



# PEACE III

Building Positive  
Relations at the  
Local Level

JUNE 2014



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future



**Front cover pictures:**

(Top to bottom)

1. Growing Respect participants in Ormeau Park with Lord Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir.
2. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Theresa Villiers visits the ForthSpring InterCommunity Project in April 2013
3. Growing Respect and Sligo Youth Council with David Crawley, Mayor of Sligo



School Children on the Walk of Faith Project 2013.



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## Section

## 1



## Foreword

L-R: Gareth Harper (PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland), Cllr Máire Hendron (Chair of the Belfast Good Relations Partnership), Martina McKnight (Belfast City Council Growing Respect Project), Darryl Pettigrew (PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland)

Through the Belfast PEACE III Plan (2009-2014) we invested more than £10 million in over 100 projects across the city. The Plan, which is one of fourteen Plans in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the PEACE III Programme, is now nearing an end.

The projects coming out of this Plan promoted good and positive relations and engaged people from all communities, providing opportunities to develop understanding, tolerance and sustainable relationships.

Project activities took place right across the city and beyond with many projects engaged in cross border work with partners from the Border counties.

In the second phase of the programme which ran from 2012 to 2014 over 13,000 people participated or attended a diverse range of activities. With the final projects running between May and September we will have engaged over 16,000 people in projects and activities that promote Belfast as a safer, shared city.

Some of the lasting legacies of the investment made include:

- replacement of six murals across the city;
- development and implementation of community action plans;
- creation of community partnerships;
- allocation of mainstream funding for initiatives developed under the Plan;
- production of publications, short films and reports;
- integration of Good Relations principles into policies and strategies.

The PEACE III Plan was mainly delivered by organisations and community groups working in partnership with the council. As part of local government reform, community planning powers will come to Belfast City Council next year, and the experience we have gained from developing and delivering the PEACE III Plan has shown how we can work with community organisations and statutory agencies to deliver tangible services, bring real benefits and create real value in local communities.

To conclude, on behalf of the Good Relations Partnership, I would like to thank all our staff, members of the Good Relations Partnership, project delivery agents and staff of the Special EU Programmes Body, Community Relations Council and POBAL, who all worked tirelessly to deliver the PEACE III Plan successfully.

And, I would also like to extend deep gratitude to every single person who engaged in what were sometimes very challenging initiatives. Participants in the projects confronted complex social and personal issues; worked together to overcome sectarianism and racism and through their involvement aided the movement towards a safer, more tolerant, shared and inclusive city. They deserve a huge thank you for helping build positive relations in our city.

**Cllr Máire Hendron**

Chair of the Good Relations Partnership

## Section

## 2



Projects met regularly at PEACE III Forums such as the mainstreaming session in December 2012

## How PEACE III works in Belfast

One of the key successes of the PEACE III Plan has been the sharing of information, knowledge and good practice through the various project forums and PEACE III Partnership Network meetings.

In the spirit of sharing information between partners, we adopted a toolkit which was created by Monaghan PEACE III partnership which gives guidance and practical tips on incorporating and evaluating peacebuilding activities.

The toolkit included a matrix to present how programmes or projects made progress towards Peace and Reconciliation.

Using this approach we can see how the each of the projects we supported made a positive impact on peace and reconciliation in Belfast.

