



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

## Project Case Study: A Look at the Impact of the PEACE IV Extern 'Positive Learning' Project

### THEME:

Building Positive Relations:  
Regional Level Projects

### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€1,884,467.34

### MATCH FUNDERS:

Executive Office Northern  
Ireland and the Department  
of Rural and Community  
Development, Ireland

### LEAD PARTNER:

Extern

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

TIDES Training; The Pro-  
bation Service Ireland, The  
Probation Service Northern  
Ireland, NI Prison Service  
and the Irish Prison Ser-  
vice.

**Start Date:** 01/10/2017

**End Date:** 30/06/2021



[https://  
www.extern.org/  
positive-learning](https://www.extern.org/positive-learning)



[twitter.com/  
externposlearn](https://twitter.com/externposlearn)



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ExternCharity](https://facebook.com/ExternCharity)

Extern 'Positive Learning' was the first project of its kind in the North West of Ireland. It enabled the most marginalised and socially excluded people in our society to explore and share their own community prejudices, values and civic identity as they reintegrate back into society.

As well as helping to reduce prejudice, the project assisted the development of meaningful relationships of trust, empowering participants by providing the practical skills needed to deal with everyday challenges.

Marginalised people, drawn from across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland hugely benefited from the diversity, good relations and vocational training that the project offered.

Since its official launch in June 2018, the project achieved a number of notable successes in helping to build good relations and create safer communities, as well as offering and encouraging positive life choices for those taking part.

### Key achievements include:

- A total of 280 people engaged with the programme;
- 190 completed OCN qualifications in Good Relations;
- 132 programme participants achieved vocational qualifications in areas including Catering, IT, Joinery, Plumbing and Horticulture.

*"We are delighted with the outcomes which have been achieved, both in the opportunities it has given to participants in order to transform their lives, and in the contribution it has made to building good relations within our communities. Extern prides itself on supporting the most vulnerable and isolated in our society, and it is through the exceptional work of projects like Positive Learning that we are able to realise this goal. Extern remains committed to delivering our life-changing services in the North West region and we look forward to bringing further projects on stream in the near future."*

Danny McQuillan, CEO (interim) Extern