

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson); and
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Abernethy);
and Councillors I. McLaughlin and Smyth.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. J. Irwin, Communities Relations Council;
Ms. L. Euler, BHSCT;
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;
Mr. W. Naseem, Interfaith Forum;
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Long, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lynch, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. F. McIntyre, Good Relations Project Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillors Lyons; Ms. Guinness, the Rev. Anderson, Mr. McBride and Mr. Walker.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Abernethy, Ms. Arthurs, Ms. Mimna and Ms. Roberts declared an interest under the items relating to the PEACEPLUS Programme, in that they were associated with organisations managing projects under the terms of the programme. Since the matters did not become the subject of debate, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

Active Community Networks

Projects - Youth 11-13 and Sport for Peace

Ms. V. Moore (Project Manager Active Community Networks) gave an overview of the work of the Active Communities Network in respect of the above-mentioned projects. It was explained that the organisation supported young people from marginalised and socially excluded communities to address a range of social issues such as community cohesion, citizenship, crime and anti-social behaviour. This was delivered through grass roots projects, progression pathways, research and evaluation.

The Partnership was provided with a range of examples of best practice used in the delivery of the various projects, together with individual and collective case studies on the achievements which had been realised through the work of the organisation.

Members' Update

Supt. A. Hagan provided an update on the PSNI's work in addressing the illegal use of scramblers, e-bikes and e-scooters across Belfast. He indicated that a case was currently before the courts in which the PSNI had challenged the return of an e-bike following its seizure in north Belfast. Should the judge rule in the police's favour, he suggested that it would be an important judgement that could assist the police in addressing the problem of the illegal use of such vehicles. He outlined also the ongoing work which had been undertaken in addressing antisocial behaviour at interfaces and the illegal use of fireworks in the run up to the Halloween period.

Noted.

Asylum Funding

The Partnership was reminded that The Executive Office (TEO) had, since 2023, provided the Council with Asylum Dispersal Funding to support in the delivery of services to people in the asylum process and to assist in their integration and inclusion. In February, TEO had agreed to provide funding in the sum of £593,903 to support a multi-strand approach, which had been adopted by the Partnership to deliver such funding through an open call to groups; the commissioning of case work and an advice programme; and the provision of an asylum support and capacity programme. In addition, the funding would be used to develop Phase 2 of the scheme, that is; a Welcome Information Programme to be delivered by The Law Centre, which would offer training, mentoring and support to both community and voluntary organisations.

Ms. Dolan provided an update in relation to the progress achieved in the delivery of the funding under the various strands and answered several Members' questions in this regard.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

TEO Rapid Response Funding – Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Shared City Partnership an update on the agreed Executive Office Rapid Response funding programme.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Shared City Partnership notes the contents of the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 Following the recent disorder in Belfast the Executive Committee sought proposals from Council under a “Rapid Response Fund”, which is intended to ensure Belfast City as a whole is in a state of preparedness if this ever happens again whilst providing support in the current environment following the racist disorder.

3.2 Following the recent disorder, it would be beneficial to have a coordinated community support response to provide assistance to individuals who find themselves affected by this recent racist disorder across Belfast and be in a state of preparedness for the future. The support should provide an immediate practical assistance, emotional support and safe spaces for people affected by the racist disorder. The need for low threshold, compassionate support remains due to ongoing racism, misinformation, and community tensions. The proposed approach will support existing formal services, which alone cannot meet the immediate needs of people experiencing crisis. People valued tailored, accessible, community-based support delivered quickly and locally.

Proposal

3.3 Belfast-Wide Emergency Model and Support Programme - £80,000

Deliver a Belfast-wide Emergency Support Programme (Autumn) across five locations across Belfast. Investment will enable local partners to respond quickly and consistently to potential community tensions while protecting vulnerable residents and strengthening community resilience over the coming months.

