

**Appendix 1 – Summer Community Diversionary Programme – Proposed Activity**

| <b>July Programme - Applicant Programme Descriptions</b> |  |  |
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| 1.   | Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association | <p>The 2025 programme consists of a series of major headline events alongside a community engagement and cultural programme incorporating sport, creative arts, traditional culture, and other positive community activities. Key partners include TWRA, Woodvale Hub, local marching bands and cultural groups, ACT Initiative, Cairn Lodge Boxing Club, Glasgow Rangers Academy, R-City, and Northern Ireland Alternatives.</p> <p>Community engagement begins on 1st July, with youth outreach activities targeting interface areas and known hotspots, encouraging participation in the festival programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first headline event is on Friday 4th July, featuring a Club Nation music concert, followed by a trance music event on Saturday 5th July. and a ticketed dance music night on Wednesday 9th July. These events have consistently received positive feedback from PSNI and have proven effective in diverting people away from high-risk areas during peak tension periods. The final headline ticketed event takes place on 6th July, featuring an all-day licensed outdoor boxing event in partnership with Cairn Lodge Boxing Club. A Cultural Showcase takes place on 11th July, bringing together local bands and cultural associations to promote positive cultural expression and to reduce tensions on this date.</li> </ul> <p>Alongside the headline events, a range of community-focused activities run throughout the festival. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport Against Harm Initiative – A five-day coaching programme delivered in partnership with Glasgow Rangers Academy, engaging young people in positive sporting activity.</li> <li>Good Relations Programme – Workshops delivered in partnership with Nil By Mouth, an anti-sectarian charity from Scotland.</li> <li>Creative Arts Workshops – Interactive sessions for children and young people.</li> <li>Annual Family Event – Taking place on 11th July, this event provides a safe and inclusive space for families to enjoy the celebrations.</li> </ul> <p>With an expected attendance of over 10,000 people, the 2025 festival will continue to provide a strong platform for community engagement, reducing anti-social behaviour while fostering a sense of civic pride and positive cultural identity.</p> |

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| 2. | Lower Oldpark Community Assoc (LOCA) | <p>The Lower Oldpark Community Association (LOCA) would like to organise a comprehensive diversionary project aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and fostering community engagement, particularly during a period of heightened tensions between loyalist and nationalist communities. The project will include team building and community engagement activities leading up to a residential, followed by a two-day cultural celebration event on the 10th and 11th of July 2025.</p> <p>In the lead-up to the residential, we will conduct a series of team building and community engagement activities designed to provide positive and constructive experiences for young people. These activities will include educational and skill-building workshops aimed at enhancing personal development and fostering a sense of community. Participants will engage in various collaborative projects, outdoor adventures, and interactive sessions that promote teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution. This proactive approach is intended to divert youth from potential anti-social behaviour and criminal activities, providing them with valuable skills and experiences in a supportive environment.</p> <p>The residential programme will be, scheduled for the 07/07/25 – 09/07/25 ahead of the 11th and 12th of July celebrations, it will involve taking 20 “at risk” youths away from the interface for team-building activities and educational workshops. These activities will focus on enhancing communication, cooperation, and problem-solving skills while promoting mutual understanding and respect among participants. By immersing young individuals in a positive and enriching environment, we aim to mitigate the risks faced by those most at risk of getting involved in ASB at the Cliftonpark Avenue interface.</p> <p>The two-day cultural celebration event will commence on the 10th of July with a series of engaging activities designed to foster community spirit and cultural appreciation. The day will begin with an Arts and Crafts Workshop focused on band pole making at LOCA, followed by a Flower Planting Workshop where participants will plant orange lilies. In the evening, there will be a Family Movie Night in John Hewitt Park, with prior licensing secured from Belfast City Council. This day of activities aims to create a festive and inclusive atmosphere, encouraging community members to come together and celebrate their shared heritage.