

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Goal: To ensure best access to services for the community of Donegal

Tosaíochta: Leis an rochtain is fearr is féidir ar sheirbhísí a chinntiú don phobal I nDún Na nGall

Key Activities / Tosaíochta	Progress Update to CDB at March 2011
1. To consider local responses to the Transforming Public Services Agenda	¹ DCC Donegal County Council is developing and implementing a local transformation plan in the context of the TPS agenda. A core element of this plan is the deployment of a set of methodologies and systems to streamline the work processes through which our approximately 120 services are delivered. These tools were developed through a research project undertaken by DCC
2. Undertake research initiative of "new unemployed" sector	<p>²SIM The Research and Policy Unit on behalf of the Council's Social Inclusion Unit and under the auspices of CDB SIM group recently completed research into the level, extent and impact of unemployment in the county. The research was conducted in two parts:</p> <p>Part 1 A statistical profile of unemployment in Donegal including an analysis of statistics against regional and national trends</p> <p>Part 2 Examined the impact of unemployment on the lives of people and presented the real stories behind the statistical profile and included the holding of consultations with unemployed people in 3 locations in the county – Carndonagh, Letterkenny and Donegal Town.</p> <p>This research was presented at the keynote event of Social Inclusion Week 2010 entitled – Making the Future Happen..... Addressing the Unemployment Challenge in Donegal on the 20th of October 2010. This event was held in conjunction with the CDB Economic Sub Group and for the first time brought together County Development Board agencies, other relevant organisations, mental health representatives, economic representatives, unemployed people and Elected Members to hear first hand the reality of unemployment in our county. The Social Inclusion Unit coordinated the event, the objective of which was threefold -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the impact and extent of unemployment in Donegal • To identify opportunities to support those who are unemployed • To harness the capacity of unemployed people in tackling unemployment in the county. <p>The research is currently being published and will be available for circulation from April 2011.</p>
3. To implement the recommendations of the pilot Integrated Services delivery project	<p>The Programme Office in the Dept of the Taoiseach is running a number of projects under the TPS agenda. One of these relates to the development of integrated systems of means testing and DCC is contributing to this work. A system to support the exchange of data on common customers (subject to compliance with data protection requirements) has been developed by ERNACT and will be tested in a multi-agency environment.</p> <p>³CIS The CIS continues to provide information, advice and advocacy services in accordance with recommendations and continues to work with the newly unemployed.</p>

¹ Donegal County Council

² Social Inclusion Measures Group

³ Citizens Information Service

4. To support the role of Citizens Information Centres	⁴ CIS Continues to work on an integrated basis with the statutory agencies.
5. To investigate the transferability of existing models of integrated services	⁵ DCC The Library staff are working on the redesigning of the library website to provide access to arrange of information services.
	DCC In the context of the local transformation plan as outlined at 1 above, DCC is interested in sharing the learning emerging from this work with other agencies and to explore the possibility of developing a shared approach with other agencies ⁶ DCCC Naíonáin Le Chéile the Early Childhood Identity and Belonging Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to provide practical training, meaningful activities and suitable resources for early childhood educators working with children 0-5 years around the areas of diversity, respect for difference, identity and belonging through the mediums of art and drama. Parent sessions are also being delivered on the VEC Learning Bus
6. Identify poverty needs in the county	⁷ SIU a) Social Inclusion Week 2011 Following very successful Social Inclusion Weeks in 2009 and 2010, the Social Inclusion Unit plans to hold Social Inclusion Week 2011 from the 19th – 23rd of September 2011 . As in previous years, the Social Inclusion Week aims to promote and showcase the substantial efforts, projects and initiatives in Donegal focused on tackling poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion including the work of Donegal County Council as well as the socially inclusive work of other agencies in the public and community & voluntary sectors. It also aimed to highlight the high levels of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion as part of the week and to increase the understanding of inclusion and diversity in Donegal. Anyone wishing to partake in Social Inclusion Week by hosting an event should contact the Social Inclusion Unit directly on 074 91 72497 or by email to dmcgroarty@donegalcoco.ie b) Social Inclusion Training One of the key objectives of the Social Inclusion Unit is to embed social inclusion in the plans and policies of Donegal County Council. We are currently rolling out a Social Inclusion Training Programme to management, staff and Elected Members of Donegal County Council. The course will commence on the 4 th April 2011 and consists of 3 modules as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Social Inclusion o Cultural Diversity o Plain English At the end of the training, we hope that participants will have a better understanding of social inclusion and the impact of those experiencing social exclusion in our county. We hope that the training will instil confidence in staff and elected members to

