Derry City and Strabane
Local PEACE IV Plan

Summary Consultation Document
Background

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The PEACE Programme will provide support to projects that contribute towards the promotion of greater levels of peace and reconciliation. The programme will also place a strong emphasis on promoting cross community relations and understanding to create a more cohesive society.

Under the Programme Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and the Border Region they will be leading on the development of local action plans focusing on the priority themes of:

- Children and young people
- Shared spaces and services
- Building positive relations

This consultation document focuses on the development of a Local Peace Plan for the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area.
The Development of the Plan

The Local PEACE IV Plan is being developed on a number of building blocks including:

- The achievements and learning from the North West PEACE III Programme,
- Informed by current regional and local strategies and policies;
- The comprehensive research and consultation undertaken in the development of the emerging Community Plan which is built around key social, economic and environmental pillars;
- Preliminary consultation which has taken place with a range of statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations, networks and special interest groups across the region;
- Online consultation and the public workshops.
Objective: Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others from a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. In particular, young people who are most disadvantaged and hardest to reach will benefit from the investment.

The peace action plans are asked to bring about positive change in young people aged 0-24 years who would benefit from good relations interventions. Programmes under this theme will invest in children and young people so that they can reach their potential and maximise their contribution to a cohesive society. It is expected that Good Relations interventions will contribute to lower levels of community division, sectarianism and racism, and will make a positive contribution to reconciliation. Citizenship interventions will develop the capacity of the participant to make a positive contribution towards their participation in family, community and society.
Indicative Actions might include:

• Inclusive local community youth initiatives involving arts, sport, culture, language and the environment that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance;
• Age appropriate actions that address sectarianism and racism;
• Youth centred initiatives that address anti-social behaviour;
• The creation of opportunities for young people from different tradition, cultural background or political opinion to meet and develop positive relationships;
• Youth leadership and citizenship programme that build capacity for a shared society
• Short-term diversionary activities at times of high community tension such as residential/sporting activity where theses form part of a longer term relationship building programme

Emerging Programme Activities

Preliminary consultation undertaken to date, has highlighted the potential contribution of a number of areas of interest to deliver this theme including the following;

• Early years Interventions
• Adopting a “whole family” and “intergenerational” approaches working directly with children, parents, and the wider family
• Engaging with children and young people and supporting sustained contact through sports, music and culture to develop positive relationships and personal skills and when appropriate gain qualifications.
• Promoting and supporting Skills Development, gaining Qualifications and entering Pathways to Employment involving a range of fields for example; new technologies, creative arts and culture, sport, music and the environment.
• Promoting and supporting social enterprises and ILM initiatives involving Local Authority, statutory, social partners, trade unions and business working together
• Youth Democracy: Supporting and promoting the participation of young people in the democratic process tackling the issue of disengagement.
• Youth Leadership: Fostering the development of young leaders across the sectors and communities, while promoting Active Citizenship and Volunteering.
• Supporting a Youth Zone Type Model: Responding to the desire expressed by young people to have somewhere to meet and have fun
• Supporting and working with marginalised young people who are at risk of disengaging and vulnerable to polarisation living within communities experiencing exclusion and isolation
Objective: The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance

The programmes will promote a number of actions including, new shared civic spaces with a transformative effect on local areas; developing the shared aspect of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings. The change will be reflected in how parades, flags, emblems, graffiti and other related issues impact on the public space and changes in both attitudes and behaviours with a corresponding reduction in segregation.

Indicative Actions might include:

- Programming initiatives designed to facilitate maximum and sustained levels of shared usage within these new developments;
- Public/community partnerships and facilitation for programme activities for shared space;
- Protocol development programmes to facilitate greater collaboration between people and places;
- Regeneration activities to remove/replace sectarian graffiti, flags and emblems; Capital developments in both urban and rural settings which are accessed by the whole community and treated as shared spaces welcoming and open to all.
- Projects may include activities that contribute to an enhancement of the environment in local communities e.g. enhancement of existing urban infrastructure or natural spaces.
- Activities may also include managing dialogue, reconciliation and capacity building between interface communities, leading to the creation of a shared vision and conditions where communities feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of interface barriers in their area.
Emerging Programme Activities

Preliminary consultation undertaken to date, has highlighted the potential contribution of a number of areas of interest to deliver this theme including the following:

- Linking and encouraging movement, cohesion and connections across the whole region
- Utilising the existing shared spaces, green spaces and waterways linking and connecting the City and wider region encouraging activities such as leisure, sporting social and horticulture.
- Interfaces: Supporting and enhancing work around interface areas while promoting cohesion and collaboration within and between communities, where interfaces are less visible but are still barriers to peace and reconciliation in both urban and rural settings.
- Building positive community relations within and between neighbouring communities
- Animation and outreach to support and promote shared spaces and venues both current and planned initiatives
- Creating Shared and Safe Spaces where none exist
- Focusing upon finding meaningful solutions to the sensitive issues of bonfires, flags and emblems which cause division and tension around culture and identity at a grass roots level
- A focused approach to building sustainable peace and community resilience in neighbourhoods where there have been low levels of engagement in peace-building activities and continued division and a legacy of conflict. Recognising intra-community conflict and tension with neighbourhoods.

The Local Authority allocation and determination across Themes is provided by the SEUPB based upon the allocations for both Northern Ireland and the Border Region are based on per capita and deprivation

Indicative Actions are taken from A Local Authority Partnership Guide to Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2014-2020, Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland
Objective: The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance

The Programme will support actions to facilitate the full participation of women in local initiatives and should also include targeting those groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the troubles/conflict, such as victims and survivors, those communities with social low capital, and those identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues. For example, young and older people, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.