</p> <p>On the 11th of July, the festival will continue with a Cultural Family Fun Day event featuring a variety of activities designed to engage and entertain participants of all ages. The day will include two historical workshops, focusing on the commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne and the history of bonfires, with local historians invited to speak. Additionally, the event will offer a range of family-friendly attractions, including bouncy castles, a petting zoo/mobile aquarium, arts and crafts stations, a climbing wall, and refreshments.</p> <p>This diversionary project aims to engage the community and reduce ASB and criminal activity by providing positive and educational activities that build community engagement and foster a sense of belonging. By involving residents in culturally enriching experiences, the festival seeks to create a safer and more harmonious environment during a time of heightened tensions between the loyalist and</p> |
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|    |                      | nationalist communities. Through our efforts, we hope to promote understanding, cooperation, and a sense of unity within the Lower Oldpark area.   |
| 3. | EastSide Partnership | <p>EASTival – A programme of cultural events and activities in local neighbourhoods to instill civic pride and encourage community bonding activity in the lead up to 11th July 2025. The events and activities will cater for different needs and interests in areas where anti social behaviour is known to be an issue based on community knowledge as well as information from PSNI and Belfast City Council.</p> <p>The programme has been shaped in consultation with Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and if successful will utilise this vehicle to shape the programme in future years based on ongoing review. The programme is not exclusive to IENP and EastSide Partnership as a convening organisation are open to work with groups and organisations across east Belfast to shape the project on an ongoing basis to meet the criteria of the programme.</p> <p>Activities to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On street detached work - 27th June to 11th July including follow up work in the week after <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Various times depending on need</li> <li>○ Lismore Street</li> <li>○ Flora Street Walkway</li> <li>○ Orangefield Park</li> <li>○ *Not exclusive to these areas and will respond to issues as they arise</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A week long celebration of local culture and heritage including sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 30th June to 4th July</li> <li>○ Various times tbc</li> <li>○ Nettlefield Multi Sports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2nd July to 10th July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth engagement activities</li> <li>○ Various times tbc</li> <li>○ Pitt Park/ The Gathering Church</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Family Music Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Friday 4th July</li> <li>○ (USA Bastille Day themed)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evening C.S. Lewis Square</li> <li>• Music Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saturday 5th July</li> <li>○ Evening C.S. Lewis Square</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 11th July - afternoon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Orangefield Park bowling pavilion (outside space)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 12th July - afternoon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short Strand Interface at Albertbridge Road</li> <li>○ Short Strand Community Forum will lead on diversionary activity to reduce asb at the interface during the 12th July parade.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 3rd, 10th, 17th July - afternoon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EastSide Visitor Centre</li> <li>○ A project in partnership with EastSide Arts and local writer Beano Niblock; Beano will hold writing workshops with local young people/adults about PUL cultural identity which will lead to a future play/performance in the 2026 programme (if successful)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| 4. | C.H.A.R.T.E.R for Northern Ireland (Charter NI) | <p>Charter NI are seeking support from Belfast City Council for its 'Increasing Cultural Confidence and Tolerance Amongst Young People 2025-2027' which will enhance and compliment the success of the last three years, and the cultural celebrations in the lead up to the Twelfth of July celebrations and shortly after, by positively promoting heritage, educating on the broader cultural contexts surrounding the Twelfth of July period, as well as showcasing artistry in the development of new creative work for young people and providing a chance for young people to share their voice on what the Twelfth of July means to them, and where it sits in a wider context of their cultural identity.