⁴ Citizens Information Service

⁵ Donegal County Council

⁶ Donegal County Childcare Committee

⁷ Social Inclusion Unit

	<p>enable the delivery of Council services and supports in a more socially inclusive way. For further information, please contact the Social Inclusion Unit directly as above.</p> <p>c) Review and Updating of Local Anti-Poverty Strategy The Social Inclusion Unit will commence the review of the Local Anti-Poverty Strategy over the coming months in conjunction with the CDB SIM Group and the Council's Social Inclusion Forum. This review will assess the extent to which objectives and outputs of the previous plan have been implemented, key success factors, reasons for non-implementation etc. The development of an updated LAPS' will be informed by the recently published Planning for Inclusion Toolkit and by issues raised by consultations with participating agencies of the CDB SIM group and Directorates of Donegal County Council. It is hoped that this review will commence in the coming months.</p> <p>d) Using Plain English in Donegal County Council The Social Inclusion Unit is currently in the process of completing a Plain English Style Writing Guide aimed at making the information and advice issued by the Council easier to understand so that the customer is clear about the instruction or advice being given.</p> <p>The Style Writing Guide will equip staff members with guidelines and tips to help them present information and materials in an easier to read format, especially for adults with literacy difficulties. The main aim of this campaign is to improve the way we communicate with our customers; improve service delivery and create better relations with our customers. Training on the use of Plain English will be provided as part of the Social Inclusion Training as outlined at b) above.</p> <p>e) Planning for Inclusion – A Statistical and Mapping Toolkit - This publication outlines research to assist agencies both locally and nationally in achieving a more equitable distribution of services across the county. A limited number of toolkits remain available and these can be obtained by contacting the Social Inclusion Unit directly.</p> <p>⁸SIM Poverty Impact Assessment – Draft County Development Plan The SIU is exploring the possibility of working with the Central Planning Unit and the CDB Social Inclusion Measures Group and Donegal Youth Council etc. to carry out a Poverty Impact Assessment of the draft County Development Plan later this year.</p> <p>⁹HSE A needs identification and mapping exercise continues in relation both to the Children's Service Committee and the Killybegs Outcomes Based Planning Project. Please contact Catherine Breslin on Catherine.breslin@hse.ie</p> <p>¹⁰CIS Provides information to feed into this process.</p>
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⁸ CDB Social Inclusion Measures Group

⁹ Health Service Executive

¹⁰ Citizens Information Service

<p>7. To develop support services for ethnic minority groups</p>	<p>¹¹DCC</p> <p>a) The SIU is currently delivering a range of supports and services to support ethnic minority communities in Donegal. This project is being delivered within the context of the Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of 'Port na Failte' Drop in centre at Port House, Letterkenny – resource and information centre for ethnic minority communities in the county • Setting up of an Independent Incident Reporting Scheme • Delivering a range on supports to service providers relating to interpretation and translation services etc. • Undertaking an awareness raising campaign to combat racism and sectarianism and to promote cultural diversity. • An interagency Cultural Diversity Steering Group has been set up to guide the work of this group. • A Volunteer Programme throughout the county. <p>Further detailed information on each of these projects is attached as part of Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership recently submitted their proposal for funding for Phase II of the Peace III Programme. The economic appraisal of the Plan is now being undertaken and it is hoped that an announcement will be made before the end of the year in relation to the success of the Plan. It is hoped that the Plan will bring significant funding to the county with the aim of creating a county where racism and sectarianism no longer exist. See Appendix 1 for further details.</p> <p>b) Libraries are working with the Peace III Integration Officer to provide library information leaflets in a variety of languages.</p> <p>c) See Appendix 1 below also for update on the implementation of the Donegal CDB Peace III Action Plan.</p> <p>¹²LTC Ongoing Work with Peace III Cultural Diversity Officer to support ethnic minority groups in Letterkenny</p> <p>¹³HSE Representatives continue to participate fully on the Cultural Diversity Project funded by Peace 3. Translation and interpretation services are provided to increase access to services for ethnic minorities. Non- Irish nationals are employed within services. Peer-leds programme to improve Traveller health continue to be supported. Please contact Mary Kelly on maryb.kelly1@hse.ie</p> <p>¹⁴CIS Continues to participate in existing ethnic support groups and provides interpreting services for minority groups. Info is provided in a number of languages via the CIB website (view language index at bottom right hand corner of home page).</p>
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¹¹ Donegal County Council

¹² Letterkenny Town Council

¹³ Health Service Executive

¹⁴ Citizens Information Service

<p>8. To provide access to information on services available to target groups</p>	<p>¹⁵SIU As a follow-on action from the event outlined at no. 2 above, the Social Inclusion Unit is supporting Cllr. Cora Harvey, Mayor in hosting a seminar entitled Making the Future Happen..... Employment Opportunities in Donegal. The seminar will examine and present employment opportunities in Donegal and the Northwest region and will be held in a positive and encouraging environment. Keynote speakers from a range of sectors including the Green Economy, Tourism and Agri-Food will make presentations on the day. The date and venue for the seminar is currently being finalised and invitees will be issued to the CDB.</p> <p>¹⁶DCC Pavee Pathways is an initiative of the Donegal CDB IAG on Traveller Issues is implementing a dedicated Traveller Employment support project to open up employment opportunities for Travellers in Donegal and funded under the FAS Special Initiative for Travellers. This includes enabling Travellers to access information on services and supports available including Training, Further Education, Social Welfare Entitlements, Employment Support Services e.g. Jobs Initiatives and Enterprise Support services. This work commenced in October 2008 and to date this project has been in direct contact with 80 clients and is working intensively with over 20 clients. FAS has approved an allocation of €12,080 for the period January – March 2011 and the Council's Social Inclusion Unit continues to administer this funding. FAS is currently examining possibilities for mainstreaming this project from April 2011 and the Interagency Group on Traveller Issues has outlined a number of key critical success factors of the existing programme to assist in the efficient continuation of this project.</p> <p>¹⁷LTC Upgrading of www.letterkenny.ie to display all relevant info on Local Authority Services and support services available in Letterkenny.</p>
<p>9. To promote volunteerism as a resource for County Donegal</p>	<p>SIU In conjunction with no. 5 above, Donegal County Councils Social Inclusion Unit will be working to promote volunteerism among a range of target groups within the county. A dedicated Peace III funded Development Officer will deliver this initiative in conjunction with other organisations in the county including employers and Donegal Volunteer Centre. Further detailed information on each of these projects is attached as part of Appendix 1.</p> <p>¹⁸CIS Volunteer participation in the provision of information, DCIS promotes volunteerism in the provision of services, e.g. Free Legal Advice Clinics and is continuing to develop specialist volunteer services.</p>
<p>10. To promote inter-generational initiatives</p>	<p>SIU / HSE The HSE, under the auspices of the Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership is working in partnership with local groups delivering intergenerational projects in the County. These intergenerational projects will be developed within the context of community gardens and allotments in the towns of Letterkenny, Moville, Raphoe and Ballybofey/Stranorlar areas. To date extensive work has been undertaken in identifying locations and engaging with communities with a view to facilitating intergenerational activity. Richard Corrigan visited this project during Enterprise Week resulting in positive media coverage.</p> <p>LTC Is working in partnership with local groups to develop Community Gardens in Letterkenny.</p>