3.4 Provision to include:

- Safe, welcoming community spaces
- The development of connections with Migrant Support Organisations
- Flexible, person- centred support, whether for a listening ear, reassurance, practical help, informal guidance or social activities
- Emergency assistance (food, transport and essential items)
- Practical advice and information (e.g. house safety and personal alarms, housing needs, access to mental health support and support engaging with Police or victim support services etc.)
- Emotional support and reassurance
- Advocacy and referrals to specialist services
- Outreach and follow-up

- Helpline (specific to each partnership) assistance to maximise outreach
- Development of Diversionary Programmes/Social Activities/Cultural Diversity Celebration Event

3.5 The programme will adopt a trauma-informed and culturally responsive area-based approach across Belfast City. Consideration will be given to translation and interpreting support, inclusive promotional materials, providing refreshments for people accessing support, children's play activities and resources. Appropriate safeguarding, data collection and data sharing protocols must be in place.

3.6 **Eligible Expenditure**

- Staff and volunteer costs
- Translation devices and interpreting costs
- Emergency Support (food, transport, essentials)
- Children's play resources/ play therapy
- Counselling services
- Social/Diversionary activities costs
- Refreshments for the daily clinics
- Venue and operational costs
- Coordination and administration

3.7 **Outcomes**

The programme will:

- Provide rapid support to vulnerable individuals and families.
- Support people to navigate housing, health and community safety.
- Maximise access to statutory and community services
- Reduce fear, isolation and community tensions.
- Strengthen local partnership working and coordinated responses.

3.8 **Hate Crime Hardship Support Programme - £20,000**

The above Belfast wide Emergency Model and Support Programme will be assisted by extended the Hate Crime Hardship Support Programme currently operating via PCSP (individuals in the asylum process are not eligible). This programme will provide the following which have been the most communicated by victims:

- Security equipment to act as a deterrent to further crimes and better protect victims in their homes. Perpetrators do 'think twice' more often when there is more of a likelihood of them getting caught.

- Security cameras
 - Camera Based Doorbells
 - Emergency door stops.
 - Alarms
- Temporary cover for clothing, personal care/hygiene products: Having to leave a property in an emergency will lead to victims needing to replace some everyday products they would have had more readily available.

The above list is not exhaustive, as the purpose of the programme would be to ease burdens that wouldn't otherwise be there were but for the unfortunate victims being targeted with hate crime.

3.9 Monitoring and Learning

The programme will collect anonymised and essential only information to understand needs, including age, gender, nationality, postcode, presenting issue and support provided. This will inform ongoing outreach, identify emerging risks and strengthen future responses.

3.10 Process

In terms of the above an Open Call will be issued to seek one organisation in each of the said areas, i.e. NSEW and Shankill to lead and co-ordinate the response. The applications will be assessed by Council Officers, and following approval, Letters of Offer will be issued under delegated authority from the Director or Neighbourhood Services.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

All financial implications are covered through the proposed funding from TEO's Rapid Response Programme, and Officer time through the Good Relations Unit.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The above proposed programme is to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Local Community Action Plan – Secretariat Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation Contract Awards and Procurement

Mobilisation, procurement and monitoring of implementation is ongoing, and as outlined in each of the Thematic Reports.

3.2 Financial Controller

The contractual articles are being reviewed by KPMG. SEUPB has advised that guidance on managing the overspend for KPMG's verification costs has been escalated to their Senior Management.

3.3 Claims and Reporting

As reported in July 2026, reimbursement of expenditure for Periods 1-8 (up to Dec 25) totalling £1.77m has now been received.

Control work on claims for Period 9 (Mar 26) valued at £496,781 and Period 10 (Jun 26) valued at £786,611 has been completed.

The verification process highlighted that some capital expenditure, (£76,708) such as survey/fees, were not eligible under the Infrastructure and Works budget. SEUPB and KPMG advised that a budget modification to reallocate costs to the External Expertise and Services budget was necessary.

The Partnership is requested to note that a budget modification to realign £361,464, across all 5 Capital projects to the EES budget was agreed and submitted to SEUPB.

3.4 Forecasting and Expenditure Targets

Preparation for the next forecast which is due 18 September 2026 is underway and will reflect the budget modification referred at 3.3 above.

