

Belfast Bands Forum: £10,000

The additional funding supports a targeted second phase of delivery, focused on maintaining engagement and preventing community tensions during a high-risk period.

The organisation has successfully delivered key elements of the originally approved programme, including leadership training, school-based engagement, and intercultural activities, demonstrating strong delivery capability and community reach.

The additional funding represents a second phase of delivery, building on Phase 1 activity and existing engagement with participants, partners, and communities affected by the 2024 unrest.

The revised programme has been refocused to prioritise targeted engagement activity during the summer period, when there is a historically higher risk of community tensions linked to cultural events and gatherings.

The extension is not a duplication of previous activity, but a continuation designed to:

- Sustain engagement with participants already involved
- Expand participation to additional groups
- Reinforce positive behaviours and relationships developed during earlier phases

The funding will specifically support:

- Delivery of structured music-based workshops and tuition sessions
- Engagement with young people and mixed community groups
- Intercultural participation through established partnerships (e.g. Beyond Skin)

The programme continues to engage both host and newcomer communities, maintaining a strong focus on integration, inclusion, and relationship-building.

The organisation has demonstrated strong partnership working and community credibility, ensuring effective access to those most impacted by the unrest.

The extension supports sustained engagement, which is essential for preventing escalation, reinforcing trust, and achieving longer-term community cohesion outcomes.

Blackie River Community Groups: £21,904.74

The additional funding supports the continuation and consolidation of an established liaison and integration programme, ensuring sustained support for newcomer families and ongoing community cohesion in a high-need area.

The organisation has established a strong, evidence-based need for continued support, with a significant and growing newcomer population in the Greater Falls area, including over 460 asylum-seeking families and a high proportion of migrant pupils in local schools.

The additional funding represents a continuation of an existing Liaison Officer model, which is designed to provide coordinated, on-the-ground support to both newcomer and host communities.

The revised proposal builds directly on the original programme of activity, maintaining the same core interventions, including:

- Welcome and orientation support
- Advice and advocacy services
- Community engagement and dialogue
- Capacity building of BAME groups

The extension ensures ongoing delivery rather than duplication, allowing:

- Sustained engagement with families already supported
- Continued access to essential support services
- Reinforcement of relationships built in earlier phases

The programme remains targeted at communities most impacted by demographic change and community tensions, ensuring alignment with the objectives of reducing isolation, preventing escalation, and promoting inclusion.

The updated proposal expands aspects of the programme, including:

- Increased emphasis on participation in local activities (e.g. summer programmes)
- Additional engagement with sporting organisations to support integration
- Continued development of BAME leadership and volunteering pathways

The approach demonstrates value for money through coordination, linking with existing structures such as Family Support Hubs and statutory services, avoiding duplication and strengthening service delivery.

Appendix 1

The project continues to demonstrate strong partnership working, including collaboration with statutory agencies, community organisations, and BAME-led groups.

The programme provides practical, frontline support, addressing immediate needs (orientation, advice, access to services) while also contributing to longer-term outcomes such as:

- Improved integration and inclusion
- Reduced social isolation
- Strengthened community cohesion

The extension supports stability and continuity of provision, which is critical in areas experiencing high housing turnover and sustained population change.