¹⁵ Social Inclusion Unit

¹⁶ Donegal County Council

¹⁷ Letterkenny Town Council

¹⁸ Citizens Information Service

	CIS Continues to provide ongoing outreach services to a broad spectrum of groups, including youth groups/school leavers and events targeted at older people.
11. To provide targeted initiatives for rural dwellers to access services	<p>The three Rural Transport companies are working together to ensure that there is countywide coverage in terms of transport access for rural dwellers. The CDB is facilitating the integration of agencies transport needs with the rural transport providers and a pilot project is currently being undertaken in south west Donegal with day hospital and day centre clients. This pilot project is currently being reviewed and it is hoped to expand this work into other CDB partners transport needs.</p> <p>However, to continue to develop this service there is a need to review the existing Free travel pass budget between the exiting transport operators in the county. The Council is therefore seeking the support of the CDB to advocate for a review of the national Free Travel Scheme which may result in a more equitable distribution of the budget (€68m), to enable rural dwellers in Donegal to access essential services. At present, the allocation from this national budget to the 36 Rural transport companies currently operating is €1.5m. The CDB has agreed to support a call for a review of the Free Travel Scheme.</p> <p>¹⁹HSE Is working closely with both SITT and MFG rural transport companies to develop sustainable rural transport provision that will improve access to HSE services. The initiative is being rolled out in the Inishowen and the wider Letterkenny Area.</p> <p>²⁰CIS Continues its outreach services to rural communities.</p>
12. To secure more positive outcomes for Travellers by co-ordinating better service delivery and supports	<p>²¹SIU The Donegal CDB Interagency Group on Traveller Issues recently reviewed the actions outlined in its three year Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011 in accordance with a request from the DoEHLG. The aim of the review was to prioritise a fewer no. of priority actions taking into consideration current economic circumstances and resource constraints. The SIUI coordinated the response to the Dept. and a response from the Dept. is now awaited. The sub project of this group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavee Pathways - Opening Employment Opportunities for Travellers in Donegal (see 8 above) • Pilot Tenant Participation Project – Donegal County Council in association with other key stakeholders has been engaged in implementing a Pilot Tenant Participation project in Letterkenny with a Traveller family. ▪ Respecting and Connecting Communities - A subgroup of the IAG has been set up to oversee this work which is being delivered under the auspices of the Donegal Peace 3 Action 2008-2010 and which is being led by Donegal County Councils Social Inclusion Unit in close association with Donegal Travellers Project and other key stakeholders. This group is currently developing an Interagency Framework for dealing with and addressing conflict situations and/or tensions between the Traveller and the wider community). A dedicated Development Officer and a Traveller Support worker are employed to deliver this work. See Appendix 1 for further information on this project <p>CIS Continues to participate in existing groups which incorporate Traveller representation and provides ongoing services, including outreach services to Travellers.</p>

¹⁹ Health Service Executive

²⁰ Citizens Information Service

²¹ Social Inclusion Unit

<p>13. To explore inter-agency agency initiatives surrounding the provision of services to Children</p>	<p>²² DCCC In partnership with Children's Services Committee, Donegal DCCC have been engaging in the Creating Lifelong Readers pilot programme. Training has been provided to 4 Pre-school services, Lifestart visitors and staff from local library services. Following this, baseline evaluations were carried out to assess the level of early reading experiences being offered in pre-school services. 3 story telling sessions were also facilitated in-service for all pilot groups by Liz Weir (Storyteller). Services are currently facilitating parent information workshops and the programme will be ready for full evaluation in June 2011.</p> <p>In partnership with IFAN the transitions programme from pre-school-primary is under way with training has taken place for early years educators and primary school teachers</p> <p>²³ DCC</p> <p>a) Donegal Youth Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from the AGM in November 2010, the key issue voted by young people was mental health. In response to this, training took place with the Donegal Youth Council by Marie Duffy and Bernie Walsh on the 21st February. Donegal Youth Council also hosted Belong To, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Organisation to run an awareness session on Homophobic bullying which is a massive issue in Donegal. • 2 Youth Councillors have now joined the Donegal Road Safety Working Group. The DYC is reviewing the Road Safety Action Plan 2010-2015 with Eamonn Brown, Road Safety Officer and from this, a set of actions will be put in place for 2011. A key issue is the wearing of seatbelts on buses. It is acknowledged that after primary school, there is a decrease in wearing seatbelts on buses, amongst both the adolescent and adult population. • Female youth councillors and young females from all over the county attended the recent Women In Public Life Seminar with Mayor Harvey in the Women's Centre, Letterkenny. The 2-way discussion explored issues of community involvement, childcare, education, structures and procedures. Following the success of this seminar, it is expected there will be a series of such seminars to introduce young women to successful women in public life. • An output from the Donegal Sexual Health Forum sees Donegal Youth Service take the lead in a week of events to promote talking about relationships and sexual health from April 11th-15th. Anna Bonnar and Marli Kerr (both Letterkenny EA) have taken over as members of this group from outgoing Youth Councillor Máire Ní Chuireáin (Glenties EA). They will work with the Forum to encourage parents, schools, youth organisations, doctors' surgeries etc. to engage in information sessions, discussions and so on with regards the issue. It is recognised that many young people are not having sufficient correct information and value development on the issue but are developing knowledge and values through the media, peer groups and the growth of availability of porn. • Donegal Youth Council hosted successful debates in both Constituencies between young people (under 18) and candidates for the General Election. Health, Employment, Education and Road Safety were key issues and there was a good turnout.
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²² Donegal County Childcare Committee