</p> <p>The following activities will take place, linking Outer East Belfast to Inner East: - 3 rd July 2025 Meet the Panel Event. - 4 th July 2025 Tullycarnet Boxing Club Cultural Boxing Exhibition. - 6 th July 2025 Cultural Football Tournament - 7 th July 2025 Site visits to traditional bonfire sites in Belfast - 7 th July – 9 th July 2025 East Band Workshops. This will involve Tullycarnet Community Centre, Lord Street, and Knocknagoney Linear Park. - 7 th July – 10th July 2025 Creative Art Projects – Involving cultural clay making, cultural arts and crafts. - 10th July 2025 Cultural Event at Severn Street from 2pm-5pm. - 11th July 2025 Cultural Event at Tullycarnet from 5pm-11:30pm. - 11th July 2025 Cultural Event at Knocknagoney from 5pm to 11pm. - 11th July 2025 Cultural Event at Clara Street from 2pm to 5pm. - 11th</p> |

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|    |  | <p>July 2025 Cultural Event at Clarawood from 2pm-5pm. - 12th July 2025 Cultural Event at Lord Street/Kingswood Street from 1pm-6pm. - 14th July 2025 'Big Love' Teen Festival at Shorts Playing Fields from 6pm to 10pm. Ongoing throughout entire project: - 3rd July 2025 to 14th July 2025 Virtual Reality Cultural Production.</p> <p>Charter NI is excited to introduce three new elements to the Increasing Cultural Confidence and Tolerance Amongst Young People 2025-2027 programme: the Tullycarnet Boxing Club Cultural Boxing Exhibition, the 'Big Love' Teen Festival on July 14th, and the Virtual Reality Culture Production (July 3rd–14th).</p> <p>These will promote cultural expression and help prevent anti-social behaviour during the Twelfth fortnight, aligning with Belfast City Council's Diversionary Funding goals. The Tullycarnet Boxing Club Cultural Boxing Exhibition will invite groups from Inner East to Outer East and will be a mainly cross-community sporting event, encouraging young people to be diverted from anti-social behaviour and learn from other cultures, promoting cultural diversity.</p> <p>Belfast City Council Summer Community Diversionary Programme 2025 – 2027 Application Form The Big Love Teen Festival, hosted at the neutral Shorts Playing Fields, will bring together 11–16-year-olds to build friendships and community connections. PSNI, St John's Ambulance, and local entertainers will support the event, with Charter NI staff holding valid SIA Security licences. The Virtual Reality Culture Production will document bonfires across East Belfast (Severn Street, Tullycarnet, Knocknagoney, Clara Street, Clarawood, Lord Street/Kingswood Street). This initiative will give young people a platform to share their cultural perspectives and educate others.</p> |
| 5. | Upper Springfield Development Trust - Newhill Youth & Community Centre | <p>The Million Brick Wall Community Summer Intervention Project will provide a comprehensive full community response to the unique challenges presented within the Upper Springfield and Whiterock area from 'anti-social' behaviour, tensions at the Springmartin &amp; Springfield Road interface, and unwanted bonfires.</p> <p>Within those communities that live in the shadow of the 'million brick wall' interface the July fortnight and the summer in general can become a time to 'dread' in which 'street drinking', 'vandalism', 'bonfires', 'sectarian tension' and so called 'anti-social' behaviour become more visible and prevalent for residents. During the summer young people have much more 'free time' than normal; this can lead to 'boredom', with many young people complaining of 'having nothing to do'. It can also be a stressful period for parents from the area who struggle with the time and affordability required to keep their children occupied and stimulated. While for young people the increased spare time spent with peers can lead to greater pressure to become involved in 'risk taking' behaviour. The need for effective community engagement strategies for young people and their families is an obvious but difficult challenge.</p> <p>This full community response will take a holistic approach to tackling these issues with a specific focus on diverting young people from negative and destructive behaviours into positive community youth work activities. The programme will also provide them with</p>  |

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|    |   | <p>opportunities to learn and grow while enhancing their awareness of the importance of ‘community solidarity’, and respect for ‘other’ communities. Crucially however this full community response will also support, divert and empower local families suffering from the cost-of-living crisis who have children and adolescent siblings but are struggling to keep them occupied and engaged positively over the 12th of July period.</p> <p>The programme itself will focus on engaging, supporting and diverting three separate cohorts or groups.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young people aged 9 to 13 years of age ‘at risk’ of getting drawn into troubling behaviour at the interface ‘peace wall’.