INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Removing barriers to a lasting peace

Annual Report & Accounts 2017

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

Developing and funding initiatives that tackle segregation and promote integration to build a lasting peace in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

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ABOVE: A young person attends an educational visit organised by a Peace Impact Project.

COVER IMAGES
MAIN: Work starts to remove security barrier at Springhill Avenue, West Belfast.

RIGHT: Children celebrate at a cross-community event.

LEFT: A paramilitary mural in Belfast is a reminder of the issues still to be resolved.

Chairman's Foreword

The past year has been a challenging one and it would be wrong to ignore the political instability and continued absence of a power-sharing administration at Stormont.

At the time of writing, Northern Ireland has been without a functioning Executive for more than a year with the largest parties remaining at odds on a number issues, unable to find a compromise that would prevent a return to direct rule from Westminster.

I have no doubt that the absence of a functioning Assembly and impact of reduced public spending will add new pressures to many of the most marginalised communities, eroding confidence in the political process and expectations of a better life.

Our work over the decades has been conducted in parallel with the political process and the current context has only served to strengthen the International Fund for Ireland's resolve to support communities to remain engaged in peacebuilding activities and resist polarisation. In recent months, our approach has enabled communities to move forward and secure significant progress on a number of complex issues.

In the summer months we were pleased to welcome the establishment of the Independent Reporting Commission, a new intergovernmental organisation that will monitor progress on efforts to tackle violent organised crime in Northern Ireland. This is an important milestone in addressing some of the most challenging and intractable issues that impact upon communities.

We recognise the opportunity to work with the Commission and the potential alignment of its mission with our Peace Impact, Peace Walls and Personal Youth Development programmes. Each has been active in creating opportunities to disrupt the cycle of

violence. The risks that projects are taking, with our support, are paying dividends at a challenging time for communities and the Peace Process.

This report describes the progress of these programmes and I hope that, through the case studies, it captures some of the real-life experiences of those involved in projects that we support and the lives being changed as a result.

Projects within our Peace Impact Programme – supported with the assistance of the United States of America – have continued to bring forward ambitious new approaches to deal with sensitive topics that continue to divide and isolate communities.

In this report, stories from the Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association in North Belfast, Éalú in County Tyrone and Clones FRC in County Monaghan reflect the breadth and quality of this programme. Their experiences illustrate how communities with limited peace building experience are taking necessary risks in difficult areas, reducing community tensions and supporting those who may otherwise be drawn towards unlawful activity.

This has been a landmark year for our Peace Walls Programme, with a number of physical changes and removals secured. Towards the end of the reporting period, we completed a major survey among the residents that are most affected by their proximity to peace barriers. Critically, the findings indicate that the majority of people envisage a time when there is no need for Peace Walls, but it also identifies the challenges that currently prevent communities from making progress on barrier removal or reduction.

MAIN: The Chairman of the Fund pictured at the launch of new baseline surveys that collected the views of residents who are most affected by their proximity to Peace Walls.

ABOVE: A young person shares their views at a Peace Walls event.

International Fund for Ireland Chairman, Dr Adrian Johnston (third from left), is pictured at the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards in October with Michael Tunney, Irish Diaspora; Prof Brandon Hamber, John Hume Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies at Ulster University; Tom O' Neill; Marty Meehan, University of Massachusetts; and Dr Malachy O'Neill, Ulster University.

Our work over the decades has been conducted in parallel with the political process and the current context has only served to strengthen the International Fund for Ireland's resolve to support communities to remain engaged in peacebuilding activities and resist polarisation.

ABOVE: The Fund is creating opportunities that improve the lives of young people and their communities.

A lot has been achieved in this area through the Fund's investment, but a lot more remains to be done. I believe we urgently need to see the route-map for the proactive delivery of the Government's Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) 2023 Strategy for Peace Walls. We also need to see clearly where this work sits with other priority strategies relating to the delivery of the Fresh Start Agreement and the Tackling Paramilitarism agenda.

In early 2016, we launched our Personal Youth Development Programme and it has found its stride in the last year attracting courageous and exciting projects, like Roe Valley Residents Association in Co Londonderry-Derry, Galbally Youth and Community Association in Co Tyrone and North Connaught Youth & Community Service in Co Leitrim. It has given all of us involved in the Fund enormous satisfaction and pleasure to see this programme develop quickly and make a profound difference in many young lives.

The Fund can only deliver on its objectives because individuals and communities are willing to take the risks with us. The projects we have supported, and continue to support, should be commended for their unstinting bravery and leadership.

Many parts of the world are currently engaged in the process of building peace between conflict torn communities. The Fund has been active in sharing its experiences and lessons on a global basis. This year we have met with delegations from Colombia, Israel and Palestine and, in March, I joined Senator George Mitchell in Washington DC for a special peace building event organised by the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Embassy of Ireland.

The event was designed to examine what lessons from the Fund might be applied to the difficult process of peace-making and peace building between Israelis and Palestinians. This event has served to deepen the knowledge share between the Fund and Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), an independent network of non-governmental organisations that is working to foster reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. We remain committed to ensuring that the experience and expertise of the Fund will be shared as broadly as possible with those who could benefit from it.

We remain grateful to our international donors for their support and encouragement. We are particularly fortunate to have representatives from these countries serving as Observers at our Board Meetings, providing valuable insight and guidance. They are aware, as is everyone in the Fund, that further work is needed to repair the human damage wrought by years of turmoil and to put our society on track to lasting peace and stability.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Joint Chairs and Members of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee for their guidance and advice; and the Secretariat, our Programme Managers, Managing Agents, and partners for the extensive time that they devote to ensuring our work can make a meaningful difference.

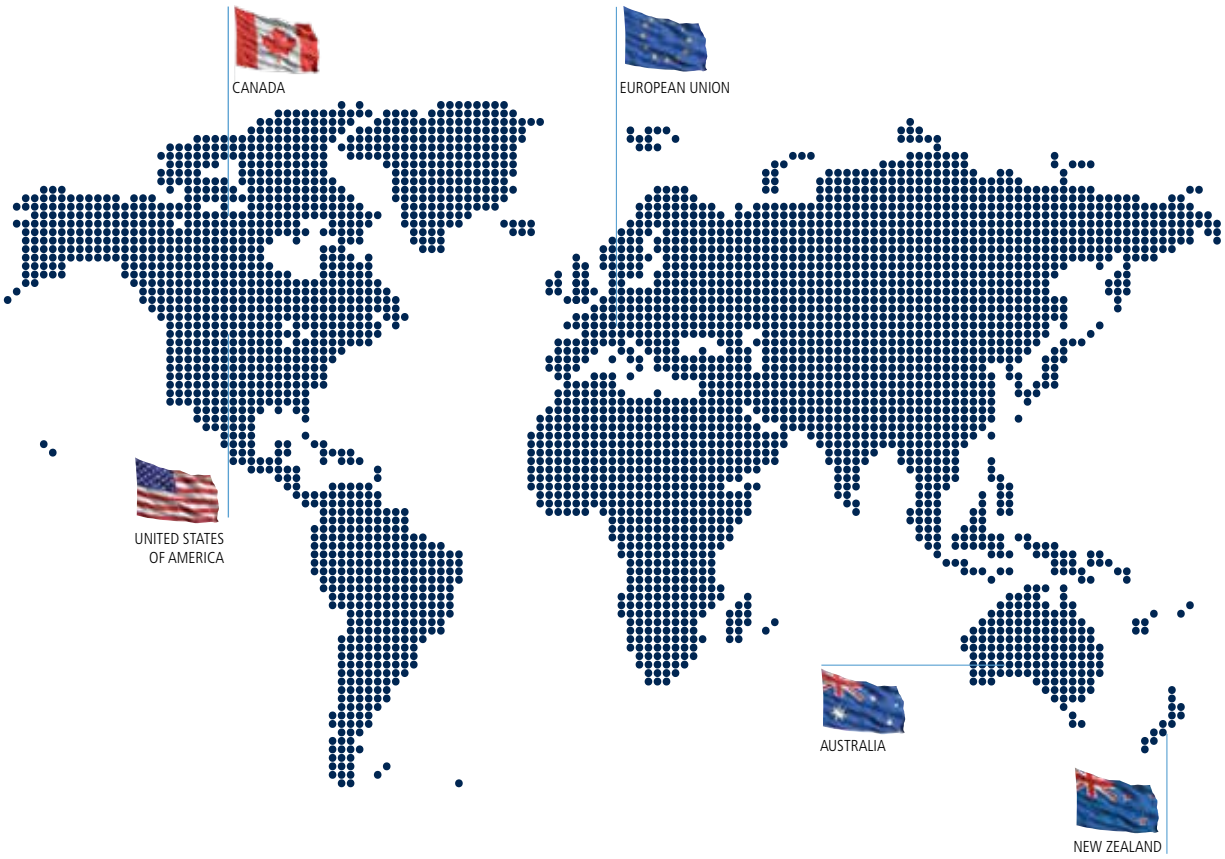
The Board

The Board of the International Fund for Ireland is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. Representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand attend meetings of the Board.

Pictured are
(L-R back row)
Mr Allen McAdam;
Dr Adrian Johnston,
Chairman;
Mr Paddy Harte;
Mr Billy Gamble;
(L to R front row)
Mrs Siobhan Fitzpatrick CBE;
Ms Dorothy Clarke;
and Mrs Hilary Singleton.

The United States of America, The European Union and governments of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were represented this year by: Mr Dan Hynes and Ms Stella O'Leary, United States of America; Ms Tamara Pavlin, European Union; Mr Brian Doherty, Canada; His Excellency, Richard Andrews, Australia; and Mr Rob Taylor, New Zealand.

The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent international organisation by the British and Irish governments in 1986. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £728m and €914m.



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND ARE:

- to promote economic and social advance; and
- to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.

*THE STERLING/EURO CONVERSION RATE AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2017 IS APPLIED THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT

Introduction

The Board of the Fund is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. It is assisted by an Advisory Committee comprising of officials appointed by the two governments.

The administration of the Fund is provided by a Secretariat, headed by Joint Directors General, based in Belfast and Dublin. A range of bodies act as Managing Agents for the Fund. In addition, the Fund has three Programme Managers, located across the southern border counties, who act as local contact points and assist prospective applicants to identify and develop proposals. They also monitor the ongoing operation of projects, providing assistance as necessary.

This Report, which covers the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017, is presented by the Board to the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Fund's donors in accordance with Article 12 of the Agreement of 18 September 1986, as amended, by which the International Fund for Ireland was established.

The Fund's Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation Programmes cluster around four key areas: Peace Walls; Peace Impact; Personal Youth Development and Shared Education. All programmes are characterised by:

- a clear focus on reconciliation as the over-riding objective;
- a focus on community transformation rather than conflict management;
- an emphasis on engaging with individuals and communities that have not previously, or only partially, participated in peace building and community development activities;
- an independent and credible approach with strong international backing;
- a cross-community, cross-border approach;
- a willingness to take risks on behalf of local communities;
- early support for community initiatives;
- co-operation with other funders and leverage of funds from other sources;
- a willingness to innovate and to break new ground in support of reconciliation; and
- a responsive approach to donor priorities.

ABOVE: Children pictured at a cross-community summer camp organised for young people at the Clones Family Resource Centre Peace Impact Project.

Peace Walls Programme

Peace Walls are the most visual remaining symbols of division in Northern Ireland. Today, more than 100 barriers remain mostly in Belfast stretching a distance of 21km.

MAIN: The view of a Peace Wall that separates communities in Glenbryn Park and Alliance Avenue in North Belfast.