Reconciliation depth	Aim	Types of activities	Examples of Belfast projects
<b>Contact awareness and understanding</b>	<p>Increasing awareness</p> <p>Increasing trust and understanding between individuals and communities</p> <p>Reducing tensions (especially around interfaces)</p>	<p>Visits</p> <p>Seminars</p> <p>Social and cultural interchanges</p> <p>Single identity work</p>	<p>City of Festivals</p> <p>Creative Legacies</p> <p>Citizens for Peace</p> <p>Growing Respect</p> <p>Walk of Faith</p> <p>WIMPS</p>
<b>Joint projects</b>	<p>Increasing collaboration</p> <p>Promoting efficient and effective working</p> <p>Producing agreed outputs and outcomes</p>	<p>Developing partnerships</p> <p>Area plans</p> <p>Shared cultural and sporting events</p> <p>Joint activities</p> <p>Visits</p>	<p>Peace Players International NI</p> <p>Tension Monitoring</p> <p>REAL Project</p> <p>Local Area Networks</p>
<b>Raising conflict issues</b>	<p>Breaking silence</p> <p>Challenging myths, preconceptions and stereotypes.</p> <p>Raising issues regarding culture, values, attitudes and structures that cause discrimination.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Debates</p> <p>Exhibitions</p>	<p>A Century Later</p> <p>Visions of Peace building</p> <p>Inner East and Outer West</p> <p>Mediation</p>
<b>Changing culture and structure</b>	<p>Changing or transforming structures and ways of working</p> <p>Creating more inclusive structures in communities</p>	<p>Establishing multi denominational groups</p> <p>Developing agreed approaches to local development events</p> <p>Mainstreaming</p>	<p>Creating Cohesive Community</p> <p>Cross Interface Community Planning</p> <p>Youth Engagement Project</p> <p>Roots of Empathy</p> <p>Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project</p>

Launch of the Creating Cohesive Community Project at Shaftesbury Recreation Centre in November 2012



Section

3

People

As part of the Belfast PEACE III Plan we funded 21 projects and engaged with over 13,000 people of all ages from all parts of the city through dialogue, activities and events. Our audience was diverse, reflecting the cultural diversity of our city:

- 11% of participants were from ethnic minorities. (Plan target 10%)
  - (Migrant and Ethnic Minority Project, Creating Cohesive Communities.)
- 63% of participants were aged 25 or under. (Plan target 50%)
  - (Roots of Empathy, Walk of Faith, Belfast Interface Games, Growing Respect, WIMPS, Youth Engagement Project.)
- 17% of participants were aged over 50.
  - Adults and seniors (Citizens For Peace, Mediation NI, A Century Later, Cross Interface Community Planning; Inner East/Outer West, Creative Legacies and City of Festivals.)
- 51% were from a catholic background and 49% from a protestant or other religious background.
- 48% were male and 52% female.

### What they said

*"The programme has been very successful in our school. I cannot speak highly enough about the way in which the programme has been introduced, organised, delivered"*

**Primary School Teacher involved in Small Steps Walk of Faith Project in North Belfast.**

*"If people would get to know us, they could begin to understand us and see how hard we work..it is only so we can look after our families and not harm anybody else"*

**A Roma Participant in one of the "conversation circles" run by Mediation NI.**

*"The opportunity to meet different people and different cultures, good for bringing people together-was brilliant"*

**A participant in Culture Night**

Agency members of the Operational Group  
at launch of Youth Engagement Programme.



*“Roots of Empathy has proven ,through rigorous study to improve children’s attitudes to those with a difference over the long term”.*

**Roots Of Empathy evaluation.**

*“The projects have successfully engaged with participants from the most deprived areas of Belfast. The participants have developed a greater understanding of their own communities and raised awareness, tolerance towards other communities”*

**(Creative Legacies evaluation)**

*“The atmosphere at meetings has been stimulating. Positions have been clarified, explained and challenged. People from different backgrounds share experiences of working in different contexts across the community. Real engagement has taken place, which gives hope for the future. I believe that this kind of engagement makes new things possible.”*

**Participant in Citizens for Peace  
(Roy Garland)**

The feedback from participants and various independent project evaluations convey positive messages of increasing awareness, understanding, tolerance and appreciation of differences.

The Belfast PEACE Plan has impacted on every level of peace and reconciliation in Belfast. More information on each of the projects, as well as an independent evaluation of the programme, is available from the PEACE III Team.

## Section

## 4

Attendees at City of Festivals event  
in Botanic gardens August 2013

## Places

The development and promotion of shared space has been a major theme of the PEACE III Plan. We have achieved this through physical transformations – murals, community gardens, environmental improvements and activities in public spaces to encourage engagement from all sections and all areas of Belfast and beyond.

In Phase II a number of community led action plans were also developed by groups such as Forthspring Inter Community Group and Lower Ormeau Residents Association and South Belfast Roundtable. These plans cover issues raised by local residents and provide practical action plans for a whole range of feasible and sustainable initiatives as well as the development of longer term aspirational plans and visions for local neighbourhoods.

