

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES NETWORK

Vicky Moore TPC3 Lot 2
Ascent Programme



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



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www.northernireland.gov.uk



Belfast
City Council

ASCENT Programme

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

Partnership Consortium

- Active Communities Network (Lead Partner)
- Rosario Youth Club
- Ledley Hall Girls & Boys Club
- Lagmore Youth Project

This collaborative programme helps young people build confidence, develop leadership skills, and create meaningful connections across communities.



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The Programme supports young people aged **12-15 years old** across Belfast, engaging participants in **52 hours of activity over six months**. The project will engage **360 yp** by Dec 2027.

Activities include:

- Young Leaders Award
- Diversity & Inclusion workshops
- Team-building activities
- Self-identity and confidence-building sessions
- Four twinning sessions across partner venues
- A collective social action project
- Two-day residential; cross border experience



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ASCENT Engagement

YP A joined the programme despite initially being reluctant as few friends were taking part. Through participation, they grew in confidence, built new friendships, and developed greater self-awareness. They particularly enjoyed the leadership sessions and are now keen to volunteer with younger members and take on future leadership opportunities. Their positive experience has encouraged them to continue engaging in structured programmes and share their learning with peers and family.

YP B joined through school-based provision and was initially quiet and hesitant about engaging with new people. Over time, they developed confidence, communication skills, and a greater understanding of diversity and inclusion. They formed new friendships, embraced leadership activities, and moved from being unsure about attending the residential trip to being excited to participate. YP B is now eager to take on more active roles in school and future structured programmes.



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Outcomes

236 Young people have engaged across Belfast City.

236 Young Leaders Awards completed

Approx 45 young people engaging as young volunteers within the centres/ schools.

Social Actions have included; supporting the Homeless, Womens' Refuge, those in poverty and those who are isolated, with care products. Santa's Grotto, Mural project.

Residentials to Carlingford & Wicklow. Day trips to Dundalk.



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“

I participated in the first Ascent Programme and love it. I made so many new friends from the other groups, that I still meet up with. My favourite part was on the residential and doing the water sports. Me and my friends had so much fun.

”

Yp: Aged 14 Cohort 1



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Thank you for listening



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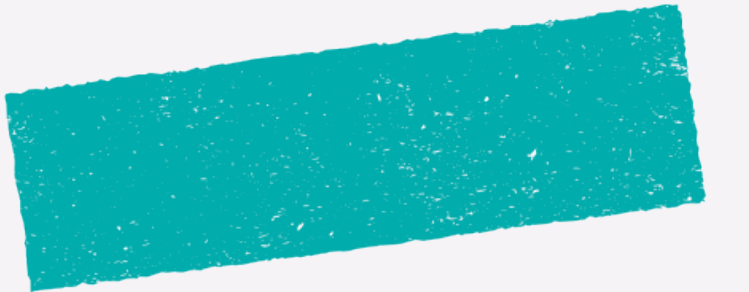


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Assets



**ACTIVE
COMMUNITIES
NETWORK** 

**Tackle Inequality.
Create Opportunities.
Inspire Change.**

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activecommunities.org.uk**