



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project case study: Transforming During Lockdown

THEME:

Children & Young People

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€2,390,658.41

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for Economy (Northern Ireland),
Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Republic of Ireland)

LEAD PARTNER:

Youth Link: NI

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Royal Mencap Society,
Youth Initiatives NI

Start Date: 01/08/2017

End Date: 31/12/2021



The TRANSFORM project (Transformative Education for Positive Relationships) is engaging with approximately 480 young people (aged 14-24) from across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland to help:

- Fulfil their potential;
- Develop their skills;
- Build their confidence;
- Help them gain OCN qualifications;
- Contribute positively as active citizens within their communities.

The projects geographic areas will include: Antrim; Down; Fermanagh; Tyrone; Derry-Londonderry; Armagh; Cavan; Monaghan; Louth; and Donegal.

Youth Link Schools Cohort

In January 2020 the St John The Baptist's College cohort in Portadown switched to online delivery, using Zoom. The group caught up twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays, concentrating on their OCN Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-being delivery; as well 'Friday Fun Days' involving games including Bring me, Name that tune and Stop the bus. Small group and 1-1 mentoring sessions were also provided online to help support the young people through lockdown.

Youth Link Oasis Cohort

This cohort also delivered training and support online, through platforms such as Zoom and online messenger service. The Monday afternoon drop-in sessions allowed participants to join after school to chat to leaders and other participants. OCN participants also completed training online with zoom sessions involving PowerPoint presentations, video clips and engaging group discussions on topics such as Communication, Equality and Diversity and Cyberbullying.





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Youth Initiatives Derry / Londonderry Cohort

Several outreach sessions have been delivered both in the City-side and Water-side areas, helping promote the project and also checking in with young people, reminding them to stay safe.

TRANSFORM staff members have been engaging in phone conversations with the young people, as well as getting registration packs to those interested in signing up to the next cohort. Staff members have also been undertaking door-to-door visits to collect registration packs (following and practicing strict COVID-19 guidance / social distancing procedures). The hope is this engagement will transpire in a new group for the March period, with sessions held on Zoom.

Youth Initiatives Belfast / Lisburn Cohort

This group is taking a blended approach to engagement with its young cohort, using a variety of online methods, alongside in-person street work and brief (socially distanced) doorstep visits.

Social media is awash with regular updates, quizzes and 'Live' features, alongside podcasts, fitness classes, and some Zoom small group sessions.

Resource packs are being dropped around houses so that participants can continue to engage with the creative programming, with TRANSFORM staff making a point of visiting young people to maintain in-person contact and support through this difficult time.

