



Louth PEACEPLUS

Quarterly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to the 8th edition of the Louth PEACEPLUS Newsletter.

We are delighted to share the latest progress in delivering the County Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan, which continues to bring communities together, promote inclusion, and create lasting positive changes across the county.

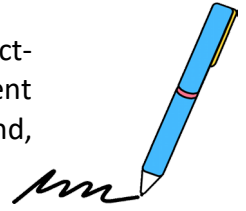
Commencing this edition, we will introduce you to three of our project delivery agents who deliver PEACEPLUS projects as outlined within the Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

We also celebrate a series of successful launch events for the Multicultural / Intercultural Programme, Entrepreneurship / Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities Project, and the LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme, each designed to strengthen connections and foster greater understanding between communities.

Thank you for your continued interest and support as we work together to build a more inclusive, connected, and prosperous future for all.

St. Nicholas Church, Dundalk

Significant progress is being made in the appointment of a Conservation Architect-led multidisciplinary team to deliver the detailed design, construction management and handover of the renovation and upgrade works at St Nicholas' Church of Ireland, Dundalk. Contracts are expected to be finalised and signed in the coming weeks.



Subject to contract signing, it is anticipated that works under this key element of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan will commence before the end of Quarter 4, 2026.

Request for Tenders

- ❖ A Request for Quotation was circulated to interested parties for the delivery of a PEACEPLUS ex-political prisoner Irish Language Engagement Programme. The closing date for submission of quotations is the 1st of October 2026.
 - ❖ A request for tenders to deliver two PEACEPLUS Robbie Burns themed culture/music events will be published in October 2026.
 - ❖ It is planned that a request for tenders to deliver a PEACEPLUS Battle of the Boyne Site Animation Biodiversity Project will be published in October 2026
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Project Launch Events

Launch Events of the “Multicultural / Intercultural Programme” & “Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities” Projects

Culture Connect officially launched two PEACEPLUS-funded initiatives, the **Multicultural / Intercultural Programme** and the **Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities Programme**, at a special event held on 12 August 2026.

The **Multicultural / Intercultural Programme**, entitled “**Around the World in 7 Days**”, will deliver a vibrant series of multicultural events designed to celebrate diversity, foster greater understanding, and promote mutual respect between people of different cultures, backgrounds and traditions. Through shared experiences and community engagement, the programme aims to strengthen intercultural relationships and build more inclusive communities.

The **Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities Programme**, known as the **Changemaker Programme**, will empower participants to explore and develop social enterprise opportunities that address local needs and community challenges. The initiative seeks to challenge perceptions, promote positive attitudinal change towards minority communities, and support participants in developing the skills, confidence and networks required to establish sustainable social enterprises that deliver meaningful social impact.

Both programmes represent important investments in fostering inclusion, participation and community cohesion across County Louth and the wider cross-border region.



PEACEPLUS Multicultural / Intercultural Programme & Social Entrepreneurship for the Traveller Community and Ethnic Minority Communities Project Launch Event



Project Launch Events continued

Launch Event of the “LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme”

The PEACEPLUS LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme was officially launched on 16 September 2026 at Wellington Hall, Dundalk, marking an important milestone in the delivery of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

Delivered by Outcomers CLG, the programme will provide targeted outreach and engagement initiatives for LGBTQIA+ young people across rural and cross-border communities. In addition, it will deliver a comprehensive awareness-raising programme for public sector staff, aimed at increasing understanding of the challenges and experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals and promoting more inclusive services and communities.

Further information on this exciting initiative can be found later in this newsletter, where the Outcomers team is introduced and the programme objectives, activities and anticipated community benefits are outlined in greater detail.



PEACEPLUS LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme Launch Event

Upcoming Events

PEACEPLUS Programme: “Introduction to Community Restorative Justice in Louth”

The launch event of the PEACEPLUS Introduction to Community restorative Justice Programme will take place on the 9th of October 2026 in Muirhevnamor Community Centre.

This programme has been contracted to Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh and will explore issues of perceived prejudice, discrimination, demonisation and social justice experienced by ex-political prisoners and their families on a cross-border basis.

PEACEPLUS Programme: “St. Nicholas’ Church Dundalk Open Days”

St Nicholas Church of Ireland, Dundalk is celebrating the Harvest Festival by hosting “Harvest Harmony” from Saturday the 17th of October until Monday the 19th of October 2026, which will be a celebration of Youth, Music & Community. The weekend will include activities such as choir performances & guided tours of St Nicholas Church of Ireland.