The City of Festivals project supported 17 large and 5 smaller festivals. The PEACE III funding was specifically used to increase participation from residents and community groups in the most socially and economically deprived areas.

As part of the neighbourhood action plans developed through the Tension Monitoring Project a number of environmental

Presentation on the Tension Monitoring project at Clifton House, Belfast in April 2013



improvements took place which were devised and delivered by local participants.

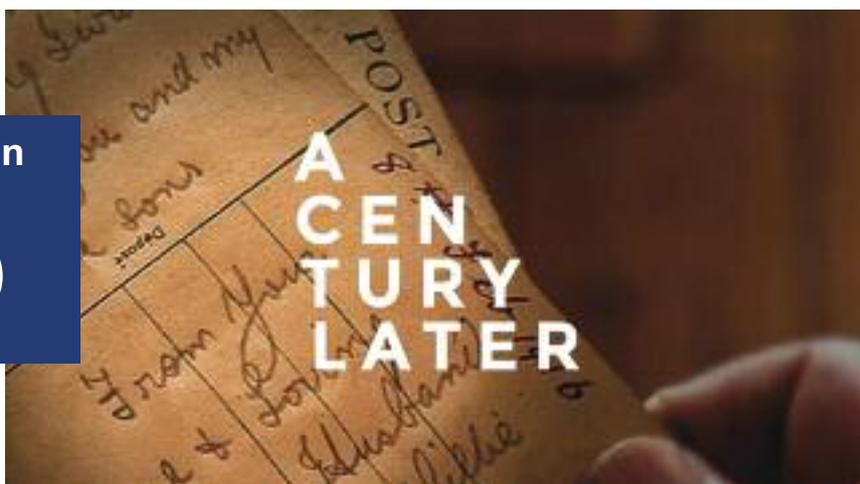
A major environmental improvement project focusing on Interface areas in Belfast has conducted extensive consultation exercises with a view to making improvements and changing the environment or physical structures at 14 interface barriers. This work is ongoing but as with all projects of this nature the actual physical work is the last and easiest part of the project. Many improvements have been agreed following extensive dialogue, discussion amongst and between communities and an array of public bodies and it is envisaged the works will be complete by December 2014.



## Section

## 5

## Posterity



## Legacy of the Belfast PEACE III Plan

Apart from engaging people in a wide range of activities and events, a large number of tangible lasting products have been developed and delivered by projects and participants. These products and publications have been developed as tools to enable people to work together, share ideas and record their achievements. They include:

- 20 short films and four 45 minute documentary films produced by Northern Visions and available on [www.northernvisions.org](http://www.northernvisions.org). These films have been shown on community television channels in the United States, UK and Ireland.
- Short films produced by Small Steps Walk of Faith Project; Growing Respect; Youth Engagement Project and the Creative Legacies Programme.
- Photographic Exhibitions - Visions of Peace Building developed by the Training for Womens Network and the Inner East/Outer West Photography exhibition developed by Belfast Interface Project and participants from Inner East Belfast and Suffolk and Lenadoon.
- Community Plans developed by Forthspring, Creating Cohesive Community Project and the REAL Project.
- Evaluation reports.
- Internet based publications-over 50 were produced by the WIMPS Project (Where is my Public Servant?) led by Public Achievement.
- Tapestries created in eight schools by the children involved in the Walk of Faith Project.
- Discussion documents produced by Mediation NI.
- Training programmes and materials produced by the Peace Players NI and the Migrant and Minority Ethnic project.
- The Roots of Empathy Programme, an early years intervention programme has been mainstreamed by the Belfast Health Care Trust.
- The local area networks established under the NI Housing Executive Community Cohesion project will continue to meet.
- Belfast City Council strategies such as the Good Relations Strategy, Integrated Cultural strategy, and Community Safety Strategy have included elements developed under PEACE III.
- Relationships between organisations have been developed for partnership working that will continue post PEACE III funding.
- The actions identified under local area community action plans will continue to be developed and implemented.