Indicative Actions might include:

• Development of strong inclusive civic leadership, including increasing the capacity of marginalised groups to participate in peace and reconciliation activities;
• Conflict resolution and mediation at the local level;
• Sport, arts, culture including Irish and Ulster Scots language and environment projects e.g. enhancement of existing urban infrastructure or natural spaces that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance;
• Projects to facilitate personal interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods;
• Events linked to the decade of commemorations that explore history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding.
Emerging Programme Activities

Preliminary consultation undertaken to date, has highlighted the potential contribution of a number of areas of interest to deliver this theme including the following;

• Exploring and examining history, culture and identity as a means of promoting understanding and reconciliation.
• Examining and developing understanding of the Decade Commemorations particularly 1917-1921 through music, drama, literature and debate to promote respect and understanding of different cultural traditions and the different narratives
• Encouraging an examination of culture and history in schools through music, drama and literature
• Promoting and supporting festivals of music and drama to facilitate positive relations
• Supporting a platform for women’s voices, stories and experiences
• Exploring the issue of Patriarchy and patriarchal attitudes in NI
• Dealing with the aftermath and consequences of violence, creating space for “unheard” voices
• Recognising the link between trauma, mental health and wellbeing and the impact of transgenerational trauma
• Creating space place for dissenting voices, opening up to and sharing other narratives
• Support the inclusion and participation of minority communities including BME Community and LGBT&T community to create cohesive neighbourhoods – capacity, leadership and support networks
• Paying attention to the needs and good relations issues within rural communities and the additional barriers faced to engagement in peace-building
• Fostering and developing leadership skills across a range of sectors to support building a sustainable peace
• Developing the skills and building the capacity of different sectors to embed and mainstream good relations within public service delivery and provide positive relations outcomes
• Creative and innovative approaches to building peace and reconciliation which promote genuine and sustained engagement on a practical and meaningful basis
• Support the meaningful engagement and participant in activities identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues including victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability, ex-prisoners, former members of the security forces who feel isolated and polarised – should not be about engaging those easy to engage.
Assessing the impact of the Plan

The overall PEACE Programme includes specific results to be achieved under each priority. These results have been agreed between the NI Executive, the Irish Government and the European Commission and are set out below under each of the priorities to be addressed. Progress towards achieving these results will be assessed through a general survey of the population through the NI Life and Times Survey. The Derry and Strabane PEACE Plan is required to contribute towards these results:

Children and young people

• An increase in the percentage of 16 year olds who socialize or play sport with people from a different religious community ‘very often’ from 43% to 50%, ‘sometimes’ from 24% to 28%.
• An increase in the percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago from 45% to 50%.
• An increase in the percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years’ time from 38% to 45%.

Shared spaces and services

• The percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral; from 64% always or most of the time to 68%, and from 22% sometimes to 26%.
• The percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion; from 20% to 16%.
• The percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment; from 71% to 75%.
Building positive relations

- An increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago from 45% to 52%.
- An increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years’ time from 40% to 48%.
- An increase in the percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities from 30% to 38%.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed based upon the key objectives of the Derry and Strabane PEACE Plan and the specific results to be achieved by the Programme as detailed above. It is expected that the impact of the Derry and Starbane PEACE Plan will also contribute to the emerging Community Plan.

The monitoring and evaluation framework will seek to assess levels of engagement, participation and collaboration as well as monitor programme targets for activity and outputs. In addition, it will also seek to assess the overall impact of the Plan for individuals participating on programmes. The Plan seeks to bring about positive change in terms of knowledge and skills; attitudes and behaviour as well as individual circumstances. These changes could include:

- Greater appreciation of cultural diversity and increased tolerance of difference;
- Greater knowledge and awareness of rights and responsibilities;
- Increased sense of connection to and ownership of shared civic spaces;
- Greater confidence in travelling across the city to access services and opportunities;
- Increased sense of belonging to the city;
- Enhanced skills and employability.
Management and delivery of the Plan

The Lead Partner for the Derry and Starbane PEACE IV Plan will be the Council with overall financial and administrative responsibility for delivery of the Plan. Implementation of the Plan will be overseen by a newly established Peace Partnership. In keeping with the transnational nature of the Programme, cross border activity will be supported and facilitated and opportunities for joint working and sharing of good practice with other PEACE Partnerships across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland will be identified.
Peace IV Vision Statement

By 2023 Derry and Strabane will be a peaceful and shared society where good relations is embedded, where our communities are connected and where all cultures and traditions are respected.

Children and Young People

- Early years interventions
- Adopting a “whole family” and “intergenerational” approaches,
- Engaging with children and young people through sports, music and culture
- Promoting and supporting Skills Development
- Youth Democracy and Youth Leadership/Active Citizenship and Volunteering.
- Supporting Spaces for Young People
- Supporting and working with marginalised young people

Shared Spaces and Services

- Linking and encouraging movement and connections across the whole region
- Utilising the exiting shared spaces, green spaces and waterways linking and connecting the City
- Supporting and enhancing work around interface areas
- Building positive relations within communities and between communities
- Creating shared spaces where none exist

Building Positive Relations

- Exploring heritage, culture and identity
- Examining and understanding the Decade of Commemorations
- Supporting a platform for Women’s voices, stories and experiences
- Creating space for “Unheard” voices including victims
- Recognising the link between trauma, mental health and wellbeing.
- Creating space places for dissenting voices, opening up to and sharing other narratives
- Promoting the needs and support for minority communities including the BME Community and LGBT Community
- Paying attention to the needs and issues within rural communities
Further information

For further information on the overall PEACE IV Programme and more detail on the regulations governing the use of European Structural and Investment Funds contact the Special EU Programmes Body. www.seupb.eu

This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, MP3, DAISY) and minority languages.