3.5 Exchange Rate Fluctuations

The cost of exchange rate fluctuations has reduced slightly to £20,110, due to an error in the exchange rate fee, which resulted in £1,290 been refunded.

Members are reminded that the Council will be using the existing banking arrangements to manage the exchange rate fee and will monitor the impact over the next 6 months.

3.6 Potential Decommittment

A meeting between the Director of Neighbourhood Services and SEUPB's Joint Secretariat Director to discuss the N+3 decommitment further is scheduled for 3 September 2026.

Additional Funding Proposals

As agreed in August 2026, correspondence has been issued to SEUPB requesting the assessment reports and further feedback for the four additional funding proposals that were not approved and awaiting a response.

Members are advised the additional funding proposal for the Ballysillan project has been submitted to SEUPB for consideration. The £1.39m project will deliver capital improvements to the 3G pitch, events space, play equipment, pump track and allotments; The associated animation programme will deliver a range of 11 activities engaging up to 990 participants for a minimum of 3 hours

The proposal is to be considered by the PEACEPLUS Steering Committee on 28 August 2026. The Partnership is requested to note that if successful, it is likely the capital works only will be approved for expenditure in 2026, with the animation then approved in 2027.

3.7 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

The Period 10 data submitted to SEUPB, outlined 1,253 participants achieved for the period, an increase of 411 participants compared with Period 9.

The Board is referred to the updated PEACEPLUS Performance Dashboard, Appendix I which reflects the overall progress toward targets. In summary, 5,874 participants are registered to projects, with an increase of 1,059 in the past month. Completed participants has also increased with 3,570 completing the required contact hours. The attitudinal impacts continue to be positive and above the 70% target. One key impact, the increased respect for cultures/identities different to their own remains at over 80% of participants (82%) (Pg 6 of Appendix I refers).

Activity during this period focused primarily on addressing a backlog of troubleshooting and technical issues, responding to project-related queries, and validating data to support payment processing.

3.8 Staffing

The Finance and Data Support Assistant is now in post. Current vacancies across the team include the Programme Support Assistant role, which is being advertised in August 2026, and two maternity covers for the Project Manager and Project Support Officer.

A report on the proposed restructure of the PEACEPLUS team is to be presented at CMT in August 2026. Once agreed through internal Council processes, discussions on the staff structure will progress with SEUPB. It is anticipated that recruitment for new posts will commence in September 2026.

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is reimbursed by SEUPB and is eligible from 1 January 2024. As referenced at 3.3 above, PEACEPLUS claimable expenditure to 31 December 2025 submitted to SEUPB is approx. £1.771m.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations, and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and it was agreed that, in respect of the Beacons' Programme, that a report that would assess the success of the initiative would be submitted for consideration in due course.

Upcoming Events

Arising from discussion, during which a number of Members thanked officers for the work undertaken in delivering the PEACEPLUS Programme, particularly the Beacons' Programme, it was noted that invitations would be extended to the Partnership Members to attend an event celebrating the success of the Beacons Programme.

That event would take place at 2a Royal Avenue on 30th September and would be opened by the Lord Mayor. In addition, the Partnership noted that invitations would be circulated to Members to attend the Council's celebration of International Day of Peace, which would take place in the City Hall on 21st September. The event would showcase the successes of local organisations and cultural groups and highlight also community peace-building and PEACEPLUS projects.

Celebrating Culture and Diversity - Thematic Update

The Peace Programmes Manager provided an update on the delivery status of the above-mentioned theme, information in respect of which is set out hereunder:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

3.0 Project Delivery

Project implementation is continuing as outlined in the report below:

CCD1 – Interfaith and Belief Lead Delivery Partner: Corrymeela Community

Consortium Partners: Redeeming Our Communities, Belfast Islamic Centre, NI Inter-Faith Forum