²³ Donegal County Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's Talk About Sex: Week of 11th-15th April, led by the Donegal Youth Service and supported by the Donegal Sexual Health Forum. Donegal Youth Council will take part in a workshop as well as supporting actions elsewhere. The key aim is to encourage adults and youth to talk together about sexual health. <p>b) Library Wainfest the children book festival was held in Libraries and Taobh Tire centre across the County from the 11th to the 22nd of October. Wainfest provided entertainment and enjoyment to children and young people all over Donegal with an exciting mix of festival favourites and talented newcomers. All events are free of charge and open to everyone.</p> <p>²⁴HSE Continues to support the development of the CSC as lead agency</p> <p>²⁵CIS Continues to provide information on services available.</p>
14. To create a central data hub of socio-economic data for the county	<p>²⁶DCC The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has awarded Grant Aid of €518,035 under the Public Sector Collaboration Theme of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, to the North West Region Cross Border Group to carry out the <i>SPACE/ia/</i> North West Project.</p> <p><i>SPACE/ia/</i> North West stands for Spatial Planning and Collaborative Exchange of Information and Learning in the North West Region. This project aims to track changes in population patterns across different settlements in the North West Region Cross Border Area, over the 2000 – 2010 period, with a view to identifying underlying factors driving these changes and, capturing & disseminating comparable information that will assist with more evidence based spatial planning, policy making and service delivery for many years to come. It will effectively create a socio-economic data hub for the North West Region.</p> <p>This project will be delivered over a 36 month period, starting on 6th September 2010 and finishing on 5th September 2013. The first meeting of the Project Steering Committee took place on the 21st February, 2011 and included the NWRCBG, the project partners (Donegal County Council (Lead Implementing Council), Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council and Strabane District Council) and representatives from the Border Regional Authority, ICLRD, the East Border Region, ICBAN and ILEX.</p> <p>CIS Continues to collate statistical information regarding social policy feedback</p>
15. To support Community Development in Donegal	<p>DCC Donegal County Council, LYIT and the University of Ulster will hold the launch of a prestigious celebratory publication comprising the proceedings of three conferences which took place in 2007/2008 to mark Donegal's commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls. The publication entitled "The Flight Of The Earls, Imeacht Na Niarlai" was compiled by the University of Ulster and part-funded by LYIT and Donegal County Council. Mr. Brian Friel, Donegal Person of the Year</p>

²⁴ Health Service Executive

²⁵ Citizens Information Service

²⁶ Donegal County Council

	<p>2010 will launch the publication. The launch will take place on Wednesday, 6th April 2011 at 7pm in Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Invitations will be issued in due course.</p> <p>²⁷SIU Please see details set out in Appendix 1 below.</p> <p>CIS Continues to participate in local community development groupings and with a number of organisations to support community development through the provision of information, advice and advocacy services throughout the county.</p>
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Appendix 1

Project Name	Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership
Project Aim	To implement the Donegal Peace III Action Plan 2008 - 2013
Partners	DCC, VEC, HSE, GS, ICTU, IBEC, ICMSA, CCF, IDP, TDDA, Abhaile Arís
Description of project activities & achievements to date	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peace III Small Grants Programme. 43 Small Grants were awarded to a value of €1,038,075.55 2. Partner Delivery – 5 Partners were involved in delivering elements of the Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008 – 2010 to a value of €1,752,759.63. They are Donegal County Council, the HSE, Donegal VEC, Donegal Community Based Youth Work Consortium, and Inishowen Development Partnership. 3. Strategic Grants Programme – 14 Strategic Grants were awarded to a value of €577,822.37 4. Tenders - Tenders were awarded to ADOPT for Delivery of a range of Peace Building activities in the Pettigo/Tullyhommon area to Co-Operation Ireland for the Delivery of anti-sectarianism and anti-racism training in the Workplace, to the Irish Immigration Centre Boston for the Identification of models of international best practice in relation to effective policy making and service delivery in a multi ethnic society to QE5 Ltd for the delivery of counselling services and peace and reconciliation training to ex-servicemen, to the Donegal GAA to implement a cross community sports programme, to An Grianan Theatre, Letterkenny and Smashing Times Theatre Co Ltd to implement two Arts and Drama programmes, to the Donegal County Childcare Committee for a programme aimed at pre-school children and their parents, and to the Donegal Sports Partnership to tackle the barriers to participation by ethnic minority groups and build better relations through sporting activity. 5. Meetings. The Partnership meeting scheduled for December 8th was postponed to January 13th. The next meetings of the Partnership are scheduled for April 6th, May 19th and June 30th. 6. The Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Action Plan for Phase II of the PEACE III programme was evaluated by the SEUPB and a recommended allocation for programme costs of €3,982,000 was made. A further 10% to cover Management and Support costs will be allocated in the Letter of Offer
Future Plans	<p>The Partnership has written to SEUPB regarding a number of issues which arose during the Economic Appraisal of the Plan for Phase II, and await a response. Partner proposals are now being prepared by members of the Partnership and they will be evaluated during March 2011 and presented to the next meeting of the Partnership on April 6th 2011. A cross community cross border grant scheme will be opened in April 2011. 2 conferences will be held in April to advise groups and organisations on how they might access Phase II of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan, the dates are April 20th in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town, and April 21st in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.</p> <p>It is anticipated that further actions will be put out to Tender in Q2 and Q3 2011.</p>
Project Officers	<p>Secretariat: Anne Marie Conlon, Fearghal O Boyle, Joanne Kilmartin, and Anne McElchar</p> <p>Project Officers: Catherine Anne Kelly, Sarah Thompson, Karin White, Francis Conaghan, Joanne Curran, Kathleen McGinley, and Phil Tysal.</p>

