

PEACE IV Louth Programme Newsletter No 9 – July 2021



Welcome to the 9th and summer edition of the Louth PEACE IV Newsletter.

The PEACE IV projects are supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB) and supported locally by Louth County Council and Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic continues but the Peace IV funded projects in Louth continue to find new and innovative ways to deliver upon their outputs. Well done to all involved and keep up the great work.

The closing event of three (3) Louth PEACE IV projects took place over the last few months. These events were online due to the Public Health Crisis and for the safety of all involved. The PEACE IV secretariat would like to commend all those involved in delivering and participating in the projects that supported children and young people, and worked to build positive relations. This is a great achievement which will leave a lasting legacy and make a real difference not only to those who took part but to the wider community.



Closing Event No. 1

Muirhevnemor Peace Programme

Community Restorative Justice

To officially mark the end of the Muirhevnemor peace project, theme Children and Young People (CYP) the closing event took place on 27th April over zoom and was attended by a wide variety of members of the community.

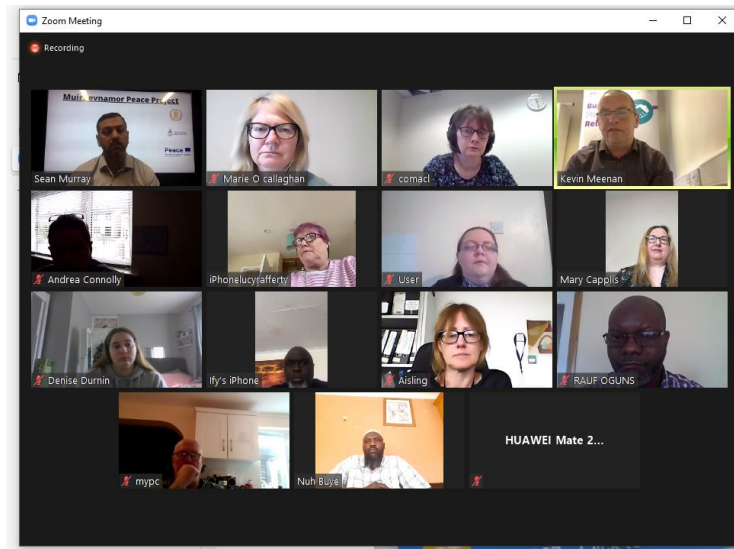
It captured an overview of the project activities over its lifetime, documenting some of the participant's stories. This final closing event was an opportunity for Community Restorative Justice to celebrate with the funders, partners, beneficiaries and friends the achievements of the EU funded project.

The closing event was an opportunity to show the journey of the participants and beneficiaries involved with the project throughout its lifetime. The PEACE IV funded project engaged over 221 Young People in a range of cultural diversity activities, workshops, training in leadership skills. The vast range of programme activities helped to build good relations and community capacity, one such event was the Multicultural Fun Day, held in Muirhevnemor. Additionally, the project engaged with community youth projects in Newry and Belfast.

This innovative cultural diversity programme provided the opportunity to create new, forward-thinking partnerships between different groups in order to promote cultural diversity and promote reconciliation.

It is important not to underestimate the value of a programme like this and the legacy it leaves in helping us all move towards a more inclusive, cohesive society.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



PEACE IV funded project Muirhevnemor Peace Programme
 Closing Event held over Zoom on 27th April 2021



Closing Event No. 2 From Oriel To Brexit Diversity Challenges

The closing event (film) of From Oriel to Brexit, theme Building Positive Relations (BPR,) which incorporated interviews with tutors and participial footage from the workshops was screened on Thursday, 20 May, at 3.00 p.m.at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sibxlofp2g>

A cross-border project using the arts, funded under the EU's PEACE IV Programme, successfully concluded despite the impact of Covid-19 government restrictions.

The project had three elements to it: Creative writing and photography for women-only, Music workshops in primary schools, and Theatre.

Dr. Laurence McKeown, Project Manager said "I want to say a huge thank you to the partners involved in the project, the tutors, and especially the participants who made it all such a wonderful experience despite the challenges. I also want to thank the staff of the PEACE secretariat at Louth County Council and those of SEUPB who were willing to work with us to find ways around the barriers posed by Covid-19 government restrictions. It is due to the efforts of all that we were able to fully complete what was a very valuable and extremely enjoyable project."