</li> <li>2. Young people aged 14 to 18 years of age ‘at risk’ of getting involved in sectarian ‘trouble’ at the ‘peace wall’ interface, and ‘anti-social’ behaviour in the Falls Park and City Cemetery weekend ‘hotspots’.</li> <li>3. Families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis who have both young children and adolescents who live directly in the shadow of the ‘million brick wall’ interface.</li> </ol> <p>The programme itself will be delivered between the 29th of June and the 19th of July and will involve events and activities for the three target groups running parallel on a daily basis.</p> <p>The programme will be launched via a community information and fun day which will be widely promoted via leaflets and social media as a ‘schools out event’ and will be attended by over 200 local families. Daily activities will include day trips, outdoor activities, sports, informal education workshops, social action events, overnight adventure learning and residential programmes. Crucially the programme will involve intensive diversionary activities on the 11th and 12th of July.</p> |
| 6. | Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT) | <p>In 2019 GVRT facilitated the members of this consortium to come together to collaborate and organise a wide range of diversionary and culturally appropriate activities to ensure that each area has sufficient provision to deliver community- based festivals and programmes which promote positive cultural expression and reduce anti-social behaviour which is often linked to contentious times over the summer period. 2024 sees this relationship continue and indeed sees the expansion of the consortium with new groups becoming involved which we see as a natural evolution from we very first came together back in 2019 .</p> <p>The consortium structure allows each individual organisation to deliver a project that deals with the often-unique issues each locality is facing . As will be discussed below, each area has a unique set of local issues which each group in the consortium is best suited to combat. GVRT been extremely efficient in being the lead organisation for this fund but also has an extremely rigorous reputation from managing this consortium. As the lead organisation of this consortium, we have been working with the small organisations to provide capacity support and to assist them to be able to avail of a larger funding stream such as Summer Diversionary.</p>  |

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|  |  | <p>All events and projects have an undisputable focus upon culture, education, and identity work, whilst having fun, learning new skills, and encouraging participation across the consortium and indeed across South Belfast. The events and programmes include drumming workshops, cultural festivals, diversionary educational trips to name a few and they are all designed with the aim of reducing ASB and Interface Tensions which are particularly present in the July and August periods.</p> <p>For the purposes of This Consortium the areas involved are as follows :</p> <p>Village<br/>Sandy Row<br/>Suffolk<br/>Donegal Pass<br/>Taughmonagh<br/>Donegal Road<br/>Rodan Street<br/>Ballynafeigh</p> <p>In addition to the groups, we have worked with over the last few years, we have some new groups represented this year, including:</p> <p>South Belfast Protestant Boys Flute Band<br/>Rodan Street Residents<br/>Kelvin Football Club.</p> <p>The increase in participation and the groups involved gives a wider reach in terms of being to access and diver more young people away from ASB and interface tensions during the summer months which can only be more beneficial for the communities directly involved but also for wider society.</p> |
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| August Programme - Applicant Programme Descriptions |                  |  |
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| 1.  | Féile an Phobail | <p>The project being undertaken by Féile an Phobail, with partnership initiatives in North, South and East Belfast, aims to address many of the issues associated with unwanted bonfires in West, North, South and East Belfast in the lead up to and over the 8th August in Belfast. Unfortunately, in some instances, these key dates are often characterised by incidents of anti-social activity resulting in Belfast's image to the world being portrayed negatively and leading to increased tension within and between local communities.</p> |