	Project Target	Phased Target	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	870 + 1430 Wider	Pending confirmation of realignment	None	93/870 195/1430 Wider
Achieved/ Completed activity	195/1430 Wider	As above	None	+ 4 met hours activity is ongoing
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£ 304,564	Phase 2a / b 2 x Qtr M&A	£30,456	Total £51,221

Project delivery is now progressing, with key highlights including:

Stream 1 Education & Awareness

- Common Threads, café culture awareness event was co-hosted as part of EastSide Arts Festival. Participants shared how music, storytelling, fashion and food helps them express and celebrate their traditions.
- A 2-day Youth programme at Black Mountain Shared Centre, with 16 young people from 3 different youth groups reported as taking part. The content included What Shapes who I am?

and What can we learn from each other through faith and belief.

Stream 2: Unity and Welcoming Programme

- Delivery of 3 best practice faith visits to Guru Nanak Gurdwara; Sikh Faith, Windsor Hub and Belfast Indian Centre; Mapping of the welcome, care and social provision by faith and belief groups continues

It should be noted that monitoring data is to be updated to verify activity as outlined above.

3.2 CCD2 – Community Connections Lead Delivery Partner (DP): GEMS NI Consortium Partners: Business in the Community (BITC), Belfast City of Sanctuary, Diverse Youth NI, Migrant Centre NI, Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

	Project Target	Phased Target (2b)	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	726	156	29	139
Achieved/ Completed activity	726	11	0	29
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£638,105	Phase 2b	£102,096	£47857 - 2b

Key highlights and achievements as follows:

- Strand 1 L&M Cohort 2 commenced with leadership sessions.
- Strand 2 Facilitators Co Design workshop 1 completed and App Development work commenced.
- The change request to realign implementation plan to reflect delays in delivery has been approved. This means that the DP has now met the requirements for approval of their Phase 2a payment and their M&A payment which are both within the approval process.

Welcome Hub activity in Horn Drive and Morton Community Centres is recommencing in August 2026, and a tailored approach to the recommencement of Welcome Hub sessions in Cregagh is being adopted to manage risk.

3.3 CCD3 – LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Project (Out Connections Belfast) Lead Delivery Partner: The Rainbow Project Project Partners: Cara Friend, HERe NI

	Project Target	Phased Target Phase 2b	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	625	75	0	93*
Achieved/ Completed activity	625	50	0	52
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£384,997	2b / Qtr 2 M&A	£80,849	£26,948

*While no additional participants were registered this reporting period, there has been an increase in participants actively participating.

The LGBTQIA+ Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan has been submitted and is currently under review. A new website site map has been agreed with Strand 1 participants which will provide a brief to procure web designers.

Strand 4 Outreach activity, which accounts for 450 participants, was due to commence in March 2026 and has yet to commence. Whilst additional staff from the partners will be supporting this activity, the delivery partner has outlined that actual delivery will not commence until the staff are filled and new staff inducted. As there is no confirmed timeframe for commencement of delivery, the project RAG status is deemed Red.

Discussions regarding continued delivery are ongoing and a further update will be provided in due course.

3.4 CCD4 – Community Empowerment Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners

Lead Delivery Partner: Coiste Project Partners: Tar Anall, Action for Community Transformation, Charter NI, and Tar Isteach.

	Project Target	Phased Target	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	750 +150 Wider	Circa 120 TBC	4	190
Achieved/ Completed activity	Pending update	Pending update	10	28
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£ 492,508	Phase 2a / 2 M&A to Jun 26	£49,250	£46,514

Delivery of activity is progressing with 5/25 participants registered for Counselling Training are preparing to commence activity in September 2026. 10/20 participants continue to take part in the

Advice Training on rights and benefits guidance with Advice NI. 4 Men's / Hens sheds events have taken place, and planning for a cross-community tea dance for August is underway, as part of the Interactive Engagement element of the programme.

3.5 CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.5.1 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access - Lead Delivery Partner Ulster Scots Agency

The formal contract has now been issued to the Delivery Partner. Further updates on the implementation plan are to be submitted, with activity scheduled to commence in September 2026.