Respecting and Connecting Communities Project		
Unit/Contact Details	Project Name/Activity	Details of Activity
<p>UNIT / PROJECT: Peace III Development Officer - Respecting And Connecting Communities</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS: CATHERINE ANNE KELLY Peace III Development Officer Community, Culture & Planning Donegal County Council Station Island Lifford Co. Donegal</p> <p>Tel 074 91 72230 Fax 074 91 42130 Mob. 087 7658099 E-mail cathkelly@donegalcoco.ie</p>	<p>1. Respecting & Connecting Communities – Building Positive Relations between the Traveller community and wider settled community in Donegal.</p>	<p>An Interagency Framework for addressing conflict between the Traveller & settled community has been drawn up in collaboration with representatives from key agencies and organisations. The Development Officer is currently promoting the document and obtaining sign off on the document from middle and senior management within each of the organisations.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Interagency Working Group took place on the 1st of February to agree the operating procedures, structures and content of the meetings going forward.</p> <p>The launch of the Respecting & Connecting Communities Project will take place on Friday the 11th of March at 12.00 p.m. in Port Na Fáilte Intercultural Centre, Letterkenny.</p> <p>The “What’s for Dinner” children’s intercultural book has been published. The launch will take place on the 1st of March at 6.00 pm in The Central Library, Letterkenny.</p> <p>Further to recommendations from the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to look at two cases of conflict in the County, the project is delivering the following actions:</p> <p>An action targeted at young people aiming to combat anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>(a) In collaboration with the Neighbourhood Youth Project we are currently delivering facilitated Drama Workshops to a group of 13 young people over a period of eight weeks. These workshops focus on Cultural Identity, Conflict & Conflict Resolution.</p> <p>(b) We also held a workshop with an Intercultural Women’s group on the topic of young people in the community.</p> <p>A Community event aimed at Building Positive Relations including:</p> <p>(a) A Christmas themed Community Event was scheduled for the 21st of December 2010, however it had to be cancelled due to bad weather. A further event has been provisionally re-scheduled for the 2nd of April, 2011.</p>

		<p>We have also organised Cultural Competency Training targeted at frontline staff of public service providing organisations. Three events have been held to date with the balance training events taking place on the 1st of March in Letterkenny and the 22nd of March in the Lake of Shadows Buncrana.</p> <p>Donegal Travellers Project under contract with Respecting & Connecting Communities have delivered the following events & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) An Intercultural Event in Longlane, Letterkenny entitled "Getting to know your neighbour" which involved information stalls and craft displays. (b) A Media Seminar entitled "Making Headlines" exploring the role of the media in addressing issues relating to racism and sectarianism. Keynote speaker was Terry Prone.
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Good Relations and Volunteering Project		
Unit/Contact Details	Project Name/Activity	Details of Activity
<p>UNIT / PROJECT: Peace III Good Relations Officer</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS: SARAH THOMPSON Peace III Development Officer Community, Culture & Planning Donegal County Council Station Island Lifford Co. Donegal</p> <p>Tel 074 91 72586 Fax 074 91 42130 Mob. 087 923 2654 E-mail slapsley@donegalcoco.ie</p>	<p>1. Delivery of models of best practice in relation to volunteerism</p>	<p>We are engaging young people from the Royal and Prior School Raphoe in a volunteering outreach programme. The school commenced a 4-week first aid course with the Irish Red Cross on the 28th of January and in return they will be engaged in planned fundraising activities for the Irish Red Cross in Donegal – bag packs, etc. This training will also allow the young people to become involved with a charity and it can work towards the President's Award. After the initial training those who have been trained have agreed to assist with Irish Red Cross Activities. The Good Relations Officer and the Donegal Volunteer Centre are actively encouraging students to become involved in other volunteering opportunities and offering to assist in removing the barrier of Garda checks in order to access some of these volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer is working with her counterpart in Strabane District Council to deliver a Cross-border and Cross-Community voluntary drama project for adults with learning difficulties. The groups involved in the project are Glenside (Strabane) and Speaking Up (Raphoe Family Resource Centre) and all participants are volunteers. This 8-week project will explore the theme of cultural diversity, cross-community and cross-border. The project will culminate with the performance of the Japanese Story, "The Maiden with the Wooden Bowl" in both towns with the Alley Theatre in Strabane hosting the main performance on 16th March.</p> <p>Removal of Barriers to Volunteerism – By the provision of assistance with transport for residents of Cliffview Hostel to bring them to Letterkenny to participate in an 8 week Intercultural Adult Football League (also Peace 3 funded).</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer is also undertaking a pilot project to improve the social network for unemployed persons in Inishowen. This pilot project is an action arising from the Unemployment Seminar held during Social Inclusion Week 2010 and aims to provide a space for those who are unemployed to come together in a social support network. The project began on the week beginning 28th February and it is hoped that after the initial 3 week pilot phase that participants will be keen to arrange the meetings themselves to provide a peer support network, something that recent Donegal County Council research into unemployment and the feelings of the unemployed as highlighted as important. The course facilitator will assist with</p>

