

PRESS RELEASE



Young People Unite at PEACEPLUS Community Youth Camp

The first of the PEACEPLUS Community Youth Programme activities took place over the Easter break at the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown, and Todds Leap Activity Centre, engaging over 45 young people from across the Fermanagh and Omagh Council District.

The 'Community Youth' Programme is one of 13 programmes as detailed in the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan and is being delivered by Todds Leap, AB Coaching and Insight Solutions on behalf of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The programme brought together young people aged 11–16 to take part in a range of inclusive and engaging activities. These included team-building challenges, sport-based sessions, recreational activities, and short workshops focused on respect, diversity, and mental health. The PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The programme aims to provide young people with opportunities to build confidence, develop new skills and form positive relationships with others from different backgrounds in a safe and supportive environment.

Councillor Barry McElduff, Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District who attended the camp on day 2 stated;

"I was delighted to attend the Easter Camp at the Bawnacre Centre in Irvinestown. This camp brought together young people aged 11–16 from the Erne North area. Programmes such as this are very significant, providing valuable opportunities for

young people from all community backgrounds to come together in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.

Through participation in sport, team-building and shared experiences, young people are not only developing key skills, but they are also fostering respect, understanding of each other and forming new friendships".

Councillor Errol Thompson, Chair, Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership had the opportunity to meet with young people and see first hand the activities in action commented.

"We look forward to many more enjoyable and engaging activities as the programme continues to roll out across the district. It is already clear that the programme is having a positive impact on our young people, and I would like to commend Todds Leap, AB Coaching and Insight Solutions for their work to date".

Speaking about the programme, Pauline Quinn from Todds Leap said:

"This is the first phase of delivery and it has been really encouraging to see such strong engagement from young people. The focus has been on creating a positive and inclusive environment where young people can take part, meet others and build confidence through a range of activities. We look forward to continuing to develop the programme in partnership with local communities."

The Community Youth Programme will continue to be rolled out across the district over the coming months, with further opportunities for young people to get involved.

This programme is free and open for all young people aged 11-16 living in the Fermanagh and Omagh district. For information on further camps, activities, workshops contact

Ends