3.5.2 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces (Come on Over) Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe (DP)

	Project Target	Phased Target (3a - Nov 26)	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	426	240 cumulative	0	143
Achieved/ Completed activity	426	0	0	0
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£206,330	£4,565 M&A	£60,493	£4,565

3.5.3 Lot 3 – Festivals and Flagship Events Lead Delivery Partner (DP): Féile an Phobail

	Project Target	Phased Target 2b - May 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	404 900 wider	112 156 cumulative	0	196 65 + 18 wider
Achieved/ Completed activity	As above	24	148	148
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£235,908	2b / 1 x MA	£40,104	£28,308

As reflected above, delivery of activity and targets is on track. The project implementation plan reflected reduced activity during July / August 2026 due to the Féile festival. Further OCN Event Management training is scheduled to commence in September 2026 and two further Social Action activity is to be delivered by December 2026.

3.5.4 Lot 4 – Culture and Shared Built Heritage - Lead Delivery Partner (DP): Arts Ekta - Project Partners: Cairde na Cille, Kabosh Theatre

	Project Target	Phased Target 3a - July 2026	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered and participating	478 (by Jul 26)	146	56	465
Achieved/ Completed activity	625	186	4	436
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£234,200	3a / 1 x M&A)	£75,582	£27,678

ArtsEkta continues to make strong progress. Cumulatively to date, over 530 direct participants are registered with over 430 completing activity. In addition, over 1000 wider beneficiaries have attended project activity.

Phase 2 of the project has commenced across all strands with events and tours continuing to be delivered over the next month alongside Mela and Fleadh, highlights include Sailortown Secrets and Conway Mill tour, events in the Good Shepherd Gate Lodge and Fernhill House.

ArtsEkta has integrate additional information to enhance the Faith Trail website which is due to be launched towards the end of August 2026.

The Partnership is requested to note the Tour Guide Training, run through Belfast Met has had 3 people drop off. As the training is delivered by Belfast Met over-recruiting was not possible due to Belfast Met capacity constraints. Officers are exploring options and alternatives to ensure the project targets are achieved and will be reported in due course.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

All PEACEPLUS expenditure is eligible from 1 January 2024.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership note the information which had been provided.

Community Regeneration and Transformation - Thematic Update

The Peace Programmes Manager provided an update to the Partnership on the delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan. She highlighted various aspects and achievements which had been under the various themes, together with an overview of expenditure thus far in respect of the

various headings, viz., Community Empowerment, Health and Wellbeing, Youth Empowerment, Sport for Peace, Employability and Arts Across the Genres.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities - Thematic Update

The Peace Programmes Manager provided an update on the delivery status of the above-mentioned theme, information in respect of which is set out hereunder:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Thriving and Peaceful Communities (TPC) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

Project Delivery

An overview of project progress within the TPC theme is outlined below.

3.1 TPC 1 Community Empowerment – Lead Delivery Partner (DP): NICVA

Project Partners: Forward South Partnership (FSP), East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB), Falls Community Council (FCC), Greater Shankill Partnership (GSP) and Marrowbone Community Association (MCA).

	Project Target	Phased Target 2b March 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered participating	1000 (320 Core/680 Wider)	250	0	467 (120 core / 347 wider)
Achieved/ Completed activity	1000	As above	0	389 (112 core 277 wider)
	Contract Value	Payments Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£903,552	Part 2b & Q2 M&A	£201,245	£26,428*

*this payment process has commenced during this reporting period

Delivery of activity is progressing with 5/10 Local Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP) Cohorts underway; 171 participants, with 30 plus-hours of activity in 5 areas: Court 1 (Greater Shankill Partnership), Blackmountain (Falls Community Council), Oldpark (West Belfast Partnership Board), Botanic (Forward South Belfast) and Ormiston (East Belfast Community Development Association). Some LCEP Social Action activity has been rescheduled to late 2026.

The third OCN Level 2 in Community Development is fully booked with 25 participants registered. Planning future City-wide activity including networking event and non-accredited training continues. The Delivery Partner is nearing completion of a significant data cleanse to enable accurate monitoring. The Partnership is requested to note that due data inconsistencies a partial Phase 2b payment has been made, with the remaining paid on completion of all data.