ST NICHOLAS'
— PARISH CHURCH —
(The GREEN Church, Dundalk)

HARVEST Harmony

A Celebration of
Youth, Music & Community

Saturday 17th October, 11am—4pm
Harvest, Music, Family & Heritage Day

Sunday 18th October, 1pm—7.30pm
Organ Recitals & Harvest Songs of Praise Service

Monday 19th October, 10am—4pm
Harvest Harmony Youth Choir Day

PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

LCDC
Louth Community Development
Committee

Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Introduction to PEACEPLUS Delivery Agents

In future editions of this newsletter, we will shine a spotlight on the delivery partners contracted to deliver projects and programmes under the Louth County Council PEACEPLUS Action Plan. These features will showcase the staff, programme deliverables and community impact of our Delivery Agents, while highlighting the important role they play in helping to build a more inclusive, connected and prosperous region.

Through these profiles, readers will gain a deeper insight into the wide range of initiatives being delivered across County Louth and the positive difference they are making within our communities.

Delivery Agent – Outcomers CLG

Programme:	LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme
Funding:	€102,991
Objective:	Engage 106 participants over two years to promote understanding, inclusion and respect for LGBTQIA+ people across County Louth.
Overview:	Through peer support groups, community events, cross-border visits and inclusion training, the programme will strengthen community connections, support LGBTQIA+ people in rural and border areas, and help organisations create more welcoming and inclusive services.
Expected Impact:	Increased visibility, stronger support networks, greater participation in community life, and lasting positive change for LGBTQIA+ people across the region.

Meet the Team

- Bernardine Quinn – Project Lead, responsible for programme delivery and achievement of project milestones.
- Annie Blake – Outreach Facilitator, leading community engagement, training and local partnership development.
- Lorna Costelloe – Youth Coordinator, bringing extensive experience in youth support, training and community development.
- Nuala Delany – Community Outreach Worker, providing local knowledge and expertise in LGBTQIA+ rights and advocacy.



Pictured: Members of Outcomers (Bernardine Quinn, Lorna Costelloe & Annie Blake) along with Cathaoirleach Councillor Dolores Minogue, Councillor Maeve Yore, Councillor Sionnan McCann & Susan Deery, PEACEPLUS Programme Manager.

Missing from group photo is Nuala Delany (inset picture).

Delivery Agent – Third Sector Connect

- Programme:** Sports Engagement Programme (Shared Goals)
- Funding:** €258,472.20
- Objective:** To use sport as a platform to bring young people from different backgrounds together, building confidence, leadership, teamwork, respect and positive cross-community relationships.
- Overview:** Shared Goals combines sports coaching, personal development workshops, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion training, and cross-border engagement activities. Participants develop sporting skills alongside leadership, resilience and communication skills, while gaining a Level 1 Qualification in Sport and Good Relations. The programme is delivered free of charge to schools, clubs and community groups.
- Achievements to Date:** Nine schools, clubs and community groups have joined the programme, engaging almost 300 participants. A community summer camp at Geraldines GFC enabled young people to complete their Level 1 qualification, while participant workbooks and certificates have been developed to support learning and recognise achievement.
- Expected Impact:** The programme aims to engage over 700 young people across 24 cohort groups, increasing cross-community friendships, understanding of different traditions, confidence, leadership skills and participation in sport. Young people will also be supported to progress into volunteering and leadership roles within their local clubs and communities.

Meet the Team: Gavin Nelson, Managing Director, Third Sector Connect

Gavin leads the Shared Goals programme and brings over 20 years' experience in sport, youth development and community relations. Having held senior roles with the Irish FA, English FA and Major League Soccer, he has extensive expertise in leadership development, club engagement and cross-community programmes. Gavin also holds an MBA and serves on a number of voluntary and governance bodies across Northern Ireland.



Pictured: Gavin Nelson, Third Sector Connect

- Programme:** Youth and Community Safety -Engagement, Wellbeing & Signposting Project
- Funding:** €166,556.76
- Objective:** Engage 200 vulnerable young people in the rural border areas of County Louth, using specialised outreach and one-to-one support to build trust in policing and signpost participants to relevant services.
- Overview:** Over 200 young people have engaged with the project, with 40+ participating regularly. Through wellbeing, employability and personal development activities, participants are building life skills, confidence and stronger community connections.
- Achievements to Date:** The project has supported young people back into education and employment through mentoring, employability workshops and skills development. Cross-border visits and discussions on peacebuilding, diversity and inclusion have further broadened participants' experiences and understanding.
- Expected Impact:** Increased confidence, resilience and community participation, helping young people make positive life choices and achieve their educational, employment and personal goals.

Meet the Team: John Connolly, Project Co-ordinator

With over 30 years' experience in youth work and community development, John has played a key role in engaging young people, building trust and supporting participants to reach their full potential.



