

# Community Empowerment Programme

## Shared City Partnership

3 June 2026

[nicva.org/cep](http://nicva.org/cep) 🔍

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)



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# Six Delivery Partners across Belfast

- East Belfast Community Development Agency
- Falls Community Council
- Forward South Partnership
- Greater Shankill Partnership
- Marrowbone Community Association
- West Belfast Partnership Board

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# Aim

To empower individuals and communities across Belfast to shape their local areas, build positive relationships, and support long-term peace and cohesion

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# Objectives

- **Build skills, confidence and leadership capacity**
- **Support community participation and decision-making**
- **Strengthen cross-community relationships**
- **Enable community-led planning and action**
- **Increase collaboration across sectors and communities**

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# Key Activities

10 x Local  
Community  
Empowerment  
Programmes

Community  
Capacity Building  
Forum

City-Wide Non-  
accredited  
Training

City-Wide  
Networking  
Events

OCN Level 2  
Award in  
Community  
Development

Cross-Border  
Residentials &  
Best Practice  
Visits

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# 10 Local CEPs across Belfast

<u>#</u>	<u>DEA</u>	<u>Lead Organisation</u>
1	Court 1	Greater Shankill Partnership
2	Blackmountain	Falls Community Council
3	Colin	West Belfast Partnership Board
4	Court 2	Falls CC with Greater Shankill Partnership
5	Oldpark	Marrowbone Community Association

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# 10 Local CEPs across Belfast

<u>#</u>	<u>DEA</u>	<u>Lead Organisation</u>
6	Castle	Marrowbone Community Association
7	Court 3	GSP & MCA
8	Botanic	Forward South Partnership
9	Ormiston –Titanic	East Belfast Community Development Association
10	Balmoral & Lisnasharragh	FSP & EBCDA

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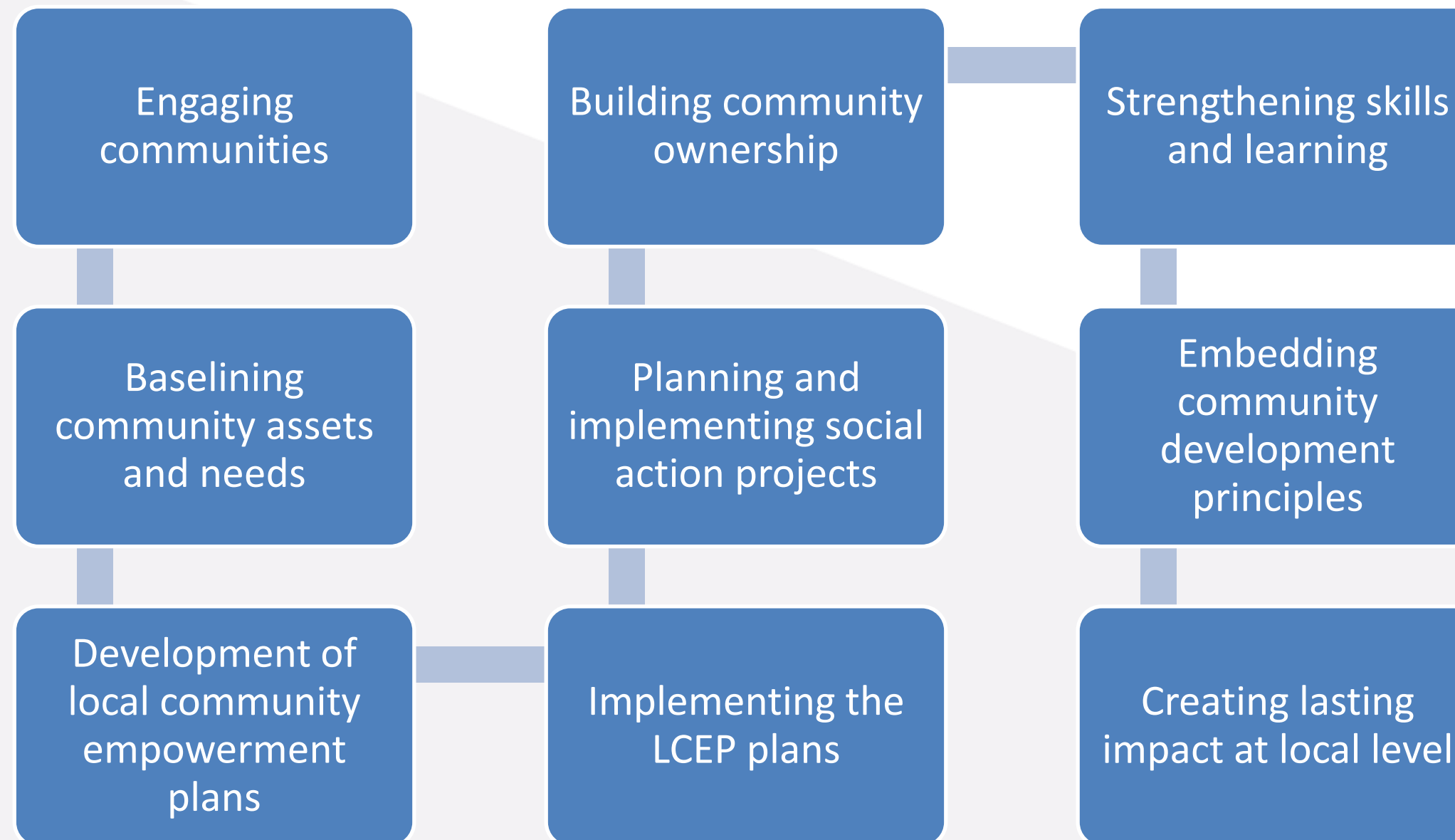