3.2 TPC 2 Health & Wellbeing - Lead Delivery Partner Ashton
Project Partners: Shankill Partnership Board, East Belfast Community Development Agency, West Belfast Partnership Board, & North Belfast Community Partnership.

	Target	Phased Target 3 – June 2026	Achieved this period Apr-Jun 26	Achieved to Date
Registered and participating	1620	646	322	769
Achieved/ Completed activity	1620	646	22*	699
	Contract	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£852,800	Phase 2 and 2 x M&A	£85,280	£241,626

* NB 20 new achieved participants are from a previous reporting period, before July 2026.

The change request to amend the area of influence to DEA level is currently with SEUPB for review and approval.

No highlights or main achievements have been reported for this quarter. Although it should be noted the delivery partner has reported having to turn individuals away due to the geographical location of their residents and the parameters of the project. Future marketing activity will continue to raise awareness of opportunities while clearly communicating eligibility requirements to help manage expectations, minimise reputational risks and ensure a positive experience for those engaging with the project.

3.3.1 Lot 1: 9–12 year olds (Juniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Giga Training
Project Partner BEAM Creative Network.

	Project Target	Phased Target Apr-Jun 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered & participating	1500	600	63	441
Achieved/ Completed activity	1500	Tbc	77	488
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£ 239,259	1 x M&A	£77,215	£4,350

*recruitment ongoing

Recruitment and delivery of Year 2 activity is progressing with 77 participants successfully completing activity, and further activity planned. The Delivery Partner is on target to achieve half of their Year 2 targets (300/ 600) by September 2026, with the remaining 300 to be completed during the next academic year.

Positive discussions with organisations including Mencap, Park School, Kids Together, Harberton School and Stranmillis Primary School are progressing with the remaining 300 to be completed during the next academic year.

3.3.2 Lot 2: 12–15 year olds (Intermediate) - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network (ACN) Project Partners: Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club, Lagmore and Rosario Youth.

	Project Target	Phased Target Apr-Jun 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered & participating	360	2a – 65 230 cumulative	0	164
Achieved/ Completed activity	360	As above	0	164/360
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£ 225,981	1 x M&A	£ 53,413	£4,108

48/65 of Cohort 3 participants are actively participating in Young Leaders group sessions working towards their qualification and is on track for completion by September 2026.

Many participants involved in youth clubs/sporting clubs have anecdotally learnt new skills and improved their confidence in becoming young leaders.

3.3.3 Lot 3: 16–18 year olds (Seniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Streetbeat Youth Project

Project Partner YEHA (Youth Educational Health Advice).

	Project Target	Phased Target Apr-Jun 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered & participating	160	64	75	144
Achieved/ Completed activity	160	64 completers (105 cumulative)	0	42 *
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£248,703	3a and 1 x M&A	£96,768	£31,878

Delivery is ongoing with key activities during July 2026 included:

1. a residential in Newcastle with 3 Streetbeat groups engaging 17 participants, in outdoor adventure activities, team building challenges and positive relationships sessions.
2. YEHA collaborative BBQ engaging 23 participants from the North and West Belfast groups. The participants were able to build positive relationships and participated in creative art activities.

The project experienced some participants drop off due to the summer and the delivery partner is reengaging those affected.

3.3.4 Lot 4: 19-25 years olds (Young adults) – Lead Partner GEMS NI

Project Partners: Diverse Youth NI (DYNI), Training Network for Women (TWN).

	Project Target	Phased Target 2b (Jan-Jun 26)	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered & participating	96	35	36/40 participating	20
Achieved/ Completed activity	96	40 + 26 (Yr 1) 66 cumulative	0	20/26
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£224,283	2b and 2 x M&A	£65,041	£31,398

36 Year 2 participants are actively engaging in ILM training sessions. Sessions are delivered in GEMS NI office to mitigate any challenges regarding the engagement of minority ethnic participants following the recent community disorder. The Partnership is requested to note that the delivery partner has proposed the Basque Country International Residential to take place in November 2026 rather than September 2026 due to a significant increased cost. An updated implementation plan to incorporate this minor change will be submitted accordingly.