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|    |   | <p>The main aim of the proposal is the delivery of a world class diversionary event in the form of an internationally quality community festival dance night, attracting some of the biggest DJ's in the World, providing positive outlets for expressions of community culture and youth engagement. Ultimately, the programme of events and programmes will aim to reduce / replace instances of 'negatively perceived' bonfires across the City, particularly those that have the potential to cause a threat to life or property or display offensive materials and which result in anti-social behaviors in local communities.</p> <p>Féile will work in a coordinated manner across the City, and will aim to engage directly with those young people most susceptible of engaging in anti-social behavior in and around these key dates alongside key stakeholders.</p> <p>This project is about increasing community engagement within some of the most socially and economically deprived areas in Belfast. It is about preventing, reducing and tackling anti-social behavior and crime through building confidence in local policing, challenging negative perceptions and building a safer community for all.</p> <p>Sunday 8th August – Féile Dance Night – The 8th of August is traditionally the date when Republican and Nationalist communities would have commemorated the anniversary of internment, and when bonfires were lit in nationalist / republican communities. Féile will host a world class headline DJ night in our festival event space in the Falls Park, where local up and coming DJ's as well as Internationally renowned DJ's will perform. The Falls Park event space is capable of hosting up to 12,500 people for an event and is staffed by a professional event safety and management company.</p> <p>Our Project specifically targets young people within the most 'at risk' areas, such as Divis, Lower Falls (specific diversionary activities organized at Distillery Street and Divis streets), Upper Falls, Upper Springfield, Colin area, as well allocating up to 2000 tickets in North, South and East Belfast targeting areas such as the New Lodge, Shankill Road, Ardoyne, The Village, The Market, Ormeau Rd and Short Strand etc. Féile will work with local reps in the weeks/months leading up to the 8th August to provide tickets targeting specifically those areas and young people engaged in building unwanted bonfires.</p> <p>The project will also focus resources on two community led focused interventions in Distillery Street and the Divis area in West Belfast, which unfortunately over the last number of years has seen increases in anti-social behaviors in the lead up to and around the 8th August.</p> |
| 2. | Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) | <p>Féile na hAbhann is a grassroots community led diversionary festival delivered over the 8th August period to bring about positive community cultural celebrations across South and East Belfast communities.</p>  |



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|    |                        | <p>The proposal aim is to target and engage young people within the Lower Ormeau, Market and Short Strand communities of South and East Belfast. We hope that through positive engagement and youth work interventions that services will provide preventative measures that divert children and young people from partaking in ASB (Anti Social Behaviour) and risk taking behaviours whilst reducing the likelihood of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The profile of the target group will vary between each organisation (3 in total) LORAG, Market Development Association and Short Strand Community Forum. Each unit will identify a diverse group of young people to engage with in preventative and diversionary opportunities. The 800 young people targeted will be of mix gender with the focus of contact being with young people Aged 12 – 20 years.</p> <p>The secondary beneficiaries will be the local community and families as the Féile will create a celebration atmosphere in the local area, reduce anti social behaviour and re frame open spaces as community spaces and for positive activity.</p>  |
| 3. | Ashton Community Trust | <p>In North Belfast, Unwanted bonfires pose serious and considerable risk to public safety and public property as well as portraying the area, and community, negatively and leading to intra-community tension and conflict. The issue with any illegal and unwanted bonfire in North Belfast area is multifaceted with increases in antisocial behaviour, youth crime, vandalism, underage drinking and community violence.</p> <p>The proposed 2025 festival has been developed by the festival steering group which consists of representatives from all the partners' organisations. Building on the experience and success of delivering a successful North Belfast diversionary community festival during August IN 2022, 2023 and 2024 has worked together to deliver a series of youth-led diversionary activities in Catholic, Nationalist, Republican (CNR) areas of Multiple deprivation across North Belfast in the lead up to the August.2025.</p> <p>The proposed 2025 festival programme will provided inclusive alternative activities for effective youth engagement and development and expressions of positive community culture rather than the anti-social call of unwanted bonfires.</p> <p>The core aims of the inclusive planning committee remain :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ To work together as a North Belfast Community Collective to secure the necessary resources to deliver a successful collaborative community diversionary festival designed to promote positive expression of CNR culture.</li> <li>☐ To support engage young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour in the planning , design and delivery of a community diversionary festival activity which will it is anticipated divert their potential engagement in less positive expressions of celebrating their culture.</li> </ul> |