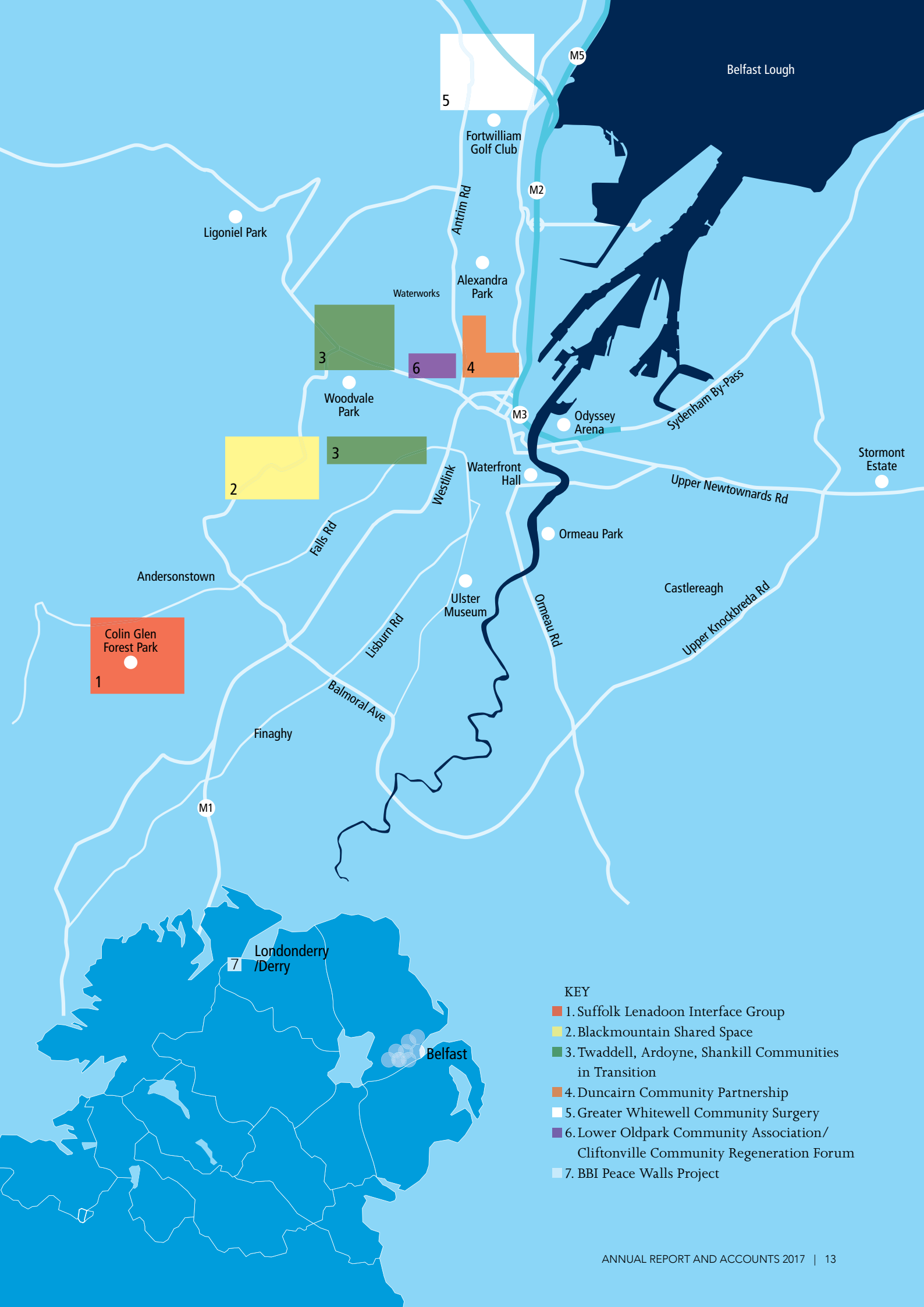
BELOW: Sarah Lorimer from the Imagine Project sets up a model that helps people think about life without Peace Walls.

Launched in January 2012, the Programme focuses on helping interface communities to bring about the conditions that can allow for the removal of Peace Walls. It provides a range of confidence and relationship building initiatives within and between interface communities to help residents arrive at a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to discuss and consider the removal of Peace Walls in their area.

The programme is designed for communities that have expressed their willingness and readiness to begin building the levels of trust required before starting the process of engaging with statutory authorities about removing the barriers.

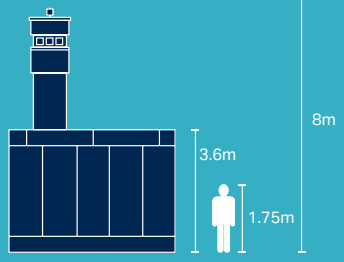
The programme, which was developed by the Fund following consultation with all the key stakeholders, is designed to be the first stage in a process leading to the physical removal of barriers. This includes assisting interface communities to lever financial and political investment from statutory authorities for any associated infrastructure and community regeneration needs when the barriers are removed.

In September work started in West Belfast to dismantle a security wall that has stood for nearly three decades. The three-metre high brick wall divided Springfield Road and Springhill Avenue and was erected in 1989 as a security measure to provide extra protection to residents and the nearby New Barnsley police station.


Belfast Lough
M5
M2
M3
M1
5
Fortwilliam Golf Club
Antrim Rd
Ligoniel Park
Alexandra Park
Waterworks
3
6
4
Woodvale Park
Odyssey Arena
Sydenham By-Pass
Stormont Estate
3
2
Waterfront Hall
Westlink
Upper Newtownards Rd
Falls Rd
Ormeau Park
Andersonstown
Castlereagh
Ulster Museum
Ormeau Rd
Upper Knockbreda Rd
Colin Glen Forest Park
1
Lisburn Rd
Balmoral Ave
Finaghy
7
Londonderry /Derry
Belfast
KEY
1. Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group
2. Blackmountain Shared Space
3. Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill Communities in Transition
4. Duncairn Community Partnership
5. Greater Whitewell Community Surgery
6. Lower Oldpark Community Association/ Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum
7. BBI Peace Walls Project

Peace Walls Programme

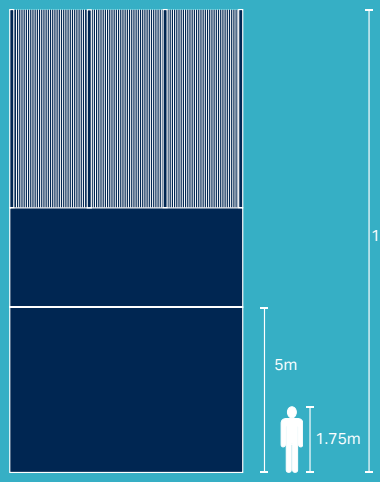
The Peace Walls Programme is breaking new ground in interface areas and assisting communities to imagine life without barriers.



BERLIN WALL

28

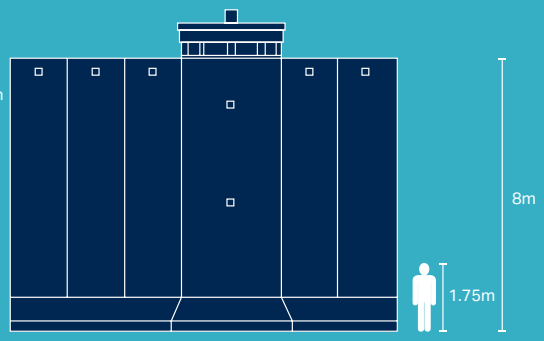
YEARS



CUPAR WAY, BELFAST

49

YEARS



PALESTINE WALL

18

YEARS

Between January 2016 and June 2017

1160
People have taken part in site specific consultations

184
Confidence building activities have taken place

7
Agreements for change or removal have been reached

29
Ongoing conversations across seven projects

DID YOU KNOW:

Peace Walls are usually constructed from a mix of materials including concrete, barbed wire, iron and steel. The position, height and length of most Peace Walls is based on security assessments made during the Troubles.

The 2017 Peace Walls Programme Attitudinal Survey surveyed the views of peace line residents and found that:

68% are in favour of the barriers being removed within the lifetime of their children or grandchildren.

66% agree that no change to the barriers would have a negative impact on community relations.

71% of all respondents said that cross-community interaction is 'always' or 'mostly' positive.

54% feel that the key functions of the Peace Walls are related to safety/ security functions.

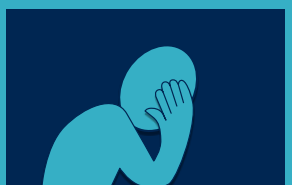
'Improved safety measures' is ranked as the primary factor that could influence positive attitudinal change to the removal of the Peace Walls.

Life in the shadow of the Peace Walls

Academic research completed over the last 10 years has indicated that:

Nearly 70% of Troubles-related murders took place less than 500 yards from interface barriers and almost 85% of the killings occurred within 1,000 yards.[1]

Each of the neighbourhoods with Peace Walls in Belfast, are in the top 10% of the most socially and economically deprived electoral wards in Northern Ireland.[2]



There is a higher incidence of mental health problems for those living in closest proximity to the walls.[3]

There is a correlation between the Peace Walls and the local communities' ability to access services, low levels of educational attainment and unemployment.[4]

1. Shirlow, P. and Murtagh, B. (2006) Belfast – Segregation, violence and the city
2. Byrne, J. Gormley Heenan, C. and Robinson, G. (2012) Attitudes to Peace Walls
3. O'Reilly, D (2011) Give my head peace: psychotropic drug uptake around the 'peace lines' in Northern Ireland, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Vol 65, Issue Supplement 2
4. Hall, M. (2010) Death by Postcode (Island Pamphlets No.94), Newtownabbey: Island Publications

Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT)

Rab McCallum, project coordinator of the Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) Peace Walls Project, has a ready answer for those who question the pace of physical change.

ABOVE: Educational talks and site visits have helped foster conversation and understanding between communities.

"Every single fence or wall has its own dilemmas," he says. "You have to be able to present the people living beside these barriers with a vision of what happens afterwards. If you simply ask if they want them to come down without providing an alternative context you have much less chance of success."

And he has plenty of examples from the group's work on the Peace Walls Programme since 2012. One success has been the removal of a wall at Crumlin Road and its replacement with decorative fencing and landscaped greenery.

While the finished vision has been welcomed by local people in the Ardoyne area, for a time it was blocked by a concerned resident, as Rab explains "One resident was on medication after her next door neighbour was shot dead and she said she would not be happy if the wall came down. She was afraid of another attack.

"She eventually agreed to the transformation after seeing that the wall would be replaced with steel panels one of which would be in front of her home. That alleviated her fears to a sufficient degree."

But there can be less dramatic reasons for not wanting change in this area where five barriers are the subject of short-term planning. Most of them date back more than 30 years in an area where the two communities live in close proximity and where a disproportionate number of the deaths in the conflict occurred.

Rab says: "There were plans in another part of the area to replace wire grills which had

"Every single fence or wall has its own dilemmas. You have to be able to present the people living beside these barriers with a vision of what happens afterwards."

been placed over people's windows with toughened glass which would look better but some residents objected. They said the grills could be locked and become effective anti-burglary devices when they were out or away or holiday. Their concerns about change had nothing to do with fear of the other community but of how it would affect the security of their homes."

He points out that after the wall came down on Crumlin Road a number of homes were paint bombed. He wanted to reassure residents that they would not have to bear the responsibility for any clean-up but was unable to agree a care package with one of the statutory partners. "It is difficult to ask people to take a risk if no care package is in place."