Young people showcase their work on the Creative Legacies Programme in September 2013

- Models of good practice and training programmes that have been developed by organisations will form the basis of either attracting further funding or being supported through other means.
- We lead a multi-agency migrant forum to ensure that everyone in Belfast has equal and appropriate access to the services in the city. And we'll continue to deliver training in partnership with local community organisations on migration awareness and ending hate in our communities.
- We have worked in partnership with a number of agencies, organisations, trades unions and the wider community to support greater integration, inclusion and participation of members of migrant and minority ethnic communities in Belfast. This has included the Belfast Integration and Participation project led by GEMS NI which aimed to:
  - Promote integration and participation through economic opportunities
  - Build the capacity of practitioners and advisors and provide access to information
  - Promote the social aspects of integration and create anti-rumour network.
- We have also produced a guide for those who have recently arrived in Belfast. It is available at [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/goodrelations](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/goodrelations) and includes information about a range of support services.
- We also worked with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to deliver an employment rights project which provides representation for migrant workers and also delivers training for employers in relation to their employment responsibilities. 103 people from 20 different countries received advice and support from the Employment and Engagement Project as part of the Migrant & Ethnic Minority programme– 29 workers were protected from dismissal and 25 had workplace issues resolved amicably.
- Students from Queen's University teamed up with children to provide homework support as part of the Creating Cohesive Community Project in South Belfast.
- A spin off from the Forthspring Cross Interface Community Planning project was that the young people involved developed, wrote and performed a play based on historical events around the 12th July and 9th August.
- 28 people from the Ardoyne/Alliance Local Area Network developed by the NI Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Project successfully completed employment related training programmes.

## Section

## 6

A group of seven children in traditional Chinese costumes are standing in a room decorated for Chinese New Year. They are holding large white letters that spell out the word 'RESPECT'. The background features a yellow wall with Chinese New Year decorations, including a poster of a dragon and various signs like 'Kung', 'Fat', 'Choy', 'Chinese New Year', and 'Year of the Snake'.

Children at the RESPECT Programme in North Belfast in March 2013 led by Ashton Community Trust.

## Belfast PEACE III Plan Summary

A summary of achievement against the agreed Plan targets is given in the table below. Project activities are scheduled to run until September 2014:

Ref:	Indicator	Target Value	Q4 Update	% Completion
12400	Programmes developed and implemented in 12/13 year	12	12	100%
12405	Participants at events that address sectarianism and racism or deal with conflict resolution	2780	5227	188%
12410	Events hosted	79	93	118%
12415	Report/film/delivered	56	85	152%
12420	Area networks promoting community cohesion established in 2013	2	2	100%
12425	Participants trained	484	337	70%
12435	Development of specific and bespoke package of support and intervention for each participant and their families	1	1	100%
12440	Public art/legacy projects to be commissioned under the programme	15	11	73%
12445	Training programme developed	19	19	100%
12450	Cross border and cross community events	6	6	100%
12460	Schools enlisted in the Belfast area onto the programme	10	11	110%
12465	Members of staff provided with four days consortia training, within the cluster area, to become qualified Roots of Empathy Instructors.	10	11	110%
12470	Parents with new born babies enlisted to become mentors on the Roots of Empathy programme.	10	11	110%
12476	Environmental improvement	1	5	500%
12481	Consortia/partnership projects grant aided under the Plan	10	11	110%
12485	Total participants at events/workshops/seminars	10622	8347	79%
12490	Publications	72	70	97%
12495	Copies of manuals/booklets/DVDs	3300	3300	100%
12500	Residentials	20	21	105%
12505	Workshops	17	95	559%
12510	Community plans	3	3	100%
12515	Total attendees at Residentials/discussions/study visits/dialogues	2238	5438	243%
12520	Study visits on cross community, cross border basis	8	7	88%
12525	Participants on cross community cross border study visits	125	269	215%
12535	Exhibition materials	5	9	180%
12540	Website and interactive blog	3	3	100%



At City Hall in 2012 the Finance Minister Sammy Wilson MP, MLA; Irish Minister of State Brian Hayes, TD; the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Gavin Robinson; Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body; and Ruairi Crossen participant on the WIMPS Project.



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