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# 10 Local CEPs across Belfast



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# Achievements to Date

- **275 Participants Registered and Engaging**
- **5 Local Community Empowerment Programmes started, 3 complete.**
- **3 Capacity Building Forum meetings**
- **2 OCN Level 2 Award in Community Development delivered**
- **6 Non-Accredited Training Events delivered**
- **1 Best Practice Visit**
- **2 Networking Events**

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# OCN Level 2 Award in Community Development

- Accredited course designed to strengthen local leadership and collaboration
  - 2 course, 38 diverse learners from 29 organisations
- 
- Understanding Community Development Practice
  - Governance and Organisational Development
  - Community Learning for Social Change
  - Understand and Engage with communities
  - Collaborative and Cross-sectoral work
  - Group work and Collective action

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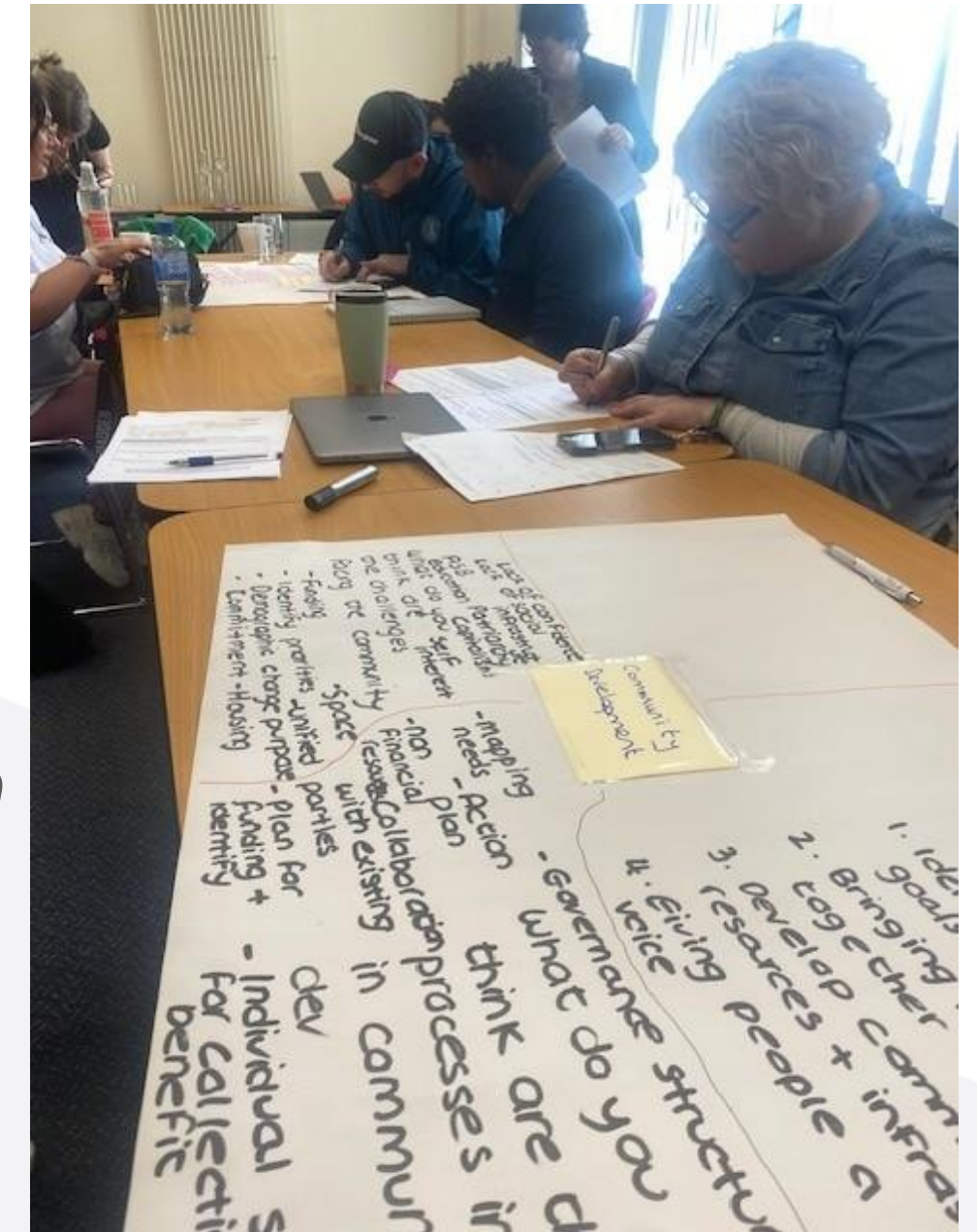
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# OCN Level 2 Award in Community Development



