



PRESS RELEASE

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£2.8 MILLION PEACE IV PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN MID ULSTER

The new PEACE IV programme for Mid Ulster, worth £2.8 million in funding to the region until 2020, has been launched on Wednesday 21 June.

More than 100 local people gathered to learn more about how the programme, a unique initiative of the European Union which has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in the Border Region of Ireland and Northern Ireland, is to be rolled out in the district.

Grouped around three strategic themes, Children and Young People, Building Positive Relations and Shared Spaces and Services, the programme will see a series of projects developed over the next 3 years, and begins next month with a small grants application programme for the voluntary and community sector.

Speaking at the launch event, Councillor Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, and also a member of the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Partnership, welcomed the funding: **“The PEACE IV programme has the community at its core and this substantial allocation of funding will bring real benefits to local people across Mid Ulster, whether through Council-led initiatives or through others delivered by one of our community partners.**

“I’m very pleased that we are hitting the ground running with a small grants programme opening at the beginning of July and look forward to seeing how we maximise the return on this investment for our local communities across Mid Ulster.”

Councillor Ashton also thanked the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB), which manages the European Union’s PEACEIV programme, for the funding allocation.



Also speaking at the launch event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: **"I am delighted to be able to help celebrate the EU funded work that will be undertaken by Mid Ulster District Council. The PEACE Programme is unique across Europe and represents a lot more than just financial support. It will help to create strong partnerships with many different groups and organisations, who by working together will reinforce peace and stability across the region. This is one of the key benefits of the programme as it creates new relationships built on mutual trust, respect and understanding."**

For more information on the PEACE IV Programme in Mid Ulster and how to apply for the small grants application which opens on 3 July and closes on 29 September 2017, visit www.midulstercouncil.org/PEACEIV or contact Deirdre McCann, PEACE Officer on 03000 132 132, E: deirdre.mccann@midulstercouncil.org.

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

Notes to Editor:

- The financial allocations for all of the local authority funding awards under the PEACE IV Programme are based on per capita (Census) and deprivation (NI Multiple Deprivation Measure and Trutz Haase Deprivation Index).

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