects that are currently running and speak with the programme delivery agents. There are plenty of opportunities for people from different communities and backgrounds to participate in the projects.

For further information of the projects visit the PEACE IV section of the Council Website.

Notes to Editor:

SEUPB

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