*“This programme has been very informative and practical and has broadened my understanding of community development in practice widely.”*



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# OCN Level 2 Award in Community Development

*"I have found the OCN be a really helpful experience, as the learning allowed me to learn about community development practice while experiencing it. Being part of a group, seeking to learn and present together created a micro-community where we sought to collaborate, make collective decisions and learn together."*



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# City-Wide Networking Events

June 2025  
Peacebuilding  
Transforms  
Communities

February 2026  
Inclusive Community  
Development



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# City-Wide Networking Events

*“Events like these are essential in unifying the community voice to promote the strengths of a diverse community.”*

*“I found the event to be an incredibly insightful day. It offered valuable networking opportunities, practical workshops, and engaging interactive sessions. I particularly benefited from hearing about other people's experiences in community work.”*



*“It provided the opportunity to be inspired again, reframe how I think about aspects of my work and network with stakeholders for future work.”*

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# LCEP 02 - Blackmountain – Falls Community Council Environmental Improvement Project in Falls Park

- Weekly hands-on sessions in Falls Park
- Involving St Gall's Men's and Hen's Sheds, Ulster Wildlife Trust and Belfast City Council Park Rangers
- Planting, orchard work, pond and hedge construction
- Creating visible environmental improvements
- Building skills, confidence, wellbeing, and strong relationships
- Leaving a legacy of ongoing involvement and local ownership

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# Environmental Improvement Project in Falls Park



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# LCEP 09 – Ormiston - Titanic

## East Belfast Community Development Association

- Weekly sessions with over 20 in attendance
- Learning about leadership from local community leaders
- Learning from other areas – visit to St James' Farm
- Gaining skills and knowledge to organise an event in a park or open space with Eastside Greenways
- Building capacity and skills in Governance and Financial management
- Social action project – Explore East which was community fun day and information day as well as a bus tour 30 May.

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Social Action Project – Explore East 30 May 2026

# Challenges

- **Data – Monitoring and evaluation portal, data requirement changes, automated and manual upload.**
- **How participants are counted – once as core and once as wider. Some participants are engaging multiple times showing commitment and lasting impact – however we need to prioritise engaging new people.**

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# Next Steps

## Continuing to:

- Engage and empower individuals and communities
- Build skills, confidence and leadership capacity
- Strengthen cross-community relationships

## Through:

- LCEPs – completing 2 and starting remaining 5
- Cross-border residential in June
- OCN Level 2 Award cohort 3 starting in Sept
- Third City-wide event and non-accredited training

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