



PEACEPLUS

Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Riádas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Newsletter

Spring 2025

Welcome

As Chair of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership, I am delighted to welcome you to the 1st edition of the PEACEPLUS Newsletter. The Newsletter is a means to providing our residents with up to date information on the implementation of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, the range of programmes being delivered and the opportunities that exist for participation.

The Local Action Plan has secured €5,671,195 PEACEPLUS funding from the European Union, UK Government, the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive. The grant has been awarded under Theme 1, Investment Area 1.1 Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans.

I would like to express my thanks to the PEACEPLUS Funders for the financial support which will allow us to lead on peacebuilding initiatives that are relevant to the district and where they will have the greatest impact, at a local level.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership is confident that projects which are detailed in the plan, and included in the Newsletter, will build and empower resilient, thriving and safe communities; increase their capacity for development; and make a lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation long after the funding ends.

I would encourage everyone to take part in the programme and I look forward to the implementation stage and seeing first-hand the positive impacts and benefits gained through this PEACEPLUS funding.



Councillor Allan Rainey

Chair, Fermanagh and
Omagh PEACEPLUS
Partnership

Introduction



Working with a dedicated budget of €5,671,195 under Investment Area 1.1 of the PEACEPLUS Programme, 'Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities', Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with support from the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership has developed a local PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

The Local Action Plan, developed through an intensive co-design process in partnership with local communities will help to build positive relations, celebrate cultural diversity and re-image communities through the provision of new shared spaces and services.

The Action Plan includes 13 programmes across three themes.

1. Local Community Regeneration and Transformation
2. Thriving and Peaceful Communities
3. Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

Delivery of a PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan will see participants developing new relationships on a cross community and cross border basis. The range of activities will include sports, arts,

music, drama, skills development, understanding culture, history and heritage, which will bring people together and will ultimately increase understanding, respect and acceptance for diversity. Groups will become more empowered to increase capacity and engage in community development activities across the district and will work to making a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.

Delivery of the Action plan will help enable relationship building which has the potential to last beyond the PEACEPLUS programme.

The long-term impact of delivery of the Action Plan includes:

- Improved understanding and respect for other cultures
- Improved understanding and acceptance of other communities
- Increased opportunities for cross community activities
- Increased confidence in expressing cultural identity/ personal background.



Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership

A PEACEPLUS Partnership has been established to oversee the effective development and implementation of a Local Action Plan. The Partnership, is representative of communities across the district and includes Elected Members, Statutory representatives and Social Partners.

Elected Members

ClIr Allan Rainey (Chair)	ClIr Rosemary Barton	ClIr Dermot Browne
ClIr Debbie Coyle	ClIr Stephen Donnelly	ClIr Anthony Feely
ClIr Adam Gannon	ClIr Catherine Kelly	ClIr John McClaughry
ClIr Collette McNulty	ClIr Thomas O'Reilly	ClIr Paul Robinson
ClIr Errol Thompson	ClIr Patrick Withers	