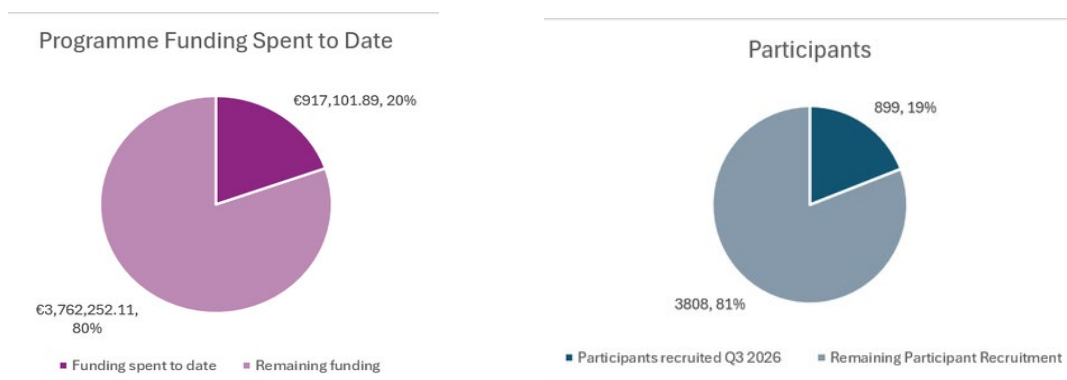
Pictured: John Connolly, Project Co-Ordinator

Programme Progress - Statistics

To date, expenditure across all projects within the Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan has reached €917,101.89, representing approximately 20% of the total programme allocation of €4,679,354. This demonstrates the significant progress being made by contracted Delivery Agents in implementing a diverse range of initiatives that are delivering tangible benefits across communities.

Funding drawn down from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is closely linked to participant engagement and programme outcomes. Across the Action Plan, a total of 4,682 participants are targeted to engage meaningfully in PEACEPLUS-funded activities and experience positive outcomes as a result of their involvement. These outcomes are measured and verified through robust monitoring, evaluation reports and participant surveys to ensure that projects are delivering lasting impact.

To date, 899 participants have been recruited and engaged across the various programmes, representing approximately 19% of the overall participation target. This strong early performance reflects the successful mobilisation of projects and the growing reach of PEACEPLUS initiatives throughout County Louth and the wider cross-border region. As additional programmes become fully operational, participant numbers are expected to continue to increase significantly in the months ahead.



To date, Delivery Agents have successfully recruited 28 of the targeted 238 participants from the Protestant, Unionist and Loyalist (PUL) community, representing progress towards fostering greater inclusion and participation from this key target group. In addition, 88 of the targeted 705 participants from Minority Communities have been engaged across a range of programme activities, while 14 of the targeted 468 Cross-Border participants have been recruited to date.

As projects continue to expand their outreach and delivery activities, participation from these target groups is expected to increase significantly. The recruitment figures achieved so far reflect the foundations being established by Delivery Agents to build sustainable engagement, strengthen relationships across communities, and maximise the long-term impact of PEACEPLUS investment throughout County Louth and the wider cross-border region.



Introduction to PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee

The Louth PEACEPLUS Partnership is a sub-committee of, and reports to the Louth Local Development Committee (LCDC) and provides oversight of the co-design process, development, submission, implementation & reporting of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan and will also be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the plan over the lifetime of the PEACEPLUS Programme.

The Partnership is representative of communities across the county and includes Elected Members, Public Sector Members & Community & Voluntary Sector Members.

Public Sector Members	
David Conway	Louth County Council
Insp. Ger Collins	An Garda Síochana
Joanne Murphy	Tusla
Joseph Gallagher	Department of Social Welfare
Sadie Ward McDermott	LMETB
Paula Keenan	LCDC Chief Officer
Elected Members	
Cllr. Shane McGuinness	Municipal District of Dundalk
Cllr. Sionainn McCann	Municipal District of Dundalk
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Municipal District of Ardee
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Municipal District of Ardee
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	Municipal District of Drogheda
Cllr. Michelle Hall	Municipal District of Drogheda

Community & Voluntary Sector Members	
Aidan Harte	Church of Ireland
Kevin Moran	Dundalk Youth Centre
Bernardine Quinn	Outcomers
Carol Murphy	SOSAD
Pat McVeigh	Faillte Abhaile
Flora Okobi	Culture Connect
Gerry McAlinden	Carlingford Lough Heritage
Damien McKenna	Redeemer Family Resource Centre
Alan McArdle	Faughart Community Group
Paddy Malone	Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for reading!

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PEACEPLUS@louthcoco.ie	SEUPB Website