Other developments in the area include:

- Cambria Street: Plans are in place to replace an old army erected palisade fence with a new barrier which would include a gate that could be opened at agreed times daily. A problem is that local residents feel there is little need for the gate leading to the Crumlin Road as there are no facilities there they want to visit apart from those needing public transport.
- Flax Street: Residents in Ardoyne support a gate opening system in this barrier but the neighbouring community fears that it could provide access for attacks. Plans are ready to be activated but dependent on cross-community agreement.
- Alliance Avenue: This three-tier fence was first erected up to 30 years ago and added to twice, most recently during the Holy Cross school siege in 2002. It is actually two fences running down what used to be an alleyway separating the backs of homes from opposing communities. Surveys reveal minimal local support for removal of the fences and Rab believes progress can only be achieved when residents see a benefit from any transformation.
- Velsheda Park: Some plans have been devised including an environmental clean-up of an area which is the site of anti-social behaviour currently. However it is felt this would have to be accompanied by a small allotment development or the creation of a Men's Shed facility to stop it falling into dereliction again. A process of engagement with local residents will begin when designs have been agreed with partner agencies.

LEFT: A sign on the barrier at Flax Street, North Belfast.

RIGHT: Group go on a project visit.

ABOVE: Bringing people together is an important part of the project.

Black Mountain Shared Space Project

For Seamus Corr, coordinator of the Black Mountain Shared Space Project, the removal of some nine barriers in the area would not merely open up greater access but create greater opportunity for an area, which has been starved of investment.

ABOVE: The project has engaged local residents in activities that help build confidence.

The project covers five areas affecting, directly and indirectly, 8,500 households. Seamus says: "These areas are characterised by under investment, lack of training and job creation, poor service provision and poor health and well-being.

"Part of the reason is that each of the areas is divorced by some distance from their natural hinterland – Springmartin and Highfield from the Shankill and Moyard, Springfield and Slieve Dubh from the Upper Springfield Road."

In order to build trust in the project and between the traditionally opposing communities, the programme has engaged with four local residents' associations, three women's groups and two youth clubs as well as the usual statutory agencies.

"The work with these groups are not necessarily directed at the removal of the barriers – although some do – but laying the groundwork which will enable them to be removed or re-imaged at some stage."

It can be a lengthy process. It took eight years to agree to the removal of a security wall at Springhill Avenue in September this year when a care package to allay residents' fears was finally put in place.

At Moyard Crescent a 36m wide fence was taken down after residents agreed to reinforced windows being installed. Previously the windows were covered with wire grills but it was agreed that new, visually sensitive windows, would be the preferred option. Security gates with palisade fencing on either side was removed at Springmartin Road and re-imaging work

"Everyone has to be ready to move together otherwise progress can be lost. That would be disastrous as it can take many years of intensive work to reach the stage where barriers can come down."

LEFT & RIGHT: To build trust in the project and between the traditionally opposing communities, the project has facilitated events that enable new levels of dialogue.

was carried out on a pedestrian gate at Highfield Drive, derelict space at the site of a former laundry and a barrier at Sliabh Dubh when the local community was involved in designing children's murals to soften its appearance.

Mr Corr believes the opening up of the former laundry site and another site previously occupied by a factory could attract additional revenue streams for commercial and shared space developments which would breathe new life into the Upper Springfield area.

"This is an underused area of the city but opening it should increase both vehicular traffic and footfall raising the potential of much needed investment. The Finlay site, if we get the barriers removed, could be used as a shared space which would build on relationships forged at local level."

He points out that as a result of the hard work put in on the ground sectarian attacks have almost been eradicated throughout the Black Mountain area, with only one attack in the last two years.

That is an enormous achievement given the history of interface violence and heightened tensions in the area during the marching season.

Mr Corr believes the input of local politicians - three parties, Sinn Féin, the Democratic Unionist Party and Progressive Unionist Party have actively participated in the programme - has also played an important role in ensuring that statutory agencies step up to the mark with care packages when agreement has been reached with residents on barrier removal or softening.

"Without their input on some occasions the project would have stalled and that would have eroded the faith of the local communities in the process. Everyone has to be ready to move together otherwise progress can be lost. That would be disastrous as it can take many years of intensive work to reach the stage where barriers can come down."

Greater Whitewell Community Surgery

Talk to Geraldine O'Kane, project coordinator at the Greater Whitewell Community Surgery on the northern outskirts of Belfast, about the Peace Walls in the area and she will tell you about work with young schoolchildren, older teenagers, plans for a new park or new housing for seniors or how some 20 children from both sides of the local community – for the sixth year – had a great day out at the pantomime.

ABOVE: Geraldine O'Kane and Brian Dunne (right), Greater Whitewell Community Surgery coordinators join Billy Gamble, Fund Board Member at the launch of the project's attitudinal baseline survey.

Removing or transforming Peace Walls or barriers, she explains, involves much more than just talking about the physical structures. "We want people to feel safe and comfortable. We have to address all their problems. People living on either side of an interface have common problems and that is where they can find common ground."

"When we have built up their confidence then we can start discussing the barriers and what impact they have on their lives. That approach leads to a more honest conversation. If we just set up a group to talk about Peace Walls many people would think it had nothing to do with them and would not even engage with us."

It is an approach that has worked. With support from the International Fund for Ireland, the Peace Walls project has seen two sites transformed. One barrier was removed at the Arthur Bridge interface and the other at the Valley Leisure Centre which was previously considered a no-go area by some but is now an accepted shared space.

Four barriers still remain including one which was built on the very day that the Good Friday Agreement was signed – April 10, 1998 – heralding a new inclusive era for Northern Ireland.

Issues like the cost of maintaining the fence have yet to be ironed out but the signs are hopeful.

At another site on Serpentine Road which has a particularly ugly fence on top of a corrugated iron palisade ambitious plans for a Belfast City Council created children's park have been mooted.

Discussions with the Housing Executive over the transfer of land to the Council,

"When we have built up their confidence then we can start discussing the barriers and what impact they have on their lives. That approach leads to a more honest conversation."

bringing a nearby derelict home back into use and landscaping waste ground to create a 'welcome gateway', to the area could see the visual impression of the area transformed.

There are also plans to see if land occupied by a former church could be obtained and used for housing for senior citizens.

"There would still be a fence in the area because the park would back onto a dangerous stretch of road, but it would not be regarded as a Peace Wall in the normal sense of the word", Geraldine explains.

The hope is that transformation of this site would then create a new impetus to deal with another barrier at nearby Serpentine Gardens which, in the past, was the scene of serious sectarian violence. Indeed, the erection of the barrier was a compromise deal – the alternative was to knock down existing homes to create a sterile interface area.

Progress has also been made at the site of the fourth barrier in the Lower Whitewell/ Graymount area. Social housing for the over 55s is being built in the area and there has been a noticeable lessening of tension in the area in recent years.

Geraldine is particularly keen to praise young people in the area. One group of 16-24 year olds who would previously have been engaged in interface violence were questioned about their attitudes to the area, the violence or how the image of the area affected their employment prospects.

She adds: "Some of the older members of the group actually began warning the younger members of the dangers they face if they continued along their previous path – how, for example, a criminal conviction could prevent them travelling to America later in life or stop them getting a job.

"I found their discussions fascinating and how attitudes did change. After all, it is their future we are talking about and their views are like a breath of fresh air. Our men's club members also talk to the young people about how the area has changed since their own youth when people mixed more freely and how they would like to see that happen again."

LEFT: A Peace Wall separates Serpentine Gardens from Gunnel Hill in North Belfast.

RIGHT: The rear view of homes in the Throne Estate, North Belfast, is dominated by a security fence.

ABOVE: Brian Dunne, Greater Whitewell Community Surgery coordinator.

Peace Walls Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed additional financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
	BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA	
Black Mountain Shared Space Project Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	Increase community confidence and agreement towards peace walls/barrier removal and/or reduction.	151,573
Black Mountain Shared Space Project Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	Minor works programme.	6,500
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum & Lower Oldpark Community Association Cliftonpark Avenue Belfast Co Antrim	Build on work already accomplished and use up to date information from the recent Peace Wall Attitudinal Survey to target the areas where change is most required and can be challenged and measured.	104,393
Duncairn Community Partnership Antrim Road Belfast Co Antrim	Build on the DCP work to date by strengthening the relationship between various stakeholders and broadening engagement to include more resident participation.	150,464
Greater Whitewell Community Surgery Shore Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim	Work towards strengthening relationships between the various participants by creating inter and intra attitudinal changes required to complete the journey towards peace wall/barrier removal/reduction.	107,634
Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition Cliftonville Road Belfast Co Antrim	To encourage greater contact and dialogue between CNR/PUL communities on issues specific to peace walls.	162,617

DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
BBI Peace Walls Project Iona Business Park Southway Derry Co Londonderry	Build on existing community engagement to broaden support, reflect on current consultation statistics in order to create community consensus around barrier alterations.	107,023

LEFT: The longest and tallest Peace Wall in Northern Ireland is at Cupar Way, Belfast. The multi-level barrier is 800 metres long and consists of a 4.5 metre high concrete wall, topped with 3 metre high metal sheeting and 6 metres of open mesh fence.

Peace Impact Programme

MAIN: Attendees hear how Peace Impact Projects are supporting community policing at a recent event at Crumlin Road Gaol.

BELOW: Children take part in events organised by Clones Family Resource Centre in Co. Monaghan.

The Peace Impact Programme (PIP) is designed to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions in communities that have not previously, or have only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities. Such interventions are critical to building a truly integrated, shared and peaceful society.

PIP works with communities to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

The programme places particular emphasis on engaging with disaffected and marginalised young people who are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by those opposed to the Peace Process.

PIP Projects

BELFAST

1. Markets Development Agency (MDA), South Belfast
2. Renew Engage Advance Community Hopes (REACH), East Belfast
3. Springboard Opportunities Limited, North Belfast
4. Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association, North Belfast
5. Conflict Resolution Services Ireland (CRSI), West Belfast
6. Black Mountain Shared Space Project, West Belfast
7. Shankill Women's Centre, West Belfast

TYRONE

8. Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association, Bready (BT82 0EB)
9. Strabane AYE,Strabane
10. Expac North, Dungannon

ARMAGH

11. Community Restorative Justice Newry & Armagh, Newry
12. Drumbeg North & South Residents Association, Craigavon
13. Regenerate, Portadown
14. Camlough Community Association, Camlough

DERRY/LONDONDERRY

15. James Connolly Cultural Youth Group (JCCYG), Derry-Londonderry
16. Creggan Enterprises Limited (CEL), Derry-Londonderry
17. Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF), Derry-Londonderry
18. Teach Na Failte Sperrins & Glens (TnaF S&G), Derry-Londonderry
19. Rosemount Resource Centre, Derry-Londonderry
20. Leafair Community Association (LCA), Derry-Londonderry
21. Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association (SCAA) & Fermanagh Sports & Cultural Awareness (FSCA), Magherafelt
22. West Bann Development, Coleraine

ANTRIM

23. Carson Project (CP) and Ultoniae Cultural & Heritage Society (UCHS), Ballymena
24. Inter Estates Partnership (IEP), Antrim
25. Ulidia Training Ltd, Ballymoney
26. Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network, Newtownabbey

