

CREATING COHESIVE COMMUNITY



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This project is supported under the Belfast PEACE III Plan by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the PEACE III Programme

ABOUT THE CREATING COHESIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT

'Developing Community Cohesion at a Local and Strategic Level'

Creating Cohesive Community Project is a Belfast City Council's PEACE III Strategic Grants Programme, part of the Belfast PEACE III Plan providing a new approach to the development of improved relations across communities that is intended to complement and build upon other good relations activities.

It is a partnership between LORAG and SBRT and is designed to address specific needs identified within the Shaftesbury and Botanic areas of South Belfast. The project listened to the concerns and issues in relation to community cohesion during an extensive consultation period with residents, politicians, key agencies and minority ethnic groups. This leaflet summarises a report that is considered one of the key outputs of the programme. It describes the key findings of the report and informs the next steps of the project.

Total Number of Consultees - 262

Total Number of Minority Ethnic Consultees - 107

Total Number of Organisations - 28

YOU SAID - "Need to provide clear information for everyone in the community to access services"

WE HAVE AGREED - to develop a neighbourhood pack for all residents providing information on local services and advice on being a good neighbour

YOU SAID - "Need to provide a link between the community and agencies, someone to support communities directly"

WE HAVE AGREED - to train 6 community active citizens to provide support to new arrivals to the area, and support all members of the community to access the services, advice and support that they need and are entitled to

YOU SAID - "Work with your attitudes at an e"

WE HAVE AGREED - to pro teachers, to ensure that they hav myths and work with young pe sustainable b



YOU SAID - "We need to address the issues related to housing"

WE HAVE AGREED - to establish a housing taskforce with key officers from Belfast City Council and NIHE to deal with housing complaints on a case by case basis and report back to the community

YOU SAID - "We need to address environmental concerns relating to housing"

WE HAVE AGREED - to explore the potential of a community environmental project that enables local unemployed people to access sessional work through practical environmental improvements

ng people to address
early age"

vide training to local
ve the capacity to dispel
people on an annual and
basis

YOU SAID - "There is a need to create more meaningful engagement"

WE HAVE AGREED
- to support the ongoing programme of events in the area through a connected mail group and referral system through the networking forum

YOU SAID - "We need to improve the input from statutory agencies around the key issues"

WE HAVE AGREED - to continue working through the Strategic Networking Forum to provide practical solutions to local issues

YOU SAID - "That there is a lack of faith/trust in statutory support and a feeling that you are not fairly treated by the PSNI (all communities)"

WE HAVE AGREED - to create a specific role for the community in the New PSNI directive for addressing hate crime (the only area in NI to do so). This provides accountability within the community. We have also agreed to provide training to PSNI officers to ensure they understand local needs



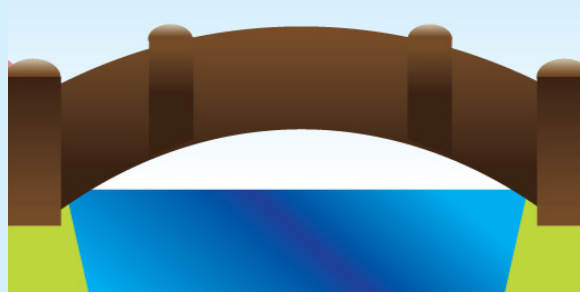


NEXT STEPS

The report has presented 11 key actions across the following 3 thematic areas, to be implemented on a short, medium and long term basis:

1. Early Intervention
2. Housing
3. Emergency Response

The action plans have received support and commitment from statutory agencies which represents a major step forward for the project and the community.



CONTACT DETAILS

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