

Newsletter

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme

Empowering Women's Groups

Over the past several months we have run an engaging and inspiring Women's Empowerment Programme. Working with seven cross-border cross-community women's groups (Aughnasheelin and Ballinamore, Leitrim; Kildallan-Kinawley Mothers' Union, Cavan-Fermanagh; Teemore, Lisnaskea, Magheraveely & Ballinamallard, Fermanagh) we ran a number of workshops, trips and gatherings covering a range of topics pertinent to our audience. These included: Money Management delivered by Money Advice and Budgeting Service, in Aughnasheelin; Conflict Resolution in Teemore; Women's Community Engagement facilitated by the North Leitrim Women's Centre, in Ballinamallard and Domestic Violence provided by Domestic Violence Advocacy Service in Ballinamore.

This project culminated in a good practice visit to the Shankill Shared Women's Centre in Belfast, which provides cross-community services including childcare and a training centre. The women got to see first-hand the impact a purpose-built women's centre can have on an area. The centre also has a clear focus on meeting the needs of young working-class women from both sides of the peace line.

Participants to the programme said:

"The fact that women can come together in a divided place like West Belfast, to work together and meet the needs of women from both sides of the community, is very positive."

"It was great to get the opportunity to attend these events, we were in places we never expected to be and met wonderful people along the way."

"I learned so much during the four evenings and it was great to be able to hear what the women from the other groups had to say, I really enjoyed the whole experience."



Community Restorative Justice

In late 2025 we joined forces with Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh to run a fantastic programme for older secondary school students from Ballinamore Community School and Enniskillen Royal Grammar School. Over six sessions, the students were equipped with the skills, insight, and confidence to build stronger relationships, support a positive school environment, and address conflict constructively. The sessions drew on restorative practices, and encouraged students to take ownership of their behaviour, reflect on the impact of their actions, and learn respectful, effective ways to resolve differences.

Students worked together in interesting, interactive ways such as open-discussion, role-play and thought-provoking activities to develop these skills. The course provided a safe space to practice these skills which will serve the young people well as they move forward into adult life.

The participant feedback showed how valuable this programme was to the young participants: "I didn't realise how much damage words can do."; "It made me think about how to fix mistakes instead of pretending they didn't happen."; "I learned that we need to listen properly instead of just waiting to talk."; "It actually made me stop and think before reacting. I wouldn't have done that before."; It was better than typical school and I liked meeting ones from other school."; "I think if more people did this course, there'd be less arguments and drama."





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Celebrating the Better Together Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme

The Better Together Níos Fearr Le Chéile Project was successfully launched in 2019 and has gone from strength to strength over the past seven years. Our Board would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the International Fund for Ireland for placing their trust in us and funding us to the tune of €550k in total. A special word of thanks to former Chairperson Paddy Harte and all the Board Members since then, especially Síghle Fitzgerald and Anne Carr who visited us on many occasions. We welcome their new Chairperson - Shona McCarthy - and we look forward to meeting her at our Celebratory Event in the Island Theatre. Thanks also to our area manager - Catherine Ryan - for all her support with our project.

We express our gratitude to all staff who were involved in the project: Kathleen Kearns, Emer Leddy, Elaine Kelly, Michael Finnegan and Michael Mullin, and to our current staff Donal Fox and Jennie O'Hara, without whom none of this would have been possible.

One of our most successful projects was the cross-border cross-community schools programme with Ballinamore Community School and Enniskillen Royal Grammar School. The participating students benefitted from learning about each other's beliefs and culture. Barriers were broken down and firm friendships were formed for life.

We also ran a range of programmes including: Exploring the Past and Looking to the Future; Capacity Building; Libraries Project; Community Employability Skills; Digital Wellness & Multi-Sports; Community Restorative Justice and our award-winning Community Services Hub. We organised a range of good practice visits to Belfast, Derry, Monaghan and Dublin. Unfortunately, our programme comes to an end on 31st March 2026.

This image, designed by Adrian Smith, depicts the plaque which will be erected on the wall of our Community Den, to honour and remember the Better Together Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme and the support provided to us by the International Fund for Ireland.



Celebration Event: Friday 13th March 2026

To celebrate the fantastic achievements and impacts of this programme, we invite you to join us at our Celebration Event.

Date: Friday 13th March 2026

Time: 3pm-6pm

Location: The Island Theatre, Ballinamore

Join us to find out about the different elements of our cross-border, cross-community project and hear directly from our beneficiaries.

Refreshments Provided.

RSVP to let us know you can attend: baccpeaceimpactprogramme@gmail.com

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile

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