LEITRIM

27. North Leitrim Glens Development Company Manorhamilton

LOUTH

28. Redeemer Centre Dundalk
29. Dundalk Youth Centre, Dundalk

FERMANAGH

30. Erne East Community Partnership (EECP), Lisnaskea

DOWN

31. Ards Development Bureau & Community Network, Newtownards

DONEGAL

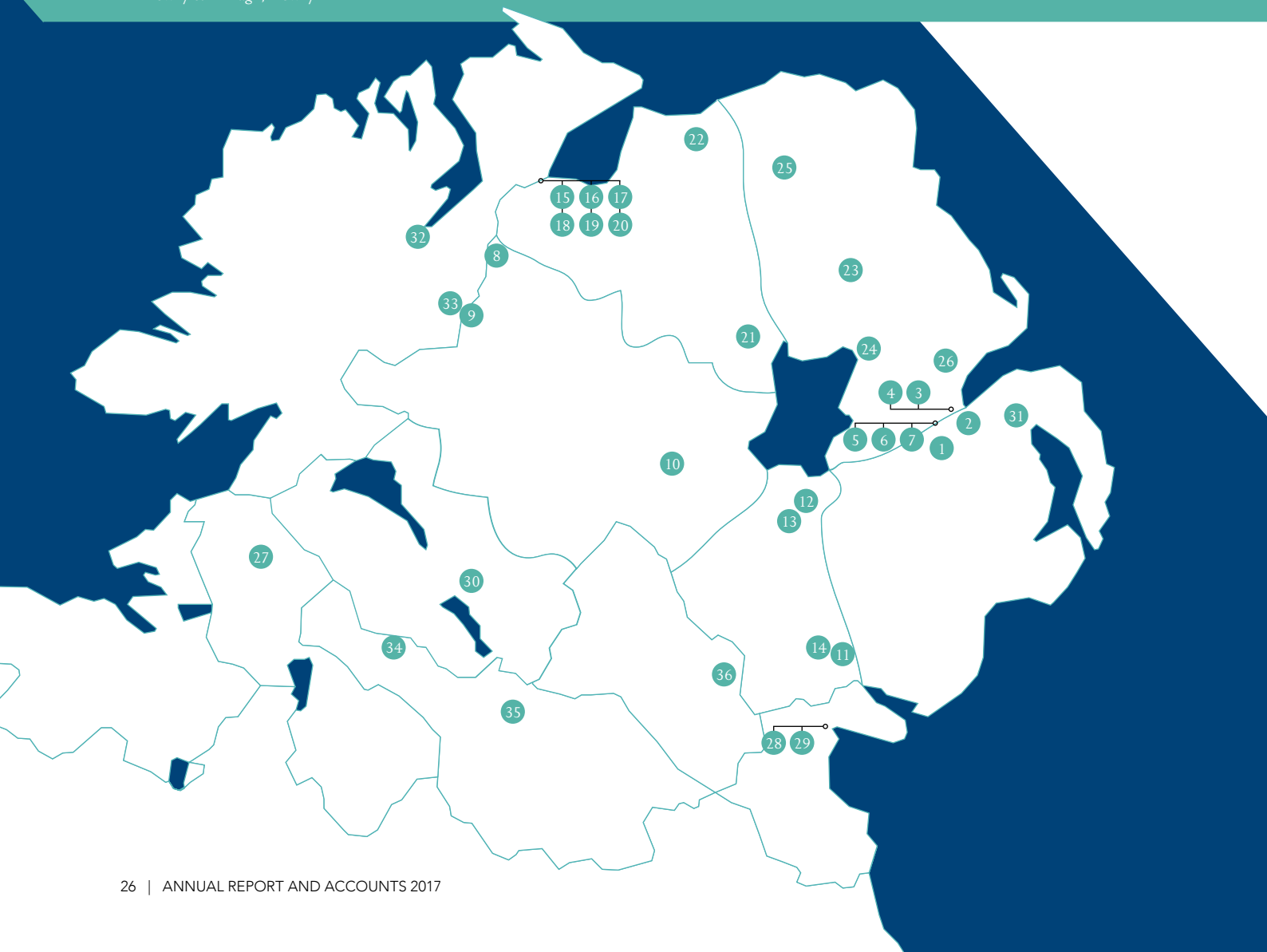
32. Donegal Sports Partnership, Letterkenny
33. Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre, Lifford

CAVAN

34. Swanlinbar Development Association, Swanlinbar
35. Tullacmongan Resource Centre, Tullacmongan

MONAGHAN

36. Youth Work Ireland, Monaghan, Castleblayney



In the last year, the Peace Impact Programme has expanded and intensified efforts to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas where there have been low levels of engagement in peace building. Projects have developed innovative community-led solutions to address difficult issues linked to the legacy of conflict and many have successfully engaged with young people who are at risk of becoming involved in sectarian or anti-social activity.

ABOVE: The Peace Impact Programme has enabled many communities and individuals to take part in peace building activities for the first time.

Peace Impact Programme

Launched in 2013, the Peace Impact Programme (PIP) has achieved significant success within communities where there has been limited or no previous participation in peace building activities.

In the last year:

36 Peace Impact Projects were started

Projects started in southern border counties **8**

28 Projects started in Northern Ireland

£4.7m/ €5.8m Grants committed to the Peace Impact Programme

Between January 2016 and June 2017

13,299 People participated in PIP projects

95% Positive satisfaction rating

81% Of participants reported increased confidence

90% Said it had helped to positively change attitudes

Key outcomes of PIP Projects

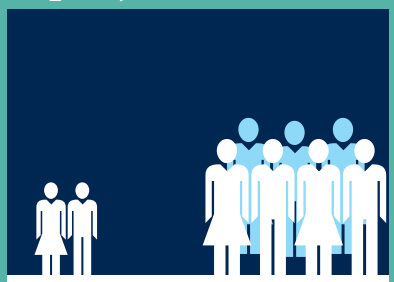
Increased contact, dialogue, sharing and integration among project participants

Development of sustainable, exemplar community organisations

Underpinning of the Peace Process

Characteristics of PIP projects

Enable individuals and communities, who are still affected by sectarian violence, to take part in peace building activities for the first time



Offer new support to marginalised young people

Operate in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, and where engagement in peace building has historically been low

Create more inclusive communities

Build relationships

Develop local leadership

> "This is equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and competencies to become advocates of change and build a more positive future for themselves and others. We've been impressed by how each participant has applied themselves within the project and within their communities."

Ewan Morgan, coordinator of the Digging Deeper Safer Driving Peace Impact Project led by Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh (CRJNA).

Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association

Arguably the greatest achievement by the Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA) in the past 18 months was its role in helping to end the protest camp established in July 2013 after an Orange Order march was blocked from returning from the annual Twelfth celebrations past the Ardoyne interface in North Belfast.

ABOVE: Young people pictured at a community fun day.

That three-year protest, which resulted in nightly protests, a costly high visibility policing operation, rocket attacks, gunfire and knife attacks and continual fear of dissident Republican attacks, had severely disrupted attempts by TWRA to continue its work in conflict transformation and peace building, increasing the employability skills of the local community and engaging in more cross-community work.

Since the ending of the protest in October 2016 TWRA – whose premises had been damaged during the protests – has moved its operation up several gears, engaging in cross-community and cross-border initiatives, running upskilling courses and promoting greater understanding across the community in what is one of the most contested interfaces in Northern Ireland.

Robert Rodgers who heads up the TWRA Peace Impact Project says: "I don't think it was a case of the protest souring cross-community relations – work and contact across the divide continued but probably was put on the back burner for a time as other issues became more important, security and protest management amongst them."

TWRA's work to make the Twelfth of July celebrations – including those around the traditional bonfires – more family friendly by including activities based on culture, sport and good relations has been so successful, attracting more than 1,500 people to Woodvale Park, that it has been adopted as a model approach by Belfast City Council.

Other initiatives, although smaller in scale, have also made a significant impact. One innovative seminar was by Larne DJ Gleave Dobbin who pioneered dance music culture in Northern Ireland during the 1990s. He

"These are skills which are transferrable to their personal lives as well as encouraging them to consider developing careers, taking training courses or going into further education."

was able to point out how this type of culture brought together people of all denominations at a time when the conflict was still continuing and how culture and the arts have a part to play in broadening horizons.

Another unexpected development came when 22 young people visited an equestrian centre at Glenavy on the outskirts of Belfast for five days last year learning how to look after horses. As a result one of the young people ended up owning their own horse.

Cross-border projects included contact with similar groups in Bessbrook and Dundalk leading to discussions on issues such as Brexit and cultural identity. Sixteen adults took part in a residential in Dublin during which they visited Kilmainham Gaol, the Boyne Heritage Centre and the Republican plot at Glasnevin Cemetery.

At Cavan County Museum at Ballyjamesduff, 19 participants entered the recreated WWI trenches to see the conditions under which soldiers fought and also learned about the history of the period which led to the creation of the Ireland we have today.

That is a theme carried on by 16 participants – nine of them women – in the Empire and Identity course given Level 3 accreditation by Ulster University which is designed to give them a greater understanding of how we ended up with conflict and contested identities and also greater confidence in their own identity and perspectives.

Among the upskilling projects undertaken by TWRA was a women's micro-enterprise programme. It was designed to help the women develop skills in creative arts and also learn the rudiments of running a micro business. A range of employability courses ranged from forklift handling to event security training to driving lessons. Two participants gained HGV qualifications.

Robert says that social disadvantage and poverty – including poverty of aspiration – remain embedded in the local area and are manifested through long-term unemployment, educational disadvantage and poor levels of health and well-being. It is to address those issues, as much as improving cross-community relations, that TWRA has developed its wide range of activities and courses.

LEFT: Participants visit the nearby Crumlin Road Gaol to better understand community identities and division.

RIGHT: TWRA has developed a wide range of activities and courses to improve cross-community relations and life outcomes.

Éalú

East Tyrone and North Armagh experienced some of the worst atrocities during the Troubles. It includes the infamous 'Murder Triangle' area where near-weekly bombings and shootings inflicted heavy loss of life for all communities.

ABOVE: The Éalú project is enabling people to better understand the conflict and overcome problems it has caused.

The experience of the last 40 years has left a traumatic legacy and even today there are frequent attempts by newly formed dissident groups, who oppose the political process, to recruit and gain control through criminal activities.

Within tightknit Republican communities there remains much mistrust of authorities and statutory agencies. Many were directly or indirectly affected by violence and the experiences have resulted in a multitude of complex residual issues regarding mental health, PTSD and anti-social behaviour relating to the legacy of the conflict.

It is here where the Dungannon-based Éalú project – which means 'escape' in Irish – is making an important contribution, helping people break free from the legacy of the conflict and address the enduring problems it has caused.

Frank Quinn, project coordinator for Éalú says; "The 40 years of conflict has really affected this area. Those who have wanted peace have suffered terribly and the impact is felt on families and the wider society as a whole.

"We are working to provide support for ex-prisoners of war, their families and the community on conflict related issues. The majority feel they have effectively been left behind by the Peace Process. The isolation in some cases manifests itself in the form of PTSD, depression too is common as is anti-social behaviour and drug use is common amongst the younger people."

The project started in June 2016 with a £97,000 allocation from the International Fund for Ireland and an option to draw down an additional £91,000 in the year ahead. A core focus for Frank and his team has been engagement with disaffected young people who may be more vulnerable to be drawn into gangs and criminal activity.

"A lot of the anti-social behaviour in the area boils down to the fact that there are little or

"We want to build confidence within the whole community so they are able to move past and hopefully resolve legacy issues relating to the Troubles."

no prospects for these kids and that's where we come in. We offer a range of options to enhance employability and also improve self-motivation, confidence so they feel they can add value to the wider community again.

"When the kids commit to the project we in turn invest in them as well. For example, we pay for 12 driving lessons and to date around 70 have benefitted from this."

The project has also worked tirelessly to build relationships with local businesses who will guarantee employment and opportunity for young people in the area.

There have naturally been highs and lows engaging with local residents but Frank believes that this has strengthened and built community spirit.

"We want to build confidence within the whole community so they are able to move past and hopefully resolve legacy issues relating to the Troubles. It's a fantastic feeling being able to set someone back on a good path in life.