	<p>guiding participants around various options and supports open to them including volunteering and it is hoped that this pilot, if successful will extend to other Public Service Centres in the county.</p> <p>Timebanking Conference - "Making Time Count" - To mark the European Year of Volunteering Donegal County Council is hosting a conference to highlight the potential of Time Banking to Communities and Individuals in Donegal. The event will take place in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny on Wednesday 9th March 2011 from 9.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. Time banks are a new and exciting way for people to come together to help others and themselves by sharing their skills. Participants "deposit" their time in the bank by giving practical help and/or support to others and are able to "withdraw" their time when they need something done themselves. Everyone's time is equally valued. There are different models of timebanking including - person to person, person - agency and agency - agency. Timebanking has the potential to strengthen communities through reciprocity and should be of great benefit to many different organisations including the Community and Voluntary sector, Family Resource Centres, sporting, youth and faith based organizations etc. however the event is open to any organisation wishing to explore the potential of the time banking model as a method of sharing resources in these economically uncertain times. Confirmed speakers at the event include Sam Hopley, Chief Executive of Time Banking UK, Louise Opperman of Community Timebank Cork and Cllr. Dessie Larkin, Chair of the CDB Peace and reconciliation Partnership. To book your place, contact Joanne Curran on (074) 9172376 or e-mail: jcurran@donegalcoco.ie</p> <p>Destination Donegal Exhibition will be launched at the Regional Cultural Centre on Friday 25th March at 7 p.m. An Gailearai, Derrybeg will be leading out on the delivery of this exciting art and social history exhibition aimed at raising awareness of the diversity that exists in the county by highlighting the stories of a range of immigrants to the county. The exhibition will be in the form of photography and film and will include interviews with all the participants and accompanying information panels. A Destination Donegal Newspaper will also be produced to accompany the exhibition and artefacts pertaining to the stories of the individuals in the exhibition will be on display. The exhibition will remain in the Regional Cultural Centre until June.</p> <p>Participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade - The Good Relations Officer is</p>
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2. Delivery of an awareness raising campaign

