



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Fermanagh Teenagers Praise Inclusive Youth Project

THEME:

Children and Young People aged 14-24

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€1,785,364.44

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for the Economy Northern Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Royal Mencap Society

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Devenish Partnership Forum, Health Service Executive, Londonderry YMCA

Start Date: 01/07/2018

End Date: 30/06/2022



northernireland.mencap.org.uk/our-services-0/heroes



@HeroesPeace4

The cross-community, cross-border HEROES project (Helping Equality, Respecting Others, Enabling Success) is supporting young people with, and without, learning difficulties with personal development, citizenship and good relations; aiming to break the downward spiral of exclusion and negative behaviour and develop confident, self-aware and engaged young people.

Joe Doherty and Donal McManus are two of the young people directly benefiting. Joe, who has autism, joined the project six months ago.

“I really enjoyed my time on the HEROES project. It was a lot of fun to make new friends and the activities we did were always amazing. It helped me to gain more confidence in myself. I was shy and did not talk to a lot of people before, but now conversations with members of the group increased my confidence. I would definitely say for any young person thinking of joining HEROES to go for it.”

Donal, a local student, also reflected on his time with the project.

“HEROES helped me to connect with people I wouldn’t usually meet, as they were from different schools. We had a chance to talk about lots of things, including what challenges we all faced. Everyone was really friendly and the activities were very inclusive.”

“The project helped my son to believe in himself, gain confidence and show him that he can be socially accepted. I would highly recommend parents to get your young person signed up to this project. It gives them a self worth, appreciation and respect for others. They truly are their own heroes.”

Joe’s mum talking about the positive impact of the project