"In recent months, a lad from a well-known respected family, who had been scarred by The Troubles tragically fell off a roof, which resulted in a severe injury. We assisted the family in securing financial support during his illness. I'm happy to report that we were able to help him improve his confidence and arranged for an opportunity with the local haulage firm. He's back behind the wheel, happily employed, has an improved state of mind and a happy family life again.

"There are other occasions where we've had to step in and mediate in very sensitive situations. Another young person got into trouble and ended up being recruited by a paramilitary group pretty much against his will. At the same time, the PSNI were trying to encourage him to pass on information about the group. This was a very difficult situation where the person felt exploited and ended up contemplating suicide because he felt like such a failure. We've worked with him to re-evaluate his life, look at the positive changes he can make and encouraged him to get involved in the community once again.

"Encouraging self–worth is the biggest challenge and biggest achievement at the same time for this project. We want to continue to offer hope to those who feel empty, offer people a fresh outlook on life so they can get back on track and also open up opportunity for themselves and their family circle."

LEFT: Influential Republicans Joe Bell (left) and Tommy McKearney address an Éalú event.

RIGHT: The project offers a range of options to enhance youth employability and confidence so people feel they can add value to the wider community.

Clones Family Resource Centre

It was on an outing on Lough Erne to mark the end of a project to help women improve their skills and self-esteem that Dara MacGabhann, who delivered the Peace of Mind project, realised just how it had impacted positively on the participants' lives.

ABOVE: The project has facilitated a number of activities that have built confidence on a cross-community and cross-border basis.

Dara who works with colleague Angela Graham, manager of the Clones Family Resource Centre, recalls speaking to the 21 women when they signed up to the 16-session course.

"They were a mixed group of both younger and older women but many had no chance to develop a career because they were carers or had young families and spent most of their time in their homes.

"When asked what they thought their strengths were, several said they were not good at anything. Yet on the outing one of those women stood up and sang for the assembled crowd demonstrating the confidence she had gained."

Only one participant who started the course – one of several initiatives undertaken in the Clones area to heal the divisions caused by the toxic legacy of the Troubles - dropped out, an impressively high success rate. Six of those taking part were from the minority Protestant community which has traditionally had limited engagement in peace building projects. Dara says the group of women were drawn out of their shell by being brought to various venues around the town including the Protestant Hall and the GAA Club and took part in personal development sessions as well as personal awareness and information workshops.

"These are skills which are transferrable to their personal lives as well as encouraging them to consider developing careers, taking training courses or going into further education. The women became closer with each other, sharing their stories and arranging to meet again after the course was over.

There were three other major strands to the 18-month project which received funding of €150,716 from the International Fund for Ireland.

The Decade of Commemoration included two history nights concentrating on the 1916

"These are skills which are transferrable to their personal lives as well as encouraging them to consider developing careers, taking training courses or going into further education."

Rising and local man James Connolly and the Somme Slaughter and Sectarianised Memory, with an experienced peace facilitator chairing dialogue sessions. Trips were also taken to Dan Winter's cottage in Northern Ireland, birthplace of the Orange Order and County Cavan Museum Ballyjamesduff.

The Family Resource Centre has also trained seven men and women in family and community mediation and conflict resolution. They have all passed their initial assessments and have now gained an officially recognised qualification and move into practising their new found skills in 2018.

Mental health issues, due in large part to the legacy of the conflict, are common in the area and the Centre has linked up with the Oak Healthy Living Centre in Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh, which has noted expertise in mental health and addiction issues.

Angela says this project was warmly embraced with more than 150 people attending a positive mental health conference in October which deviated from the normal agenda by including music, input from schoolchildren who had devised drama on the subject as well as professional keynote speakers.

Regular sessions during the project drew participation from 30-35 people, but on St Patrick's night last March more than 100 people from both Lisnaskea and Clones attended a positive mental health social event in Clones. "It was confidence building and joyful and was both cross-community and cross-border", says Angela.

One of the most challenging events staged during the year was a summer camp for around 100 children – aged 4-13 years, in Clones. The five-day event included a drumming session where the youngsters had the opportunity to play a 16-foot drum together as well as a number of other percussion instruments, a day trip to the Ulster-American Folk Park near Omagh and talks on ancient Ireland including an exhibition of Viking weapons.

"A number of volunteers turned up to help us but it was still quite an undertaking and we may have to re-examine the numbers for next year's camp", says Angela.

LEFT: The group arranged visits to a number of locations to help bring participants together.

RIGHT & ABOVE: The project enabled young people to take an active role in running a summer camp for around 100 children.

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Inter Estate Partnership Parkhall Shopping Centre Queen's Road Antrim Co Antrim	To continue to deliver training support to young people across the five housing estates. To develop cross community working practices with the neighbouring CNR and develop community cohesion in the area.	153,478
Newtownabbey & Arts Cultural Network The Diamond Rathcoole Newtownabbey Co Antrim	To deliver a comprehensive programme across the Rathcoole Estate, which would engage local people who have not been previously engaged in peace building.	181,131
ARDS & NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Ards Development Bureau & Community Network Frances Street Newtownards Co Down	To work with areas in the Ards and North Down to develop solutions to contentious issues and support communities in peace building.	184,290
ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Drumbeg North & South Residents Association Drumbeg South Tullygally Craigavon Co Armagh	To deliver a capacity building programme for residents in Drumbeg and Meadowbrook housing estates in Brownlow. The project will deliver training and education across all age groups and facilitate workshop discussions based on the contentious and sensitive issues affecting the areas.	147,756
Regenerate Association Ardress Park Portadown Co Armagh	To deliver a one year programme of capacity building across 5 PUL housing estates in Portadown. The work will tackle capacity issues, lack of a cohesive voice and inter and intra community relations	74,143

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
	BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA	
Blackmountain Shared Space Project Farset Enterprise Park Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	To continue the delivery of peace building, training and education across the areas of Highfield, Springmartin, Moyard and Springfield Park.	131,662
Conflict Resolution ServicesIreland Falls Road Belfast Co Antrim	To develop their model of intervention and mediation within the area of West Belfast, to continue to develop the work in Ardoyne area with those communities who feel they have not benefited from the Peace Process.	273,833
Market Development Association Market Street Belfast Co Antrim	Markets is a project looking to engage those outside of the peace process in training and skills development as well as build capacity in the local area to deal with growing contentious issues.	79,397
Reach Project Newtownards Road Belfast Co Antrim	REACH is a project, which will engage the RHC and wider community within East Belfast to deliver solutions to the tensions faced in the area and deliver bespoke training to the wider community.	71,244
Shankill Women's Centre Shankill Road Belfast Co Antrim	To continue the work with women across the Shankill, North Belfast and West Belfast areas. The project will be delivered on a cross community basis and will have two elements of Peace Building and Training and Education.	97,481
Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association Twaddell Avenue Belfast Co Antrim	To continue to deliver on training and support for residents, to develop cross community linkages that ceased when the protest camp was in the area. To develop a Forum which will take forward the agreed actions. To re-engage with all the agencies to support the work of the group.	229,330

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Ulidia Training Main Street Ballymoney Co Antrim	An innovative traditional skills project in Ballymoney, which will engage young people, and the wider loyalist community in a multi phased programme in Mid/North Antrim and East Tyrone. The project will also involve restorative justice, mediation and cross community engagement.	206,666
West Bann Development Killowen Court Coleraine Co Antrim	This project will operate across four programme streams in the Greater Heights Killowen area of Coleraine and will focus on local relationships, building capacity, cohesion, creation new structures and deal with gatekeeping and other difficult issues.	192,675
DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association Victoria Road Bready Strabane Co Tyrone	This project will offer skills, training and employability in the cultural sector through a cross community cultural apprentice programme, focusing on Peace building and reaching people who are marginalised.	156,650
Creggan Enterprises Ltd Rath Mor Centre Blighs Lane Derry Co Londonderry	The extended "Unheard Voices" project will create an outreach programme for women associated with other Peace Impact projects in Strabane, Ballymena and the south Derry areas and will engage in Co Donegal.	101,440
James Connolly Cultural Youth Group Lenamore Business Park Derry Co Londonderry	The project will engage with marginalised young people from Derry and Donegal and provide training, support and advocacy. The project will engage with the past and tackle issues around sectarianism and provide alternatives to support for armed violence.	77,342
Leafair Community Association Skeoge House Leafair Park Derry Co Londonderry	This innovative project will involve Leafair CA working to engage disaffected communities in the outer north area of Derry to tackle difficult peace building and conflict legacy issues	134,782

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Londonderry Bands Forum Hawkin Street Londonderry Co Londonderry	The project will enable the LBF to establish itself as a standalone organisation. The project will continue to expand its education programmes, enhance the number of bands and participants involved in Capacity Building Programmes.	97,475
Rosemount Resource Centre Westway Creggan Derry Co Londonderry	To enable a support, development and intervention project for young people and their families in the Derry/Londonderry area who have been subjected to/or are in danger of threats and intimidation by armed paramilitary organisations. It will also offer new opportunities to young people vulnerable to recruitment by paramilitary organisations.	39,000
Strabane Access Youth Engagement (Strabane AYE) Patrick Street Strabane Co Londonderry	The AYE project will establish a regional network and provide training and models for local communities in Derry, Bellaghy, Belfast and Newry to establish local projects that will engage in peace building work to mediate around threats from armed groups while building relationships with statutory agencies.	62,591
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Erne East Community Partnership Ltd Cross Street Lisnaskea Co Fermanagh	EECP will deliver a peace building programme across East Fermanagh on a cross community, cross border basis enabling local communities to design and deliver some content and activity relative to local situations.	177,528
MID & EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Carson Project Queen Street Ballymena Co Antrim	The project will work primarily within the PUL communities in North and Mid Antrim and will target both marginalised communities and those who have not previously engaged in peace building or community development.	81,262

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Expac The Square Dungannon Co Tyrone	The project will continue to engage large numbers of participants along the border corridor in a dedicated dialogue and skills development programme.	125,705
Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association Union Arcade Union Road Magherafelt Co Londonderry	Sperrin CAA in partnership with Fermanagh SCAA will deliver a programme in counties Londonderry and Fermanagh engaging disaffected young people and the wider community.	202,156
Sperrins & Glens Teach Na Failte Main Street Bellaghy Co Londonderry	This project will continue to engage Republican/Republican Socialist groupings and wider communities in peace building activity including Loyalist engagement. The programme will develop and build the capacity of a volunteer base, provide training and services to the wider community.	95,440
NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Camlough Community Association Quarter Road Camlough Newry Co Down	To continue to deliver a cross border/cross community project with both young people and adults in the South Armagh/Louth areas.	162,303
Community Restorative Justice – Newry/Armagh Ballybot House Cornmarket Newry Co Armagh	To develop and deliver their model of intervention to a further five housing estates in the Newry area. To create links with the previous PIP areas to support cohesion across Newry.	198,199

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
CO CAVAN		
Tullacmongan Resource Centre Tullyacmongan Kilmooney Drive Cavan Town Co Cavan	An 18 month capacity and peace building programme to include upskilling of this area through community enhancement and employment development initiatives. People will embrace diversity and create a sustainable community through cross border cross community.	155,153
Swanlinbar Development Association Trevia House Swanlinbar Co Cavan	West Cavan West Fermanagh capacity and peace building project focused on and delivered through an area based approach, bringing Protestant and Cathoilc Communities together in this Border Region.	125,050
CO DONEGAL		
Donegal Sports Partnership Pearse Road Letterkenny Co Donegal	A cross border, cross community programme of capacity building and leadership training that will engage a core group of adults targeting the communities of West and East Donegal and the Waterside area of Derry/Londonderry. Peace Coaching Programmes will also be delivered in the local community and primary schools through sports.	186,559
Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre Croaghan Heights Lifford Co Donegal	An 18 month programme to build upon the cross border, cross community programme of capacity building to engage 170 men aged over 25 to enable them to form their own sustainable groups in the areas of the Finn Valley region in Donegal and Tyrone.	168,766
CO LEITRIM		
North Leitrim Glens Development Company The Glens Centre Manorhamilton Co Leitrim	Cross border cross community programme of capacity building and community participation.	181,628