3.4 TPC 4 Sport for Peace - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network

Project Partners: Sport Changes Life Foundation, PeacePlayers NI and Community Sports Network.

	Target	Phased Target 2b – Jan-Jun 26	Total this period	Total to Date
Registered & participating	1600	567*	39	736
Achieved/	1600		25	532
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£709,956	2b and 2 x M&A	£145,218	£96,811

* a revised implementation plan/payment schedule is under review, so figures will be confirmed next reporting period.

This project is continuing to make progress towards targets across all four Pillars. Key highlights include exceeding the overall engagement target within Pillar 2 Good Relations sessions, reflecting the project's ability to connect with participants and partners beyond initial expectations. Delivery of activity includes a mix of organisations engaging community groups, sports clubs, and schools, which strengthened networks, broadened opportunities for participation, and ensured activities reached a wide range of audiences.

Engagement was maintained throughout the summer. The release of Phase 2b payment was delayed due to holidays, and it is envisaged it will be processed this month.

3.5 TPC 5 Employability Language Up – Lead Delivery Partner People1st

Project Partners: Belfast City Mission, Conway Education, Donegall Pass, Fane Street Primary, Food Stock, Footprints, Holy Rosary Primary, Mears, Refuge Language, Russian Speaking Community, Street Soccer NI, The Suitcase Project, Wee Chicks, Windsor Women's Centre.

	Target	Phased Target 3 – Sep 2026	Achieved this period	Achieved to Date
Registered and participating	816	309 Cumulative	6	410
Achieved/ Completed activity	816	309 Cumulative	4	163
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£446,506	n/a	£120,962	n/a

163 participants have achieved the required hours to date, and currently 8 active cohorts are participating across both Strand 1 vocational language training and Strand 2 community engagement.

The vocational focus of active cohorts includes Retail, Customer Services, Administration, and Construction.

The Delivery Partner continues to receive referrals for people from a minority ethnic background who are interested in improving their vocational language skills and ongoing engagement is taking place with the community sector to ensure participant recruitment continues.

The Delivery Partner is working closely with participants to address issues with attendance and ensure targets are met.

3.6 TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner MayWe Project Partners: BEAM Creative Network

	Target	Phased Target 3b Mar 2026	Achieved this period	Achieved to Date
Registered and participating	496	376	0	514
Achieved/ Completed activity	As above	0	0	263
	Contract Value	Payment Due	Paid to Date	Slippage
Payment	£674,000	M&A	£393,166	£14,977

The data outlining progress to date as noted above has been verified and demonstrates the t the project is ahead of schedule. Reporting for July has been delayed due to bereavement. Officers will work closely with MayWe into the next reporting period and a full report will be provided for the next Programme Board meeting

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

A New Good Relations Framework – Call For Views

The Partnership reported that The Executive Office (TEO) was developing a new 'Good Relations Framework' and had launched a 'call for views', which would end on 21st September. The aim of the review would be to assess the success of the existing framework in promoting community relations and tackling division, prejudice and sectarianism. The consultation would seek feedback across several core areas with a view to improving outcomes and strengthen both community and cultural expression.

It was noted that information would be circulated to the Partnership seeking comments in advance of the closing date of the exercise.

The Good Relations Manager reported that it was anticipated that representatives of the Mears organisation, together with representatives of several agencies involved in the management of migrant issues, would be attending the Partnership's meeting in October. He encouraged Members to forward any questions that they would wish to have addressed at that meeting to him at the earliest opportunity to enable them to be forwarded to Mears in advance of the meeting.

The partnership noted the request and agreed to forward questions to the Good Relations Manager.

Date of Next Meeting

The Partnership would meet again on Wednesday 7th October at 1.30 p.m.

Chairperson