



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 29 June 2017

COUNCIL SECURES £2.6 MILLION TO DELIVER PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR DISTRICT

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has secured £2.6m to deliver a PEACE IV Local Action Plan for the district to promote positive relations between people from different backgrounds and communities. The programme is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Information workshops and events will take place across the district over the next number of months for residents to find out about opportunities available through the programme and how they can take part.

Speaking at an event to launch the PEACE IV Local Action Plan, Chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Councillor Stephen McCann said: **“Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is delighted to have secured £2.6m funding to lead on promoting peace building and reconciliation within the district. This programme, through the delivery of the Local Action Plan, will have a significant positive impact on our residents, helping people from all sides of the community come together to form lasting, positive and meaningful relationships.”**

The PEACE IV Local Action Plan will support 15 programmes or initiatives across three key themes – Children and Young People; Shared Spaces and Services; and Building Positive Relations. The Local Action Plan was developed following extensive consultation in 2016 with local communities to ensure actions address their needs and issues identified.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will deliver or manage 12 of the 15 programmes while the Education Authority will deliver three programmes under the Children and Young People theme.

A voluntary PEACE IV Partnership - made up of Councillors and representatives from statutory agencies and social partners – will support and monitor the effective delivery of the Local Action Plan.



Speaking about the PEACE IV programme, Chair of the PEACE IV Partnership, Councillor Robert Irvine, said each programme or initiative will support peace building and cross community interaction through a range of approaches, including, for example, sports, arts, heritage, horticulture, language support and community development.

“The PEACE IV Partnership is confident that each programme or initiative will make a lasting and positive change, by bringing communities together and building positive relationships,” said Councillor Irvine.

Welcoming the funding, Gina McIntyre Chief Executive Officer with the Special EU Programmes Body, said: **“Over a third of the value of the PEACE IV Programme has been allocated to local authorities across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. They will help to ensure that money is distributed at a local level where it is needed most. This funding has the potential to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of citizens across Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.”**

“Through the 15 planned programmes children and young people will be presented with opportunities to gain an understanding and appreciation of other communities and cultures and shared spaces and services will not only encourage positive cross-community interaction but will act as a visible legacy for the Programme,” she continued.

Information events will take place across the district over the coming months. To register your interest to attend an information event or for further information please contact Deborah McCartan, PEACE IV Coordinator, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 0300 303 1777 (calls charged at local rate) or by emailing deborah.mccartan@fermanaghomagh.com.

Matching-funding for this element of the PEACE IV Programme has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

- 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