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
CO LOUTH		
The Redeemer Family Resource Centre Ard Easmuinn Dundalk Co Louth	A community based youth leadership and women's support programme. This project will support disadvantaged young women and their families through the delivery of a personal development and employment training programme which will facilitate them to set up their own safe community space in the estate.	71,645
Dundalk Youth Centre Roden Place Dundalk Co Louth	A cross border and cross community youth leadership programme. Working with young people from Dundalk and surrounding areas and young people from South Armagh the project will upskill and teach them acceptance of diversity, allowing them to play a positive role in the development of peaceful communities in the future.	155,464
CO MONAGHAN		
Youth Work Ireland Monaghan Thomas Street Castleblaney Monaghan Co Monaghan	A youth work project based in County Monaghan and surrounding cross border hinterland. The project will facilitate young people living in the border region in ongoing personal development, allowing them to explore their role in the development of a positive and peaceful border region.	72,472
CO SLIGO		
Sligo Local Development Company Quay Street Sligo Town Co Sligo	Community development and peace building project enhancing upskilling in the local area and enabling local participation in the sustainable development of a peaceful and diverse region.	14,041

The Peace Impact Programme works with communities to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

Personal Youth Development Programme

MAIN: The Clanrye Group PYDP Project challenged young people to identify a social issue that they could help address by working together as a team. Participants and coordinators are pictured with Fund Board Member, Paddy Harte.

BELOW: PYDP projects are addressing low self-esteem, lack of aspiration and giving new hope to young people.

The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) was launched in late 2015 within the Fund's Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation 2016-2020 Strategy. The programme aims to help at risk young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

The programme is unique in the way it engages and sustains contact with participants. Each PYDP project builds enduring relationships with young people and establishes highly personalised development plans tailored to the needs of the individual. The tiered nature of the programme and continued contact with project coordinators – even after completion of initial levels – means participants can progress or reconnect with the programme at different levels as circumstances change.

In this sense, the programme adapts and adjusts to the needs of the individual providing personal guidance and encouragement as they develop. The PYDP seeks to connect young people aged 16-25 to personalised learning, skills and employment opportunities with a central focus on good relations and preparing young people for the world of work. It is interested in engaging young people that are vulnerable to polarisation/recruitment to organisations opposed to the Peace Process and face barriers to participation in mainstream provision.

PYDP Projects

BELFAST

1. Springboard Opportunities Limited, North Belfast
2. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, North Belfast
3. Shankill Women's Centre, West Belfast
4. Workforce Training Services, West Belfast

ARMAGH

5. Clanrye Group, Newry
6. Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project, Craigavon
7. Edgarstown Residents Association, Portadown

TYRONE

8. Coalisland Training Services, Coalisland
9. Strabane AYE, Strabane
10. Border Arts 2000, Castlederg
11. Galbally Youth & Community Association, Galbally

DERRY-LONDONDERRY

12. Leafair Community Association, Derry-Londonderry
13. Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Derry-Londonderry
14. Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust, Derry-Londonderry
15. Maghera Cross Community Link, Maghera
16. Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association, Magherafelt
17. Glasgowbury, Draperstown
18. Lettershandoney & District Development Group,
19. Roe Valley Residents Association, Limavady

CAVAN

20 FOCUS Family Resource Centre, Killeshandra

DONEGAL

21. Downstrands Family Resource Centre, Portnoo

LOUTH

22. Connect FRC, Drogheda
23. Ardee & District Community Trust, Ardee

MONAGHAN

24. Youth Work Ireland Monaghan, Castleblayney

FERMANAGH

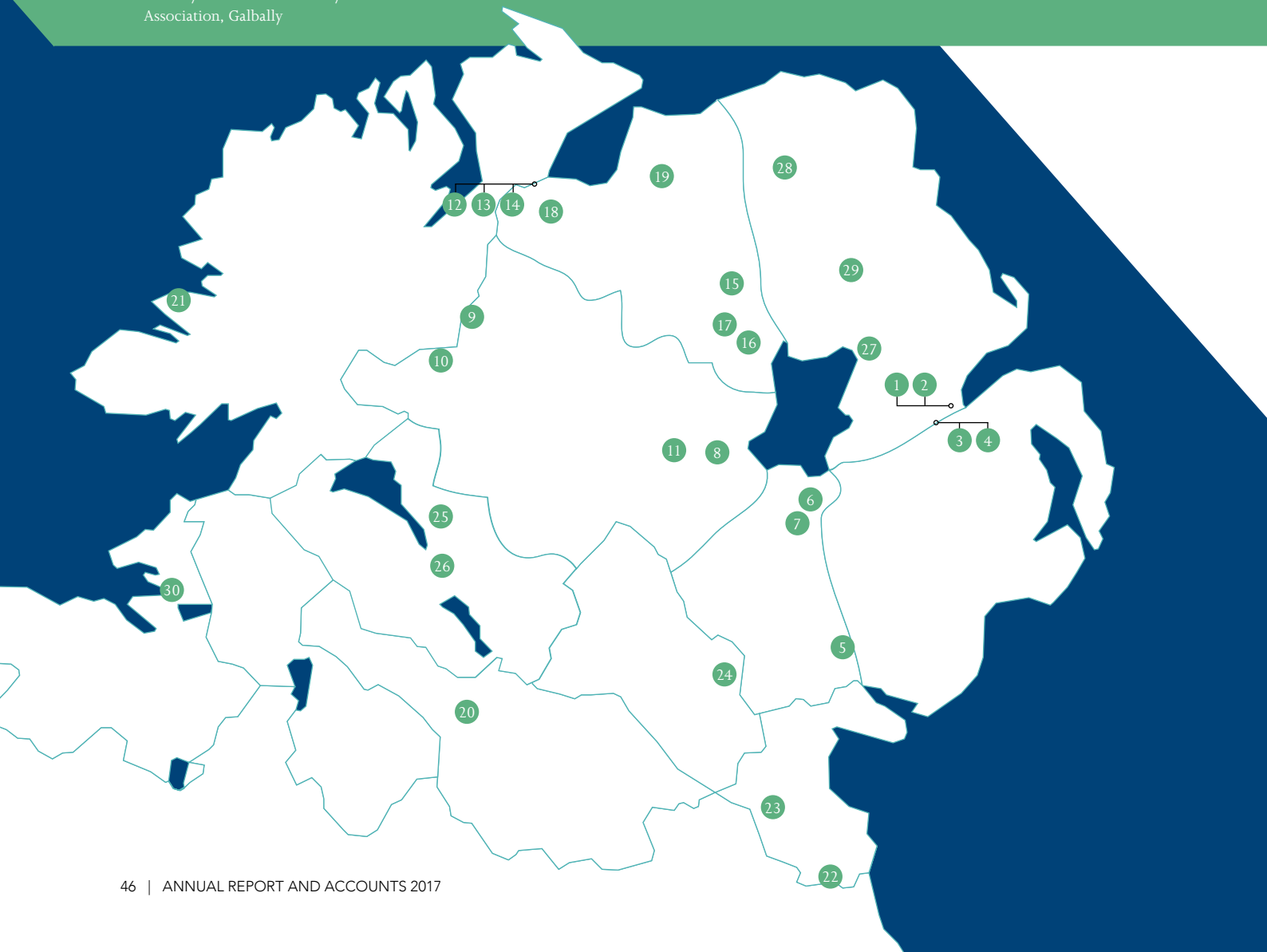
25. Fermanagh Sports & Cultural Awareness Association, Ballinamallard
26. Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative, Enniskillen

ANTRIM

27. Inter Estates Partnership, Antrim
28. Ulidia Training, Ballymoney
29. The Carson Project, Ballymena

SLIGO

30. Sligo Leader Development Company, Sligo



The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) focuses on the needs of young people who are at risk of isolation, polarisation and/or recruitment to organisations opposed to the Peace Process. It enables each participant to take control of their own personal development through a multi-tiered approach that offers significant individualised support with community, social and economic elements.

ABOVE:
PYDP creates opportunities for young people to improve their individual circumstances and make a positive contribution to their communities.

Personal Youth Development Programme

Launched in November 2015, the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) is designed to help young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

In the last year:

30 Personal Youth Development Projects were started

24 Projects started in Northern Ireland

6 Projects started in southern border counties

£3.3m / €3.9m Grants committed to the Personal Youth Development Programme

Between January 2016 and June 2017

366 People participated in PYDP projects

16 Young people secured employment

147 Completed employment related training

32 Strategic partnerships have been formed

9 Young people completed work placements

178 Completed accredited training

19 Young people progressed on to education and training

134 Completed good relations training

Characteristics of PYDP projects

PYDP engages 16-25 year olds that are vulnerable to polarisation and face barriers to participation in mainstream provision. It is designed to engage young people who may have:

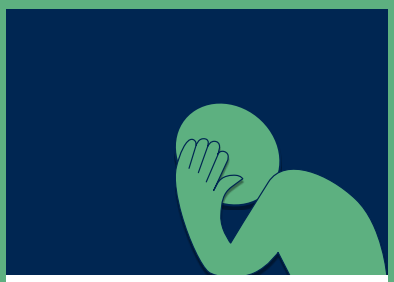
Left education with no or low qualifications or who left the education system early

Been or currently are involved in substance abuse

Become affected by homelessness

Come from a difficult family background

Been in, or close to, the criminal justice system



Suffered from poor health including mental health issues

Mistrust of statutory institutions

Not participated in civic society in a positive manner

Come from communities with a negative view of their future

"I left school with nothing but the PYDP Programme has given me the support I needed to complete qualifications including; OCN in Youth Work, Good Relations, Health and Safety and First Aid certificates. Initially, when I joined I was very anxious about meeting people but now my confidence has grown and I enjoy getting to socialise with others. I plan to stick with the project for the next two years to continue my progress."

Scott, a 25-year old participant on the Building Brighter Futures PYDP Project led by Limavady-based Roe Valley Residents Association

Galbally Youth and Community Association

Bronagh Murtagh, project coordinator of the Game Changer Personal Youth Development Programme being delivered by Galbally Youth and Community Association in Tyrone, has no misapprehensions about the scale of the task.

ABOVE: The project has given young people the chance to organise events within the community.

The programme deals with young people aged 16-25 years who come from very difficult backgrounds – two live in a homeless shelter, some are dependent on alcohol and/or drugs, many have mental health problems ranging from anxiety and depression to schizophrenia.

She adds:"Some have been through the care system since early childhood but that care package ended when they reached the age of 18 and then they had to care for themselves.

"To get these young people to participate in our programme two days a week – to even get them to get up in the morning and come through our doors – is a huge achievement for them. Many of them did not have any reason for getting up most days."

Given the problems the young people face Bronagh is hugely encouraged by the progress made to date.

The Association began its Game Changer programme in 2016 with 19 participants and this year was given a £254,365 funding package by the International Fund for Ireland to build on that work. Simultaneously a cohort of 10 young people furthest away from employment, education or training in rural areas of south and east Tyrone have been recruited to engage in the programme.

While the programme may be designed for two-days a week, the demands of the young people can be much more time consuming.

