LCCC PEACEPLUS Partnership

**Minutes of the proceedings of the LCCC PEACEPLUS Partnership held in the Chestnut Room, Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island,**

**Monday 27th February 2023 at 5.30pm**

# In Attendance

# Partnership:

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| Cllr Jonathan Craig | DUP |
| Cllr Uel Mackin | DUP |
| Cllr John Laverty (Zoom) | DUP |
| Cllr Andrew Gowan | DUP |
| Cllr Jenny Palmer | UUP |
| Cllr Ross McLernon | UUP |
| Ald Amanda Grehan | APNI |
| Cllr Michelle Guy | APNI |
| Cllr Sian Mulholland | APNI |
| Cllr Simon Lee | SDLP |
| Johnny Crymble (deputy) | Education Authority |
| Des Marley | NIHE |
| Garry King (deputy) | PSNI |
| Janice Cooke | SERC |
| Lynda Vladeneau (Zoom) | SEHSCT |
| Adrian Bird | Resurgam Trust |
| Diane Ewart | TADA Rural Network |
| Caroline Birch | Helping Hands Autism |
| Amanda Marshall (deputy) | Castlereagh East |
| Aaron Thompson | Castlereagh South |
| Lynsey Agnew | Lisburn North |
| Martin Busch (Zoom) | Lisburn South |
| Eddie Doyle | Downshire West |
| Vaughan Byrne | Downshire East |
| Thomas McKenna | Killultagh |

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# Secretariat/ Other Attendees:

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| Angela McCann | Head of Communities |
| Catharine McWhirter | Community Planning Manager |
| Heather Bulfin | Community Planning Support Officer |
| Lorraine McCourt | Consultant (for LCCC) |

# Apologies

# Apologies were received from Ald Michael Henderson, Cllr Ryan Carlin, Niamh O’Carolan, Louise Moore, Tanya Hughes, Pauline McMullan.

# Minutes of the Partnership Meeting held on 26th September 2022 and Matters Arising

Angela McCann welcomed everyone and invited members to review the minutes for accuracy. Members agreed that the minutes of the previous Partnership meeting held on 26th September 2023 were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

# PEACEPLUS presentation

Lorraine McCourt (consultant) gave a presentation about the themes of the new PEACEPLUS funding programme. Lorraine explained that they will be going out soon for Stage 2 co-design consultations.

1. Community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities
3. Building respect for all cultural traditions

The presentation setting out the key findings of the public consultation process, outlining possible priority project areas for further discussion during stage 2 consultation meetings with the community. The meeting was then opened for questions and discussion around the way forwards.

Everyone at the meeting welcomed the results of the consultation and felt it would be positive. Some issues / comments included:

* Wider focus and more inclusive to include those with disabilities, living in rural areas, asylum seekers and migrant workers.
* The action plan priorities identified seem to be broadly appropriate.
* Focus on provision for young people, e.g. outdoor shared space
* Sustainability – use existing resources and facilities better
* Volunteers – an emphasis on volunteer development
* Aim for this funding to be complementary to current work, not a duplication, and to be strategic and long-term; build in best practice and ensure complementarity.
* Mental health and anti-social behavior are both problems which the funding could be used to tackle
* Opportunities are there to use existing structures and community engagement.

Lorraine looked at the priorities and needs under each of the themes above:

**Theme 1 – Community Regeneration and Transformation**

* Members were keen to ensure activity proposals addressed gaps in provision of community spaces as well as enhancement/upgrade of existing spaces. It was referenced some areas have a gap in provision and should not be left behind.
* Support for the inclusion of space proposals to increase disability access – in particular changing places facilities was identified as a need.
* Need for outdoor space as an unstructured activity space for young people was supported – hang out space where young people can choose how they engage / participate and get active.

**Theme 2 - Thriving and Peaceful Communities**

* Opportunities for exploring best practice from other places
* Need to support youth programmes outside urban centres – support for longer term activities proposed, particularly in rural areas such as Killultagh.
* Capacity building is a remaining challenge. There are areas within the council where communities have been left behind and this needs to be addressed to ensure active participation and benefit through the programmes.
* Ensuring longevity to programmes delivered is key. Create a pathway for progression for participants to ensure long term benefit and personal development.
* Need to baseline what activities are already happening in and for communities and the capacity they hold to ensure proactive targeting of programmes and activities
* Health and wellbeing is the biggest current challenge facing communities and needs to be included within the action plan priorities.
* Housing areas (NIHE) work with their communities in the identification of priority activities / programmes but have insufficient budget to deliver – how can they link to PEACEPLUS action plan to maximise impact, benefit and community transformation?
* Social enterprise – potential benefits exist for employment and economic viability.

**Theme 3 - Building Respect for all Cultural Traditions:**

* English language training – there are 12 classes delivering ESOL in the Council area. These should be sign posted rather than seeking to add additional classes via PEACEPLUS. The delivery bodies for these classes would be happy to work with the Peace team in engaging with BME communities.
* Flags and emblems – how do we get the right people in the room to move forwards? There is a need to stretch the engagement beyond those groups who have been involved previously if we are to see change.

# Any Other Business

**Declaration of Interest form**

Catharine McWhirter asked all members to complete the Declaration of Interest form and had copies at the meeting for participants to complete or take with them.

Cllr Jenny Palmer informed everyone that she is on the SEUPB board.

# Date of Next Meeting

TBC. It was suggested that the next meeting should be in June, after the elections.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.