Filmed readings from *In My Own Write* can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLoFpFwmx4s>

The full content of the book *In My Own Write* can be viewed at

<https://issuu.com/laurencemckeown5/docs/inmyownwriteinside2>

Congratulations to everyone involved.



Images from the PEACE IV funded project From Oriel to Brexit.



Closing Event No. 3 **Engagement and Signposting Service** **Youth Work Ireland**

The closing event of Louth PEACE IV Engagement and Signposting Service project theme Building Positive Relations (BPR) took place online on 30th June. The project focused on rural engagement of young people in the areas of Dunleer, Ardee, Omeath, Carlingford and Clogherhead. 40 young people (aged 16 – 25) took part in the project over a two year period. Following the on-street targeting of youths for the programme, data gathering from the participants highlighted their need for local social spaces, local mental health services and local youth services in the rural areas in Louth. The project offered support, advice and a referral system to young people in the 5 areas.

The programme equipped the young people with the skills to access a wide range of resources and supported opportunities that are available to them as well as building positive relations.

Some of the young people are now undertaken youth training courses so that they can help out with junior summer camps and youth clubs that are happening in their areas.

The Signposting and Engagement project was managed by project manager Erin Finnegan, Youth Work Louth.

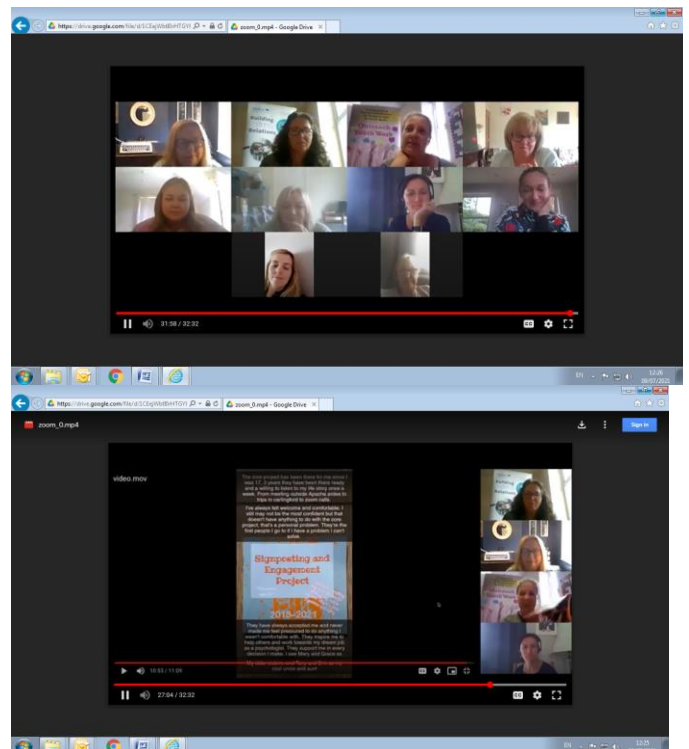
Youth Work Ireland Louth would like to thank the Good Relation Initiative and the support of Louth County Council, Louth Local Community Development Committee and the

Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) for their financial support.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



Youths enjoying a day out at Carlingford, Co. Louth PEACE IV funded project Engagement and Signposting Service



PEACE IV funded project Engagement and Signposting Service Closing Event held over Zoom 30th June 2021.



New PEACE IV Project Adapting Aftermath Archives

This is the final project of the Louth PEACE IV Programme under the theme CYP – Children and Young People. This project was awarded to Diversity Challenges in June and has now commenced.

Engagement between Diversity Challenges and a young person's advisory group (YPAG) will co-develop the Adapting Aftermath Archives Programme. Researching the existing archives from the Aftermath Project (funded under PEACE 111) common themes will be identified and a toolkit will be designed and compiled for delivery in workshops between September and December of this year. This will ensure a unique blend of expertise and produce a programme fit for purpose with the target user groups.

The project will be coordinated by Dr Laurence McKeown who devised and coordinated the original Aftermath project. Laurence therefore has a very detailed and intimate knowledge of the content of the Aftermath archives. Laurence is also skilled in filmmaking and experienced in working with film editors and that skill will be brought to bear in terms of reviewing and adapting the filmed archives in line with requirements for the toolkit to be delivered in the workshops.