		<p>working in conjunction with other PEACE III project officers and the Inter Cultural Platform to include a float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Letterkenny. It is envisaged this float will promote the One Donegal Brand of the CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership and highlight the work being undertaken through the Peace III funding. It is hoped that the float will have representatives to highlight and raise awareness of the cultural diversity in the county and aims to do this through the use of costume, colour and music. Anyone wishing to contribute ideas or participate with the float should contact the Good relations Officer.</p> <p>Blue Eagle Productions in conjunction with Donegal County Council is currently undertaking small focused sessions with Protestant groups in three localities in Donegal - Newtowncunningham, Raphoe and Donegal Town. The aim is to examine modern Protestant experiences in Donegal – What it means to be a Protestant in Donegal today? These discussions will then be written into a 25 minute short play looking at the issues which were pertinent and this will staged in 3 locations. The script will receive community approval prior to staging. After each staging it is hoped to have an audience discussion to a voice to this minority group and raise awareness of issues facing them while providing an insight to others in Donegal about how this community feels. Venues for performances have yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Plantation Pack and accompanying schools' workshops In order to increase understanding in secondary schools of "Our Shared History" and patterns of migration in the county, the Good Relations Officer has been supporting the work of the Archivist on this educational pack that will allow students the opportunity to study primary sources. Schools and groups will be provided with Plantation of Ulster Schools Packs, produced by the archives section and funded by Peace III. Workshops will also be funded under Peace III to demonstrate the usefulness of these packs and to promote greater understanding around the period of the plantation and its effects on County Donegal and other plantation areas. These workshops began on week beginning 28th February. The pack will be launched in Lifford Courthouse on 10th March.</p> <p>Asian Food and Cultural Festival The Donegal Indian Malayalee Association propose to host an Asian Food Festival on 26th March (TBC) in LYIT to celebrate and highlight the diversity of Asian cultures now living in Donegal. It is proposed that those taking part will do so on a voluntary</p>
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		<p>basis to highlight the culture and food of their country and also to raise awareness of their contribution to society in Donegal.</p> <p>Awareness Raising Work being completed in collaboration with Port na Fáilte The Good Relations Officer is working with Port na Fáilte to produce an information brochure, for all of the community, to highlight the work being undertaken in the area of inter culturalism through Port na Fáilte.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Cultural Diversity Officer, the Good relations Officer is supporting a play and talk being held in Gweedore on 20th February around the theme of Hiring Fairs and Rural History, with a connection to the present looking at the issue of Human Trafficking.</p> <p>One Donegal Cultural Diversity Month We are currently finalising documentation in relation to the November month of events. The final event, which did not happen at the end of November due to the inclement weather was rescheduled for Wednesday 19th January – the Anti-Bullying Awards in conjunction with the HSE. This event was a great success and really illustrated the importance of engaging youth in the awareness raising campaign. The ODCDM received a lot of attention in the print press with articles appearing in a number of papers about many of the events. Many of the groups managed to secure additional interest in their events with no extra costs.</p> <p>Roots of Empathy Programme The Good Relations Officer is currently rolling out one or fourteen projects being delivered in National Schools in County Donegal supported through PEACE III funding. This programme is being delivered to a 3rd class group in Ballyraine National School and involves the use of a parent and baby visiting a class over the period of a year and aims to increase emotional literacy. If anyone who did not have the opportunity to see this project during the November demonstration sessions would like to see this programme being delivered please contact the Good Relations Officer. Research has shown this project has the capacity to decrease bullying and increase pro-social behaviour. Dr Paul Connolly of QUB is researching the project being delivered in Northern Ireland and Donegal – Donegal is the only county in Ireland delivering this programme at the moment. For more information please see www.rootsofempathy.org</p>
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Cultural Diversity Project		
Unit/Contact Details	Project Name/Activity	Details of Activity
<p>UNIT / PROJECT: PEACE III CULTURAL DIVERSITY OFFICER – ETHNIC MINORITIES</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS: DR. KARIN WHITE Peace III Development Officer Community, Culture & Planning Donegal County Council Station Island Lifford Co. Donegal</p> <p>Tel 074 91 26599 Fax Mob. 087 936 5695 E-mail kwhite@donegalcoco.ie</p>	<p>1. Cultural Diversity Programme of Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port na Failte is hosting a radio show at Western Waves FM, which will give a voice to minority ethnic and culture groups and promote projects, anti racism/sectarianism and inclusion. The first episode featured guests from Sudan, while the second episode featured guests from Iraq. The shows will be broadcasted after 26th February. Weaving Stories and Magic Carpets, an artist led event, took place in December in Port na Fáilte. Upcoming events include: Tamil New Year celebrations on 15th April, Launch of 'Feels Like Home', 'Community Alphabet' and 'Mosaic' exhibitions. Publication of the: 'Stories from a Room', 'Conference Papers from the Imaginary of the Stranger Conference', 'Stories from the creative Writing Classes', 'Research and recommendations re Interculturalism and Integration in early years education'. Interculture Irish Classes commenced in January. Port na Fáilte also welcomes six new volunteers, students from LYIT and a transition year student. Intercultural French Classes are commencing in Port na Fáilte. 'Far off fields', a play about hiring fairs, will be performed in Dore Community Hall. The play will be preceded by talks by Prof Liam Kennedy (QUB) on Hiring fairs and by Fiona McGaughey, equality and diversity consultant, on human trafficking. An Asian food and culture festival is planned for March 11. Port na Failte continues to welcome individuals and groups and is open Monday – Friday from 9.00 to 16.30. A Palestinian Play addressing the issue of women dealing with conflict internationally was performed during International Women's Day in Dungloe and Ballyshannon with attendances of 100 & 50 respectively. The writer herself was present at each occasion. Monthly Information Evenings are held in Port na Failte and involve agencies such the Library Service, the Volunteer Centre and VEC Adult Learner Guidance and Community Gardens Service. A ten-week intercultural training programme was conducted in Port na Fáilte Letterkenny and Art Link, Buncrana for parents and children to learn how to use play and art as an essential part in the child's development. The programme also integrates parents and children who come from countries such as Cuba, India, Poland, Ireland, Denmark etc. The Polish Community celebrated 'Constitution Day on marble beach Port na Bla, on 2 May. This was attended by around 100 people from the Polish and wider community. Donegal Asylum Seekers also held Middle Eastern Cookery classes in Donegal Town. Port na Failte hosted a series of laughter Yoga classes with the Indian Malayees community. An Integration Party was held on Maghera beach hosted by the residents of Cliff View Hostel (Asylum Seekers). The men cooked food from their home countries and performed African and Middle eastern music and dance. Approximately 50 people from Ardara, Donegal Town and