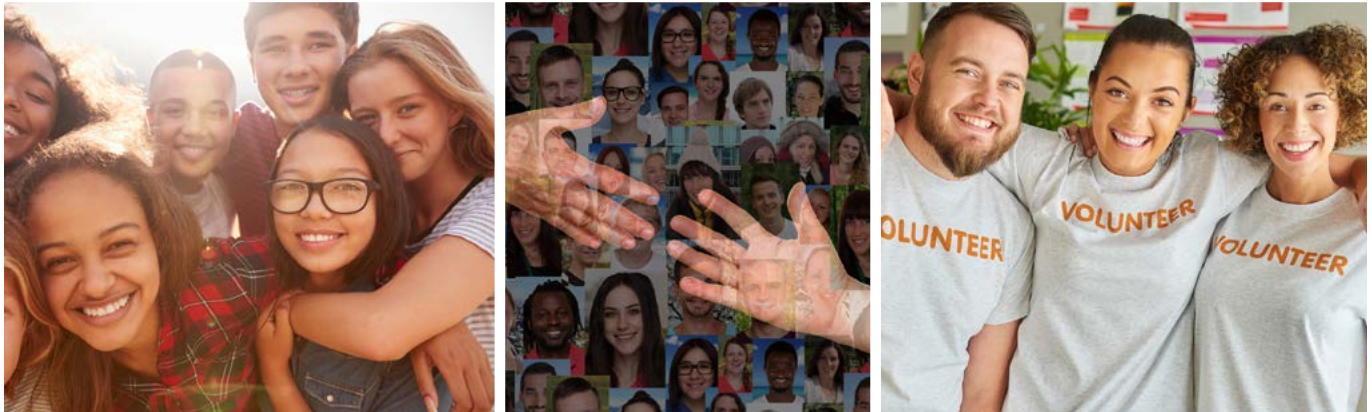
Social Partners

Ms Jenny Irvine <i>Arc Healthy Living Centre (Vice-Chair)</i>	Mr Barry Boyle <i>Fermanagh Rural Community Network</i>	Ms Mary T Conway <i>Omagh Forum for Rural Associations</i>
Mr Paul Dolan <i>Erne East Partnership</i>	Ms Eileen Drumm	Ms Sonya Johnston, <i>Fermanagh Trust</i>
Mr Conor Keys <i>Focus</i>	Mr Brendan McAleer, <i>Dún Uladh Ltd</i>	Ms Margaret Martin
Mr Rory O'Brien <i>Loughmacrory Community Development Association</i>		

Statutory Organisations

Education Authority -Youth Service	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Department for Communities (DfC)
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT)	

Planning for Implementation Stage



As we move closer to the implementation stage, the PEACEPLUS Admin team is holding a number of information events across the district to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the range of opportunities available through the programme and how they can get involved. The events will take place from April through to June 2025.

To register your interest in attending an engagement event, please contact the PEACEPLUS Coordinator, at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 0300 303 1777 (local rate) or via email at peace@fermanaghomagh.com. Please also keep an eye out on the Council's Social Media Platforms for further updates on delivery of the Local Action Plan.

In addition, the PEACEPLUS Admin team is concluding on a number of tender processes to appoint suitably qualified organisations to implement the following programmes and as detailed in the Action Plan.

- 2.2 'Action Volunteer Support' Programme
- 2.3 'Connecting Communities Through Wellbeing' Programme
- 2.5 'Community Youth' Programme
- 3.1 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' Programme
- 3.2 'I Want You To Know About Me' Programme
- 3.3 'Healthy Relationships' Programme
- 3.4 'Language Support' Programme

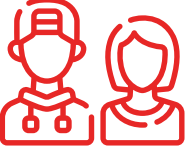










The Co-Designed Process

A co-designed process was undertaken to determine the needs and opportunities for the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, engaging the PEACEPLUS Partnership and the local community/voluntary sector across the district.

108 people representing a diverse range of groups and communities engaged in public meetings across the 7 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and 533 people responded to an online survey. Participants discussed the key issues affecting peace and prosperity within the district and highlighted priority needs and proposed solutions for each of the three themes.

Key Issues

 <p>Involving young people in community/group activities.</p>	 <p>Bringing people together through common challenges.</p>	 <p>Anti-social behaviour.</p>	
 <p>Volunteer capacity within groups.</p>	 <p>Transport/ accessibility of services in rural communities.</p>	 <p>Creation of new/additional community spaces that are open to all.</p>	 <p>Ensuring existing public spaces are accessible and safe for all.</p>
<p>Developing opportunities for cross community events/activities.</p>		<p>Lack of connectivity between groups and communities.</p>	

A second round of co-design discussions took place both in person and online and a total of 80 people representing a diverse range of groups and communities engaged in group discussions to agree on key project areas to address the key issues identified.



Best Practice Visit



In November 2024, Members of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership welcomed Leitrim PEACEPLUS Partnership to The Workhouse, Enniskillen.

On the day, members participated in a facilitated workshop to explore potential collaborative partnership working opportunities in order to achieve mutual PEACEPLUS outcomes on a cross-border basis. The morning ended with a guided tour of the Workhouse and a commitment to further explore collaborative opportunities that would benefit the communities of both Fermanagh & Omagh and Leitrim throughout the delivery period of the Action Plan.

The Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan

Themes	Project	Project Description
Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation	1.1 'Enhancement to Existing Community Spaces/Halls' Programme	A capital improvement scheme to upgrade existing community spaces/halls to bring them up to a higher standard to increase usage. The programme will provide capital investment of up to €50,000 to 11 community/voluntary sector groups across the district. The programme will incorporate an element of capacity building and facilities training which will complement the capital investment. The following groups were selected via an open 'Expression of Interest' process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC Healthy Living Centre Ltd • Aughakillymaude Community Association • Cashel Community Association & Partners, Garrison • Enniskillen Rangers FC • Errigal Ciaran GAC • Fintona Regeneration Initiative. Ecclesville Centre • Omagh Community House • Share Discovery Village • Teemore Shamrocks GAA • Trillick Leisure Centre • Youth Sport Omagh
	1.2 'Outdoor Recreational' Capital Programme	A Capital Scheme to enhance existing outdoor spaces and create new spaces to bring communities together and enhance health and well-being. The scheme aims to provide capital investment across the seven DEA's with 10 projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of Lack and Ederney play spaces • Development of a new shared community play space in Derrygonnelly • Creation of a new shared community play space in Cavanaleck • Upgrade of Gortin Village play area • Creation of a new play space in Rosslea • Creation of a new play space in Dromore • Upgrade of Killyclogher play space • Transformation of Glennan Park and Mclvor Villas play parks into free play areas

Themes	Project	Project Description
	1.3 'Capital Youth' Programme	A Capital Programme that will enhance youth facilities/outdoor spaces (Council owned) with the creation of shared youth spaces in Omagh and Enniskillen. This project is at development stage and will be delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.
Theme 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities	2.1 'Activating Your Space'	This programme will complement the Capital Programmes as outlined in Theme 1. The programme aims to develop activity plans to animate the enhance spaces and bring communities together through a range of activities and shared interests.
	2.2 'Action Volunteer Support' Programme	A programme dedicated to reviving the community/voluntary sector within the district and injecting aspiration to build capacity of existing community groups and to form new cross community networks/partnerships.
	2.3 'Connecting Communities Through Wellbeing' Programme	This programme aims to re-connect communities, addressing issues of social/ rural isolation, access to services etc. as identified as key issues/challenges within the community and voluntary sector. The main focus is to deliver positive interventions to reconnect people from all community backgrounds through shared interests, specific to local needs and relevant to all ages.
	2.4 'Exploring Our Local Heritage' Programme	This project will bring communities together to explore local heritage, past, present and future, with opportunities to reminisce, learn, network and share experiences and memories.
	2.5 'Community Youth' Programme	Delivery of Youth Initiatives to create new friendships with similar age groups from all sides of the communities. The programme is activity based which will bring young people together on specific needs including activities such as: sports (non-traditional), low-level physical activities, music, well-being, cyber awareness, journalism, drama and arts, social media etc.
	2.6 'Environment For All' Programme	Exploring nature, delivering out on bio-diversity initiatives to protect our environment. This programme has potential for intergenerational activities and will establish links with organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers, Ulster Wildlife, RSPB and Climate NI. The project will aim to use environmental activities to create meaningful relationships and collaborative working on a cross community basis around joint activities which enhance aspirations for a more sustainable future.
Theme 3: Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	3.1 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' Programme	A programme focusing on the musical traditions associated with our district to explore, promote, develop and celebrate the commonality of our cultural roots.
	3.2 'I Want You To Know About Me' Programme	A programme to focus on greater integration of all groups and identities within our district. With the aims of raising awareness of the diversity and different cultures, gaining respect for diversity and acceptance and building respect for difference within our district. Target groups to include BME and Newcomer, Travelling Communities and LGBTQIA.
	3.3 'Healthy Relationships' Programme	A programme that includes multiple elements but working to achieve similar outcomes based on promoting healthy relationships and tackling the higher rates of domestic violence in our post conflict society.
	3.4 'Language Support' Programme	The provision of language classes in an informal setting for BME and Newcomer communities to give minority groups the 'step up' to ultimately engage with other communities to form lasting and positive relationships. Through consultation the importance of extending the language classes out to our local communities was highlighted in order to provide the opportunity to learn new languages and to promote acceptance of the language diversity within the district. In addition, noted at consultation, Irish and Ulster Scots language is further promoted within the district and opportunities to engage with individuals and groups through sign language initiatives.

PEACEPLUS is a Cross-Border funding Programme supported by the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration.

Contact Information

For more information about the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan or to register your interest in attending an engagement event, please contact the PEACEPLUS Coordinator, at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 0300 303 1777 (local rate) or via email at peace@fermanaghomagh.com.



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

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