



Peace III Southern Partnership
Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
Phase II (2011 – 2013)
Executive Summary



17th September 2010

Part A Reference Number: 19252

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This **Southern Partnership Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan** (PRAP, the Plan) outlines how the Council areas of Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry & Mourne aim to deliver Priority 1.1 (Building positive relations at the local level) of the Peace III Programme during the period from mid-2011 to the end of 2013 (Phase II).

The PRAP has been informed by comprehensive research, extensive consultations and the findings of the interim evaluation of Phase I. The Plan aims to learn from the experiences of Phase I, continue to deliver successful programmes and activities that were established in this phase, and move the Plan and the cluster forward in Phase II by building on achievements and developing new and innovative programmes.

Peace building is a gradual process and there are still significant issues to be addressed across the cluster; consequently some of the Phase I activities will continue. However there is a need to move the cluster and the Peace programme forward, therefore Phase II specifically aims to:

- Take a more targeted and holistic approach to the delivery of activities to areas of greatest need;
- Develop closer and sustainable links between priorities and ensure that participants are engaged in a broad range of activities;
- Develop sustained relationships and engagement on a cross-community and cross-border basis, and between indigenous and BME communities; and
- Equip people to deal with challenges and issues post Peace III by continuing to develop skills, awareness and understanding.

The following sections outline the key elements of the Plan, namely, the Statement of Need, Vision, Aims, Objectives, Strategic Priorities, Supporting Pillars, Cross-Cutting Themes and Indicative Actions. An overview of delivery mechanisms is also provided. A detailed Action Plan is presented in Chapter 8.

STATEMENT OF NEED

A **Statement of Need** for the cluster area has been developed. There are six key areas of need:

- We need to foster **mutual understanding of needs, trust and respect** between people from **different community backgrounds**;
- We need to foster **mutual understanding of needs, trust and respect** between people from **different nationalities and ethnic and racial groups**;
- We need to support the **development of skills** to work through difficult issues;
- We need to **develop community confidence and involvement** – providing opportunities for residents to have a voice;
- We need to work towards developing **an environment which enables and encourages contact and mobility**; and
- We need to ensure that the **work undertaken leaves a strong legacy** for future peace-building post-Peace III.



Leading on from the Statement of Need the PRAP sets out the Partnership's Vision, Aims, Objectives and Strategic Priorities for the period from 2011 to 2013.

VISION

- **By 2013**, the cluster area will have significantly developed social partnerships on a cross community and cross border basis, taking forward reconciliation work, with a growing understanding of respective communities needs, development of trust and where people from all backgrounds are more comfortable using facilities and services across the cluster area.
- **By 2015**, the cluster area will endeavour to have well-developed and sustained cross-border and cross-community partnerships and will strive for integrated service delivery from public, private and voluntary/community sector organisations - accessible by people from all backgrounds, rural and isolated communities. It will aspire to be an area where issues of division and contention are increasingly mitigated.

AIMS (Aid for Peace Indicators)

- **Increased community cohesion** through attitudinal change - increased respect, trust and understanding within and between communities providing sustained relationships;
- Positive impact upon behavioural patterns resulting in the **reduced manifestation of sectarianism and racism in the community**; and
- **Good Relations embedded in the community at all levels** through an increased shared vision of an interdependent and fair society.

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage further **engagement** between and within the community, statutory organisations and political representatives;
- To identify **tomorrow's leaders** and build their capacity today;
- To eliminate "gatekeeper" issues and **encourage active participation**;
- To work towards a new 'normal' which creates a **welcoming environment**;
- To facilitate greater involvement of people from **BME communities** in civic, community and political life and increase community cohesion; and
- To encourage greater **cross-border** mobility, cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship development as a core element running through our planned activities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

There are three strategic priorities outlined in the PRAP:

PRIORITY 1 – INSPIRING CHANGE

- **Sub-priority 1 – Investing in Our Future**

To identify tomorrow's leaders and build their capacity today
 To eliminate "gatekeeper" issues and encourage active participation

- **Sub-priority 2 – Engaging in Good Relations**

To encourage further engagement between and within the community, statutory organisations and political representatives

PRIORITY 2 – FUTURE FOUNDATIONS

Working towards a new 'normal' which creates a welcoming environment

PRIORITY 3 – CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

To facilitate greater involvement of people from BME communities in civic, community and political life and increase community cohesion

SUPPORTING PILLARS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

In order to achieve a more targeted way of working, the three priorities will be underpinned by a number of **Supporting Pillars** and **Cross-Cutting Themes**.

The **Supporting Pillars represent the core elements at the heart of the Plan; these form the foundations on which the priorities will be delivered**. They are:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Good relations | ● Cross-border partnerships | ● The Peace III Partnership |
| ● Community-based focus | ● Strategic grants | |
| ● Legacy planning | ● Positive messages | |

The inter-linking **Cross-Cutting Themes represent areas of commonality** (such as activities and actions) **that extend across the three priorities**. In order to achieve a more targeted approach and reduce duplication and overlap, it was decided that certain areas should be grouped together. There are five themes:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ● Skills development | ● Cohesion, sharing and integration | ● Anti-racism |
| ● Relationship building | | ● Anti-sectarianism |

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

A range of innovative and challenging actions will take place to deliver the priorities. These actions are indicative at this stage and will be finalised through a detailed planning process. Examples of actions that will take place include:

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| ● Identifying, developing and supporting leadership | ● Joint project working between communities and statutory providers |
| ● Capacity building, good relations, cultural awareness training, mentoring and experiential learning | ● Targeted work with a) young people and b) young and older people |
| ● Relationship building, mutual awareness and understanding | ● Engagement Mechanisms - e.g. Good Relations Forums |
| ● Promoting and celebrating good relations and civic engagement | ● Protocol engagement and discussions around parades, flags etc |
| | ● Exploration of barriers to shared space |

- Encouraging involvement and promoting partnership building
- Targeted work at interfaces
- Developing inclusive community venues and shared spaces
- Inclusive celebrations
- Specialist advice and support for BME communities
- BME networking opportunities
- Supporting BME involvement in local community groups
- Integration Projects and projects which address racism
- Expansion of Racist Incidents Reporting Scheme
- Anti-racism campaigns

DELIVERY MECHANISMS

The delivery of the PRAP will be overseen by the Southern Partnership and the Statutory Joint Committee. Newry & Mourne District Council will act as the Lead Partner and have overall responsibility for implementing, managing and monitoring the Plan.

To support the delivery of the Plan the Lead Council will appoint a Programme Support Team (as in Phase I). This will be led by a Programme Manager.

Each of the three priorities will be delivered through the Southern Partnership (i.e. Partner Delivery) and specialist services will be publicly procured as and if required. Officers will be appointed by Partner Delivery Agents to deliver the Action Plan (see Chapter 8). Strategic grants will be delivered by the Lead Partner (Newry & Mourne). There will be a call for proposals to deliver the priorities/actions in early 2011. The Implementation Guidelines issued by SEUPB (March 2010) will be followed at all stages.

The total budget for the Plan is £4,263,571 consisting of:

		Total
Priority 1	Inspiring Change	
Sub-Priority 1	Investing in Our Future	£689,348
Sub-Priority 2	Engaging in Good Relations	£753,859
Priority 2	Future Foundations	£648,811
Priority 3	Challenge of Change	£832,297
	Strategic Grants	£784,992
	Management Support	£554,264

An additional 22% (£943,045) is requested for a number of activities, namely:

- A reactionary fund;
- Additional communication and promotion of the Peace III Programme;
- Enhanced programme delivery; and
- Community Liaison Officers.