		<p>Ballyshannon attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research has been completed addressing the need to support Early Education organisations such as play schools, crèches and primary schools to promote inclusiveness, cultural diversity, identity and to tackle barriers which parents and children from minority ethnic and cultural groups face when trying to access early education provisions. The research will be presented and disseminated during a seminar in December. • A five-week cookery course was completed in May/June in Letterkenny, provided by the Indian Malayees Community. • An intercultural group from Port na failte is participating in the Community gardens project. • The Ghana Association performed African dancing and music for an audience of up to 1000 people during half-time of a Finn Harps match in Ballybofey on 14 May. • English classes with members from the Roma community have started in Port na Fáilte. • Port na Fáilte hosted a Migrant Rights information event on the 16th of September. • A series of 10-guided walks were completed with the residents of Cliff View Hostel and members of the wider community. People learned about their local environment, Donegal history and about each others cultures. This programme aimed to build positive relationships. • Africa Day was celebrated in Donegal Town, hosted by the residents of Cliff View Hostel. The event was a great success and received very positive coverage in the local press. • United Africa Day was celebrated a on 11 September in the town park, Letterkenny. The all-African committee is still working together and will continue to work on positive relationships between African communities. • An intercultural frieze is currently being completed by the intercultural youth group at the Donegal Youth Information Service for display at Port na Fáilte. • Professor Liam Kennedy (Soc. and Econ. History, Queen's University Belfast) gave two lectures on 12 June in the County Museum Letterkenny in which he talked about his ongoing research: 'What did Protestants do during the Famine' and 'the diminishing numbers of protestants in Ireland'. The talks were extremely well attended and a lively discussion followed. • During the June bank holiday weekend Port na Failte participated in the Melting Pot Festival in Ardara with a drum circle from the Asylum seekers Hostel and a Ghanaen dance group. • A Latin American festival took place in Gweedore on 12 June with authentic Latin American food and entertainment by Cuban & Irish traditional musicians. Over 200 people from many different ethnicities and cultures attended and celebrated cultural diversity in Gweedore. • India Independence Day was celebrated by members of the Indian and the wider community on 15 August in the RCC. 250 people attended, including the Indian Deputy Ambassador. • On 21 August the Indian Malayalees Community celebrated their traditional Harvest Thanks Giving – Onam. 250 people from the Indian and the wider community attended. • Draw your Place: two intercultural groups explored the Donegal environment and learned to express themselves in experimental drawing techniques during August. The project resulted in an exhibition launched during Culture Night in Port na Fáilte. It can be viewed on
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		<p>www.drawyourplace.weebly.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Alphabets were produced by the residents of Cliff view hostel, the Roma Library Children, Letterkenny CDP, Indian Malayalees Community, Port na Fáilte. More groups are recruited for producing their Community Alphabet. These Alphabets will be printed and displayed in public spaces. • A Photo exhibition entitled 'Feels Like Home To Me' involved children from minority ethnic groups who visited their country of birth during the holidays. They were invited to take photographs of their 'home or other home' using disposable cameras which were supplied. These photos will be exhibited at the end of the year in public spaces. • An academic conference was held on 19 October entitled 'The Imaginary of the Stranger'. • An Intercultural, cross border women's group is meeting in Ballyshannon on a weekly basis. The group is producing a Community Alphabet in the form of a Wallhanging. • Write for Life – creative writing for asylum seekers and members from the wider community will start mid November in Donegal Town. • Share a Film project was launched by the Cuban Ambassador to Ireland with the showing of a film in Annagry on 29 October. The next film will be shown in Ballyshannon • The integration Centre Dublin held an Information evening in Port na Fáilte on Citizenship applications. • Early Play, Easy Learning intercultural parent and toddler training sessions are currently being held in Donegal Town for a ten-week period. • Impulse Art intercultural magazine by young people was launched in October. • The 'Leave a Story Room' has been launched in Port na Fáilte • An Indian Cultural event has been held in the Letterkenny library. • Inter cultural Mosaic making classes are held in Port na Fáilte taught by an Angolan artist. • Port na Fáilte is participating in the youth democracy project in Letterkenny IT on 18 November. • Port na Fáilte is also participating in the Diwali celebrations. • An Intercultural Platform has been set up, and projects have already been planned for the remainder of this year. • An end of year party took place on 30th of December. The event was held with the Ghana association.
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Peace III Integration Project		
Unit/Contact Details	Project Name/Activity	Details of Activity
UNIT / PROJECT: PEACE III GOOD RELATIONS OFFICER. CONTACT DETAILS: FRANCIS CONAGHAN Peace III Development Officer Community, Culture & Planning Donegal County Council Station Island Lifford Co. Donegal Tel 074 91 72568 Fax 074 91 42130 Mob. 087 9367699 E-mail fconaghan@donegalcoco.ie	1. Donegal Independent & Confidential Incident Reporting Scheme.	<p>The Independent and Confidential Incident Reporting Scheme is up and running and the documentation has been widely distributed around the county. The material includes a reporting form, information leaflet and freepost envelopes and is also online through the County Council's web site www.donegalcoco.ie; by email to sectarianracism@donegalcoco.ie; by texting IRS followed by your message to 51772 and also via twitter and Facebook. Reports received are logged and mapped on a countywide basis.</p> <p>The documentation is available in the most commonly used languages in Donegal including in Russian, Polish, Portuguese French, Irish and Arabic.</p> <p>All reports are treated with the strictest confidence and are forwarded to the relevant agency only if requested by the victim. The scheme was launched on the 17th September 2010 and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Quarterly reports on the progression of the scheme will be presented to the Donegal County Development Board.</p> <p>An information seminar was held in Donegal Town on 19th November and was attended by representatives of ethnic minorities, state agencies and the community and voluntary sector. A seminar held by the Community Worker's Co-op seminar called "So just how sectarian are we?" also promoted the scheme in November.</p> <p>The Working Group is now examining the sustainability of the project and is looking towards the community and voluntary sector and Donegal Youth Council to advocate the scheme.</p>
	2. Service Supports	<p>Documentation and publications from a range of organisations have been identified by the working group and translated into the most commonly used languages in the county. The documentation includes information from Donegal VEC, HSE, Citizen's Information Services, Cultural Services, An Garda Siochana and the Incident reporting Scheme material. Each agency has been provided with soft copies of the translations and there is a commitment from each agency to make them available in print and PDF format.</p> <p>Inishowen Development Partnership has been awarded the contract for the coordination of an interpreter service for Donegal by the Donegal Peace III Partnership.</p>

	<p>Donegal Travellers Project has been awarded the contract for the provision of Cultural Competency training courses which are currently being provided to frontline staff in the public sector and the C&V Sector. The next courses will take place on the 1st and 22nd of March in the Training Centre Stranorlar. Please contact the Peace Office at (074) 91 72568 or 91 72230 for further details.</p> <p>Signposting has been provided in the public service centres and other public facilities around the county. Information and direction is provided to the target groups in their own language on electronic screens including opening hours, the Incident Reporting Scheme, Clinic Times, Announcements, etc. The screens will be maintained by the relevant service into the future and the content will be updated on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>All activities and actions undertaken under Peace III will shortly be highlighted on the redesigned CDB website. The website will also contain information on the County Development Board and all Interreg IVA projects.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on the draft Donegal Diversity Plan (2011 – 2013). The Plan will highlight key issues to be addressed in developing intercultural relationships and promoting diversity in the wider Donegal community. It is hoped that the document will be completed by the end of March.</p>
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