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|    |                     | <p>☐ To develop a legacy of local community capacity (skills , knowledge and confidence ) where to deliver positive community diversionary festival activities within their immediate locality where there remains the potential of communities being coerced into expressing their culture in a negative anti – community illegal manner.</p> <p>Our festival project specifically targets, through positive engagement opportunities those young people within the most ‘at risk’ North Belfast areas, of the Greater New Lodge; Ardoyne , Deerpark, Oldpark Road, Cliftonpark Avenue; Girdwood; Flax Street; Marrowbone and Ligoniel</p>   |
| 4. | Saints Youth Centre | <p>Attracting Teens Through Art and Outdoor Activities to Prevent Antisocial Behaviour &amp; Enhance Cultural Awareness in the Collin Area of West Belfast for July &amp; August 2025 onwards.</p> <p>July &amp; August can be a challenging time for teenagers, peer influences, and sometimes limited opportunities for positive engagement. Without meaningful activities, some may be drawn into antisocial behaviour, which can negatively impact their future and community. However, by providing structured and inspiring alternatives, such as creative art and outdoor experiences, we can divert their attention and help them develop cultural awareness, creativity, and a sense of belonging in a safe warm welcoming environment.</p> <p>Art as a Tool for Cultural Awareness and Self-Expression<br/> Art is a powerful medium for self-expression, emotional release, and cultural exploration. Many teenagers struggle with their emotions, identities, and social pressures, and artistic activities offer a constructive outlet. By engaging in painting, graffiti workshops, mural projects, and digital art, they can channel their energy into something meaningful.</p> <p>For example, organising a community mural project will encourage teamwork while giving them a sense of ownership over a public space. They can explore themes related to their cultural backgrounds, history, or local identity, fostering pride and awareness of different traditions. Additionally, art workshops focused on global cultures—such as African mask- making, Japanese calligraphy, or Indigenous storytelling through illustration—can introduce them to diverse artistic traditions, broadening their perspectives.</p> <p>Street art and urban sketching can also provide an exciting way for teenagers to engage creatively in their environment. Instead of viewing walls and public spaces as places for vandalism, they can learn about legal street art, the history of graffiti culture, and its impact on social movements. Inviting professional artists to mentor them can inspire new career paths and personal development.</p> <p>Outdoor Activities as a Positive Distraction</p> |

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|  | <p>Spending time outdoors in structured activities reduces stress, improves mental health, and keeps teenagers physically active, preventing them from engaging in negative behaviours. Adventure-based programs like hiking, kayaking, or team sports can build resilience and teamwork while keeping them engaged in positive experiences.</p> <p>For example, organising a weekend residential trip can provide a break from negative influences and create opportunities for self-reflection and leadership development.</p> <p>Activities like orienteering, survival skills workshops, or nature photography can foster problem-solving skills and an appreciation for the environment.</p> <p>Alternatively, outdoor art can combine creative expression with physical activity. Encouraging teenagers to participate in street work, in public spaces can help them build confidence while promoting positive engagement with the community.</p> <p><b>Building a Lasting Impact</b><br/>To ensure the success of these initiatives, it's essential to involve community leaders, youth workers, and mentors who can serve as positive role models. Partnering with local artists, outdoor educators, and cultural organisations can provide valuable expertise and create sustainable programmes.</p> <p>Additionally, showcasing their artistic and outdoor achievements—such as hosting an exhibition, or public mural unveiling—can reinforce their sense of accomplishment and encourage ongoing participation.</p> <p>By using art and outdoor experiences as tools for engagement, we can transform August from a period of potential antisocial behaviour into an opportunity for personal growth, cultural enrichment, and positive community impact.</p> |
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