Bronagh says: "The work we do with them does not end at 3pm when they leave the building. Many of them remain in contact

"The work we do with them does not end at 3pm when they leave the building. Many of them remain in contact with us, often right through to the early hours of the morning."

with us, often right through to the early hours of the morning. On one recent weekend a problem involving one of the young people which arose on Friday took one member of our staff the whole weekend to resolve.

"That is indicative of the support the team here gives to the young people. We are trying to improve their personal lives as much as giving them training and steering them towards employment. Ninety percent of those involved have engaged with us on programmes. Eight from last year have moved on to employment- they didn't have a single qualification when they came here.

"One of our first tasks is to test them for things like dyslexia to help them with their literacy skills and then engage them in Open College Network (OCN) courses such as personal development, good relations and vocational skills. Work placements, work experience, training in enterprise and simple things like how to fill in further education forms are all part of the programme."
Some of the progress has been startling. One young man is taking an access course for university and a girl who suffered greatly from lack of confidence and self-esteem has enrolled in a course which she hopes will see her open her own beauty business.

Not everything goes smoothly. One participant was returned to prison after reoffending, but staff from the programme made sure that he realised they had not abandoned him. A letter of support was sent to the authorities. "We don't agree with his behaviour", says Bronagh, "but we wanted him to know that we are still an option for him in the future."

The Association is sited in a strongly Republican area, so intake to the current programme has been single identity. However, there are plans to link with another project in Antrim which operates in a Loyalist area bringing the young people together and broadening their horizons.

Bronagh admits the intensity of the work can be exhausting but the rewards are worth it "we try to have as much craic as possible with the young people."

LEFT: A participant paints children's faces at a community event.

RIGHT: The project has shown people that there are alternative options open to them.

ABOVE: Children from the local community take part in lots of regular activity organised by the project.

Roe Valley Residents Association

Reality television show The Apprentice is the inspiration behind a novel approach to helping young people in the Limavady area overcome their complex social and educational problems.

ABOVE: The project encouraged young people to look at employment options and develop important life and work skills.

Some 45 young people, aged 16-25, are taking part in the Building Better Futures Project which is now in its second year and run by Roe Valley Residents Association with support from the International Fund for Ireland's Personal Youth Development Programme. As part of their development, a number of the participants were asked to pitch business ideas to the Association and given a small budget to set the ball rolling.

Project coordinator Karen Campbell says: "This a quite a diverse group of young people. Some are not at the stage where they are ready to seek employment but others are dying to get that opportunity. It was for the latter that we decided to imitate The Apprentice and set them the task of coming up with a viable business idea which they had to pitch to us.

"Their initial plans involved creating Christmas gifts as we had a number of craft fairs during the festive season. Some of the young people are very creative."

For Karen and the rest of the team involved in the programme this represents a giant step forward for the young people involved.

She explains: "The housing estates which form our catchment area are among the most deprived in Northern Ireland. There is a lack of services, many young people leave school with no qualifications, some simply refused to go to school.

"There are also some mental health problems ranging from low level anxiety and lack of confidence in social situations to severe depression and dependency on prescription drugs."

"There is a growing respect for each other which is apparent even during the marching season which sees this area covered in flags and bunting and which used to be very segregated at such times."

The initial tasks of the project were to tackle the young people's low self-esteem, lack of aspiration and breaking the generational cycle of living on benefits.

Karen adds: "The unique aspect of this project is that it is tailored to each individual's needs; it is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Our staff form working relationships with the young people and set them attainable goals.

"Of the 30 young people recruited for the first project in 2016, 25 have returned for the new two-year project. They have a sense of membership and belonging which they never had before."

Core objectives include building up leadership skills, communication skills and giving them qualifications which make them more employable. In the first year, project accredited qualifications were obtained in first aid at work, health and safety at work, good relations and sports leadership. A number of non-accredited qualifications and personal development workshops were also delivered.

Two young people who had never worked before are now in jobs, four others have applied for work, four have applied to take part in part-time and full-time formal education at the Northwest Regional College and five volunteer in a range of community activities being delivered by the Association.

While the Association's premises are situated in a largely Unionist estate, the intake to the project is roughly 50/50 between young people from Unionist and Nationalist backgrounds. Indeed it has helped them understand each other better and given them a new appreciation of each other's' culture.

Karen adds: "There is a growing respect for each other which is apparent even during the marching season which sees this area covered in flags and bunting and which used to be very segregated at such times".

For Karen and her team it is the flexibility of the project which makes it the ideal vehicle to help its target cohort. "It is a project which meets the needs of people who require so much help. It is flexible and we can build in fun ideas like "The Apprentice" which appeals to those taking part."

LEFT: The group has engaged with a diverse group of young people.

RIGHT: This project encourages each person to identify their own development needs.

ABOVE: A participant takes part in a recent Healthy Minds workshop with the Limavady project.

North Connaught Youth and Community Services

For Bridget Kilrane of North Connaught Youth and Community Services, the strength of their Personal Youth Development Project is that it is the only one in County Leitrim that actively goes out to engage with young people at risk.

ABOVE: The project invested time to carefully build up trust with the young people and enable them to develop their own individual plans.

She says: "I have met with young people on the project in their homes. Unlike other projects which are set up and expect people to come to them we do the opposite initially. If I did not go out to the young people most of them would simply stay in their houses. No other organisation operates at that level, meeting young people where they are, not where we expect them to come to."

It has been a successful tactic with 12 young men and women, aged 16-25, taking part in the project. Indeed four of the participants actually contacted Bridget to take part after hearing what some of their peers thought of it.

Bridget adds: "The very first step is to sit each participant down and talk through where they are in their lives. We explore their self-confidence, their physical and mental health, how they relate to their local community, what risks they face in their lives from drug or alcohol addiction and how they see their future.

"That enables me and them to draw up a plan on the areas that we need to concentrate on and how we can progress."

The project started in January and a lot of time was spent building up trust with the young people and working on their individual programmes. Tools like the Decider Programme which addresses issues like anxiety or stress are used and the young people are taught life skills like budgeting, cleaning and how to live properly on their own. It is a method which has proved very successful to date.

The project has been working with the local council to find accommodation for one

"On this side of the border we have a skewered vision of what happened in Northern Ireland and I felt it would be good to expose the young people to the reality of life there. They really engaged with the visit."

LEFT AND RIGHT: The project recently brought some of the young people to Belfast to see Crumlin Road Gaol and the Peace Walls in the north of the city.

participant who is homeless, another has passed his driving test and two others have completed the driving theory test. Due to the rural nature of County Leitrim and its lack of public transport, many young people suffer social isolation without access to their own transport.

A number of young women have taken part in art classes which enables them to interact but without having to do it face-to-face. One of the girls now wants to go on to art college. Two others were interested in hairdressing and the project pressed for a training centre to be established in Carrick-on-Shannon. The girls were brought to the centre to see how it operates and helped with their application.

Bridget says: "If left to themselves the girls may never have even filled in the form. They lacked self-confidence and were unsure how to approach interviews.

"Some of the young people on this course were unable to look me in the eye when they joined. They are a good bunch of young people but lacked social skills and the ability to interact with people.

Parts of Leitrim are strongly Republican and recently Bridget brought some of the young people to Belfast to see Crumlin Road Gaol and the Peace Walls.

"On this side of the border we have a skewered vision of what happened in Northern Ireland and I felt it would be good to expose the young people to the reality of life there. They really engaged with the visit."

Looking to the future Bridget is keen that the project is extended to a higher level where the young people would be given training to increase their employment opportunities.

"This could take the form of apprenticeships or courses tailored to their specific needs. Our initial aim was to get them to the stage where they feel good enough in themselves and safe enough in their environment to move on. Moving on is the next stage."

Personal Youth Development Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Inter Estate Partnership Parkhall Shopping Centre Steeple Antrim Co Antrim	A structured youth intervention programme that aims to reduce young people becoming involved in anti-social activity and help address the alienation and disaffection in socially isolated and deprived communities.	81,021
ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project Moyraverty Community Centre Moyraverty Co Armagh	A structured youth based programme of personal development activities within the Brownlow area of Craigavon.	79,215
Edgarstown Residents Association Union Street Portadown Co Armagh	A structured programme of personal development and skills training to support young people who reside in six areas in Portadown.	77,300
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA		
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum Cliftonpark Avenue Belfast Co Antrim	The COPE (Caring, Opportunity, Peace Building, Empowerment) Programme works with young people in the highly segregated wards of Crumlin, Shankill and Waterworks in North Belfast.	94,655
Shankill Women's Centre Shankill Road Belfast Co Antrim	A structured programme of support offering a range of accredited training for twenty young people residing in the Shankill and Falls areas of Belfast.	106,349
Springboard Opportunities Ltd North Street Belfast	'Catalyst' is a youth led programme offering support and training in North and West Belfast.	105,279

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
CO ANTRIM		
Workforce Training Services Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	A collaboration between Workforce and Impact Training targeting 14-16 year olds from West Belfast and greater Shankill.	118,319
CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Roe Valley Residents Association Keady Way Limavady Co Derry	'Building Brighter Futures' is a structured youth based programme in Limavady and surrounding areas.	285,509
Ulidia Training Main Street Ballymoney Co Antrim	An individualised intervention programme offering good relations development, employment, educational and civic opportunities to young people living in four specific areas of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area.	87,765
DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Border Arts 2000 Main Street Castlederg Co Londonderry	'Level Up for Work' is a youth focused programme of personal development activities and training opportunities in Castlederg, Newtownstewart and Victoria Bridge.	157,588
Creggan Enterprises Ltd Rath Mor Centre Blighs Lane Derry Co Londonderry	'Lifehack' is a structured youth based programme covering the TRIAX areas (Creggan, Bogside & Brandywell).	100,049
Leafair Community Association Skeoge House Leafair Park Derry Co Londonderry	A structured youth based programme offering support and training in the Greater Shantallow area of Derry.	90,093

Personal Youth Development Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Lettershandoney & District Development Group The Community House Lettershandoney Derry	'Tús Nua' – 'New Start' is a structured youth focused programme delivering training and support in the Lettershandoney, Eglinton, Tamnaherin and Ardmore areas.	206,322
St Columbs Park House Limavady Road Derry Co Londonderry	A personal development and good relations youth focused programme that aims to build the capacity of marginalised young people in the wards of the Waterside Interface, The Diamond, Caw and Lisnagelvin.	112,530
Strabane AYE Patrick Street Strabane Co Tyrone	The Strabane Youth Support Programme delivers a range of support that actively engages young people and develops their capacity, confidence and skills.	91,888
FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative Tempo Road Enniskillen Co Fermanagh	A structured programme of training, development and support offering a range of training in good relations, personal development and skills development.	200,180
Fermanagh Sports & Cultural Awareness Association Main Street Ballinamallard Co Fermanagh	A structured youth based programme covering the rural areas in Fermanagh, including the wards of Ballinamallard, Kesh, Ederney and Lack, Irvinestown and Boho, Cleenish and Letterbreen.	87,386
MID & EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
The Carson Project Larne Street Ballymena Co Antrim	A structured youth based programme which aims to empower young people with confidence, skills and knowledge to help them gain greater access to employment, education and training.	100,273

