



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**24 November 2016**

### **EU PROVIDES £13.4 MILLION FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS**

**The EU's PEACE IV Programme has offered £13,372,519 worth of funding to support the health and well-being of victims and survivors of the troubles/conflict, on a cross-border basis. This will be the first funding award under the PEACE IV Programme.**

In total the funding aims to support up to 17,650 victims and survivors and members of their families. The funding will be delivered through the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) and will benefit people living in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Building upon the valuable work funded under previous PEACE Programme's the new funding offer, under PEACE IV, will include the provision of health and wellbeing support to address the complex needs of victims and survivors.

It will also be used to support victims and survivors engaging with new and existing bodies involved in historical investigations and narrative associated with the conflict.

The VSS will be responsible for distributing funding to community and voluntary organisations to support staff as advocates and health and wellbeing caseworkers that will facilitate access for individuals to engage in resilience building activities.

Recognising the importance of the funding Gina McIntyre CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), which manages the PEACE IV Programme, said: **“This funding will add real value by investing in cross-border health and well-being services that will increase the capacity and quality of care for Victims and Survivors and their families.**

**“It will build upon the valuable work that has been undertaken by previous PEACE Programmes for Victims and Survivors by building capacity for professionally delivered, cross-border support services,” she continued.**

In total, 85% of the funding has been provided by the European Union with the remaining 15% provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

- ENDS.



**For more information please contact John McCandless, Communications Manager  
with the SEUPB on Mob. 07834 778018 or via e-mail [john.mccandless@seupb.eu](mailto:john.mccandless@seupb.eu)**

**Notes to Editor:**

\*All recipients of support under this objective of the EU's PEACE IV Programme will be based on the statutory definition of a victim and survivor provided by the 'Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006'.

**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 promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)

**Victims and Survivors Service (VSS)**

- The VSS in Northern Ireland was created in 2012. It was designed to be the focal point for funding work with victims and survivors in Northern Ireland and has replaced a number of existing funding schemes.