The other partners in the project are Lesley Emmerson, and Kabosh Theatre. Lesley Emmerson, Lecturer in Education, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, at Queen's University Belfast, to develop the toolkit.

Kabosh Theatre Company will be responsible for the delivery of the toolkit through a series of workshops. The project aims to facilitate an engagement with the narratives of those who lived through the conflict, and will facilitate an interaction between a diverse range of young people on a cross-border and cross-religious basis.

We look forward to the project launch which is scheduled to take place next month.





The Good Relations Initiative Louth Volunteer Centre

On 7th July last Louth Volunteer Centre's Good Relations Initiative held an event in Bluebell Lane, Mullaghbawn, to celebrate the work of their Cross Border Women's groups since the commencement of the programme in January 2020. Members of Cooley Connect Well and South Armagh Women's Group were in attendance. Many of the participants had volunteered to become cross border penpals in May 2020 to share their experience of COVID and were delighted to be coming together in person once again. Loretta Brennan speaking on behalf of the South Armagh group noted, 'there is something about writing that heals the soul, so I am grateful to have my penpal, Clodagh, I feel like a schoolgirl writing to my friend'.

The event included a showcase of Peace quilts which were made up of pieces created during zoom sessions discussing conflict and representing participants own experiences of conflict and conflict resolution. Clodagh McGreehan of Cooley Connect Well talked us through the meaning of the pieces and the impact of putting them together for participants both individually and as a group, whilst Oonagh Campbell shared a poem about the experience and Kate Murphy shared a song from the local area to reflect her own story. The event also included a display of the 'Our Stories Our Time' element of the project which was very impactful for all present. A number of participants spoke about their experience of the programme, how they never expected to be able to feel connected over zoom and how it had been such a positive experience in a difficult year as Loretta said "We have all gained so much, we had something to look forward to every week and we never went away any week with a great story and loads of laughter".

All participants were presented with a certificate of completion by Michael Gaynor of Louth Peace Partnership, who noted that the event was about the participants and what they have achieved despite the difficulties with not being able to physically come together most of the year; he further noted that it was good for the Peace Partnership to see the value of these projects for those participating in them.



Mairead Hearty Project Manager opening the Building Bridges Celebration Event at Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh as part of the PEACE IV funded project The Good Relations Initiative



The Women's Group reviewing the stories from the project.



Cooley Connect Well Peace Quilt displayed at the event in Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh



Participants from the Cooley Connect Well element of the project receiving certificates from Michael Gaynor, PEACE IV Partnership at the Building Bridges Celebration Event.



South Armagh Peace Quilt displayed at the Building Bridges Celebration Event.



THE SMALL GRANTS

LMETB

Boyne Fishermen's Rescue and Recovery – Cross Community Rescue and Recovery Skills Project

This is a voluntary rescue and recovery service, based in Co. Louth, operating through the 32 counties of Ireland. Boyle Fishermen also provide training and education to other organizations in their on-site purpose-built classroom.

The Cross Community Rescue and Recovery Skills Project will work directly with two groups in the area, Mosney (asylum seekers and people in direct provision) and the The Red Door Project in Drogheda (who work with people impacted by homelessness and related social issues). Facilitating the interaction between these groups will build a respect for each other and for the skills required in water safety and team work. Both groups have a history with water and the importance of water safety knowledge will be invaluable.

The project involves using the medium of water Safety Course that will teach lifesaving skills to 20 participants. The course will include boat handling, safe water entry, life ring throwing and Coronary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training amongst other skills.

Participants will be able to further their skill set and in doing so help their own community and hopefully consider rescue and recovery as a voluntary career path.

Project Outputs: The project aims to address issues regarding how we perceive and expect others not from our own ethnic/religious/cultural/community to perceive us. Therefore building good relations across communities/cultures and religions.



Boyne Fishermen's Rescue and Recovery Team.



Participants taking part in the Cross Community Rescue and Recovery Skills Project.



CPR Training taken place at the Cross Community Rescue and Recovery Skills Project funded by PEACE IV.



Water Rescue Training.



Shore Training taken place as part of the PEACE IV funded project The Cross Community Rescue and Recovery Skills Project.



Coastal Training.