



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

### **PEACE IV FUNDING RELEASED FOR BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Communities across Belfast are to benefit from £8.79 million of PEACE IV funding. The money, which has been provided from the European Union PEACE IV Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) was announced at City Hall today (Thursday, 18 January).

It also includes match-funding from the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and will be used by Belfast City Council to improve the lives of children and young people, build positive relations and shared spaces across the city.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Nuala McAllister, said:” **Projects funded under the PEACE IV Programme will play a vital role in helping to build positive relations at local level. Issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance are still all too common for many of us. This funding will help us in transforming our capital to a city of shared space where all communities have a sense of belonging.**

**“We want to enhance good relations, respect for diversity, sensitivity to the values, beliefs, customs and traditions of others,”** said the Lord Mayor.

**“Of course, we cannot do this alone and we will continue to work in partnership with key agencies and communities to build trust, create understanding, address local peace building issues and ensure that the impact of peace is maximised,”** added Councillor McAllister.

Over the coming months the Council will be engaging with the community to encourage uptake of the planned projects which include the use of new technology to challenge young people’s attitudes, the development of young leaders and arts and heritage projects to explore peace, culture and diversity.



Speaking at the launch Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: **“Local authorities have made an invaluable contribution to the implementation of the previous PEACE Programmes in delivering money where it is needed most, at a local level. Previous PEACE funding facilitated some truly inspirational projects that have made a real and meaningful difference, and I encourage everyone to participate in the activities and opportunities this funding stream will deliver.**

**“Despite significant progress however, there remains a need to improve cross-community relations, and further integrate divided communities. The funding that has been provided under PEACE IV will help to achieve this and promote positive relations, creating a community where people can live and socialise together, free from prejudice and intolerance,” she continued.**

- Ends

#### 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](http://www.seupb.eu)