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Coalisland Training Services Dungannon Road Coalisland Co Tyrone	The Assist Youth Partnership Project provides empowerment, education and employment opportunities in Coalisland and surrounding areas.	79,759
Galbally Youth & Community Association Lurgylea Rd Galbally Co Tyrone	'Game Changer' is a structured programme based on a person centred approach to learning for young people aged 16-25.	254,365
Glasgowbury High Street Draperstown Co Londonderry	A structured youth based programme for those interested in pursuing a career within the creative industry across Mid Ulster.	89,760
Maghera Cross Community Link St Lurach Road Maghera Co Londonderry	The Link Youth Achievement Project provides structured support offering personal development and skills building in Maghera and surrounding areas.	79,209
Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association Union Road Magherafelt Co Londonderry	The 'Grasped' project operates in Castledawson, Magherafelt, Garvagh and Randalstown supporting young people at risk of isolation, marginalisation and criminality.	57,049
NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Clanrye Group Drumintee Road Newry Co Down	'Regener8' aims to equip and empower young people within the Newry and South Armagh area.	80,807

Personal Youth Development Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
CO CAVAN		
Focus Family Resource Centre Main Street Killeshandra Co Cavan	Young persons innovative development initiative focusing on personal and employment progression. First youth led project based in Border area of rural West Cavan.	77,390
CO DONEGAL		
Downstrands Family Resource Centre Kilclooney Portnoo Co Donegal	An 18 month structured programme of good relations, personal and skills development in South West Donegal targeting young people aged 16 – 25 years to improve the wellbeing and life chances for young people from the disadvantaged areas in the region.	91,443
CO LOUTH		
Ardee & District Community Trust Market Street Ardee Co Louth	A 12-month employment, education and training programme for disadvantaged young persons in the Ardee and mid-Louth region.	70,400
Connect Family Resource Centre Moneymore Drogheda Co Louth	A personal development, training and education programme for young people from both sides of Drogheda town, which works closely with statutory services and other youth projects in the area.	81,808
CO MONAGHAN		
Youth Work Ireland - Monaghan Fairview Thomas Street Castleblaney Co Monaghan	Based in the rural areas of Castleblayney and East Cavan area of Bailieborough the project delivers personal development training for at-risk young people, enabling them to explore personal development and employment pathways.	82,245
CO SLIGO		
Sligo Leader Development Company Cleveragh Road Sligo Town Co Sligo	A 12 month initiative for young persons at risk with personal development, training and education programmes delivered through a unique individual mentoring approach.	84,539

ABOVE: Young People pictured at a recent Changing Landscape project event.

"There have been tremendous highs and lows over the last 12 months, which only demonstrates further that there is a real need for our work to continue. We are addressing issues that deeply affect young people on a daily basis and are giving them the tools to build their confidence and skill sets to build a more positive future."

Nigel Duke, Project Co-ordinator of the Edgarstown Residents Association's 'Changing the Landscape' Personal Youth Development Project.

Shared Education Programme

ABOVE: The Fund is committed to continuing its work in education.

Education remains one of the most divided areas of everyday life in Northern Ireland with more than 90% of pupils attending non-integrated schools. In the last decade, the International Fund for Ireland has been instrumental in developing ground-breaking initiatives that have not only delivered improved educational outcomes, but have also brought about more shared classrooms and shared learning in an otherwise separated schooling system.

Innovative shared education initiatives, supported by the Fund, provided the compelling evidence base that enabled legislators to enshrine shared education in statute [The Shared Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2016]. This has opened the way for other statutory and other interventions to progress the shared education agenda.

The Fund is proud of the achievements that have made sharing a part of education delivery in every classroom in Northern Ireland. However, despite these progressive steps forward the Fund's work in this area is not finished. In the reporting period we have engaged with a range of stakeholders to motivate, encourage and challenge new thinking. We remain committed to exploring discreet and innovative interventions that build on our significant investment and add value to the outworking of the Executive's shared education priority.

Reaching Out

For more than 30 years, the International Fund for Ireland has enabled significant political and civic progress to be made as it pursued its objectives of promoting economic and social advance.

MAIN: Ned Lazarus, Visiting Professor of International Affairs, The George Washington University (centre); pictured with Billy Gamble, Fund Board Member; and Ciaran Shannon, Duncairn Community Partnership.

BELOW: Prof Brandon Hamber, the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, has engaged a range of international and local delegations and contributed to forums for sharing lessons on peace.

As times and circumstances have changed, the Fund has continued to keep pace and led a wide range of ground-breaking initiatives that yielded better opportunities for education, economic development, and community reconciliation.

Given its history over the last three decades, the Fund is committed to sharing its experiences as a model for intervention with other organisations and regions seeking to move beyond conflict to creating more stable civic societies. In the last year, the Fund has actively pursued opportunities to share its history and achievements.

In March, the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Embassy of Ireland in Washington DC invited the International Fund for Ireland to contribute to a special event that examined how lessons from Ireland might be applied to the difficult process of peace making and peace building between Israelis and Palestinians. Former Senator George Mitchell, who served as an envoy in both peace processes, delivered the keynote address.

ABOVE: Joel Braunold, Director at the Alliance for Middle East Peace pictured with Billy Gamble, Fund Board Member; and Brian Dunne, Greater Whitewell Community Surgery.

Speaking on the role of peace building organisations like the Fund, Senator Mitchell said: "A peace agreement that is not built upon a foundation of economic stability and opportunity for all, is a peace agreement that cannot endure. That's why it is so critically important that the independent organisations and the government organisations concentrate their efforts on the acquisition of skills, the acquisition of knowledge to enable people to gain the knowledge and skill to achieve success in life, to provide them the opportunity for success in life so that they can become productive participating citizens in a positive economy."

The proceedings in Washington D.C. enabled the Fund to deepen its knowledge share with the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), an independent network of non-governmental organisations that is working to foster reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East.

Later in the year, the Fund welcomed Joel Braunold, Director at ALLMEP and Ned Lazarus, Visiting Professor of International Affairs, The George Washington University. The visit served to build a better understanding of the development, evolution and structure of the Fund model and its potential for replication in the Middle East.

A subsequent report from Professor Lazarus, on behalf of Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre, recommended the establishment of an international fund to "scale up" Israeli-Palestinian civil society peacebuilding.

Professor Lazarus wrote: "Following the successful precedent of the International Fund for Ireland, this new Fund would provide a consistent, sustainable and transparent funding source equipped to bring to scale successful models and best practices, and achieve broader impact and influence in Israeli and Palestinian societies."

Engagement with Latin America has also been a focus and in May, the Fund was pleased to meet and discuss its work with a philanthropic delegation from Colombia. Hosted by INCORE at Ulster University, the event highlighted the Fund's objectives, strategic approach, continued development, risk-taking for peace, practical achievements and current role in peace building.

During this event, Prof Brandon Hamber also reflected on the role of John Hume

and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace and offered an academic perspective on Northern Ireland's journey towards peace. Elsewhere, the Chair – which is co-funded by the Fund – has engaged a range of international and local delegations and contributed to forums for sharing lessons on peace. Some 20 events involving the Chair took place over the year, most involving sharing and lesson-learning processes.

A major long running outreach success for the International Fund for Ireland has been the AMBIT Programme, an intensive transatlantic study visit developed with support from the US Consulate in Belfast. It brings together local community leaders from both sides of the border and engages with exemplar projects in the United States of America that address complex community issues.

Now in its 14th year, the programme has enabled more than 150 participants to benefit from specialised training and networking that reflect a broad annual theme. In recent years' topics have included influencing policy, young leader development, community development and establishing alternatives to mainstream provision. The 2017 theme related to supporting young people at risk. The accumulated learning and influence of the AMBIT network is significant and in September 2017 the first programme Alumni event took place in Belfast, offering all past participants a chance to reconnect, establish new contacts and share experiences.

Coordinated by the Washington Ireland Program, the inaugural event featured a guest address from Jake Sullivan – a former security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden – who invited guests to consider new approaches to influence policy before representatives of the 2017 AMBIT peer group shared reflections of the most recent study visits to New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC. The AMBIT Alumni is an important conduit that encourages richer and sustained collaboration on a cross-border, cross-community and transatlantic basis.

The Fund has never shied away from sharing the learning of its programmes nor working in partnership with policy makers and funding bodies locally and in other international areas. Our door is open and we will continue to be active in our engagements with other organisations and regions seeking to move beyond conflict and creating more stable civic societies.

ABOVE: In May, the Fund met and discussed its work with a philanthropic delegation from Colombia.

LEFT: Joel Braunold, Director at the Alliance for Middle East Peace pictured with Leeanne Marshall and Kate Clarke, Duncairn Community Partnership.

RIGHT: The 2017 AMBIT peer group celebrate the completion of the study visit at the US Consul General's residence, Belfast.

Accounts

Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2017

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Board Members' Statement

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 22 February 2018.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") because they do not reflect the performance of the venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors' report on those financial statements and the Board Members' annual report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from The International Fund for Ireland at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

Statement of Board Members' responsibilities in respect of the Annual Report and the financial statements

The Board Members are responsible for preparing the financial statement for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") and of the surplus or deficit of the Fund for that period. In fulfilling that responsibility, they have decided to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

In preparing those financial statements, the Board Members have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Board Members confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with best practice. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Fund and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board Members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Fund's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom and Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Board

Dr Adrian Johnston
Chairman
22 February 2018

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of the International Fund for Ireland

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our opinion

In our opinion, International Fund for Ireland's non-statutory financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Fund's affairs as at 30 September 2017 and of its loss and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

What we have audited

The financial statements, included within the Annual Report & Accounts (the "Annual Report"), comprise:

- the Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2017;
- the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year then ended;
- the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended;
- the Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended; and
- the Notes to The Financial Statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE AUDIT

Our responsibilities and those of the Board Members

As explained more fully in the Board Member's Statement set out on page 69, the Board Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) ("ISAs (UK & Ireland)"). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Fund's Board Members as a body for to enable you to fulfil your obligation to the Board to obtain an audit of the Fund's financial statements in accordance with our engagement letter dated 6 September 2017 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the company, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board Members; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We primarily focus our work in these areas by assessing the Board Members judgements against available evidence, forming our own judgements, and evaluating the disclosures in the financial statements.

We test and examine information, using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we consider necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to draw conclusions. We obtain audit evidence through testing the effectiveness of controls, substantive procedures or a combination of both.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

OTHER MATTER

We draw attention to the fact that these financial statements have not been prepared under section 394 of the Companies Act 2006 and are not the company's statutory financial statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
Belfast
22 February 2018

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 30 September 2017

		Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
		2017	2016	2017	2016
	Notes	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Income	2	898	2,955	1,019	3,423
Expenditure					
Approved projects	7	9,755	4,995	11,075	5,788
Net administrative expenses	3	297	304	338	351
Impairment provision	4	–	–	–	–
Gain on disposal of fixed asset investment		(2,343)	–	(2,660)	–
		7,709	5,299	8,753	6,139
Excess of expenditure over income		(6,811)	(2,344)	(7,734)	(2,716)
Movement in the Fund balance					
At 30 September 2016		22,161	24,408	28,327	34,692
Exchange differences on retranslation at 1 October 2016		2	97	(488)	(3,649)
		22,163	24,505	27,839	31,043
Excess of expenditure over income for the Year		(6,811)	(2,344)	(7,734)	(2,716)
At 30 September 2017		15,352	22,161	20,105	28,327

The amounts above relate to the continuing operations of the Fund. There is no difference between the excess of expenditure over income and its historical cost equivalent. Accordingly, no note of historical cost excess of expenditure over income has been prepared.

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year ended 30 September 2017

	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Excess of expenditure over income	(6,811)	(2,344)	(7,734)	(2,716)
Currency translation difference charged to the Fund balance	2	97	(488)	(3,649)
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year	(6,809)	(2,247)	(8,222)	(6,365)

The notes on pages 75 to 80 form part of the financial statements.

Balance Sheet
as at 30 September 2017

		Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
		2017	2016	2017	2016
	Notes	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	5,791	6,198	9,256	9,829
Current assets					
Cash at bank and on deposit	11	18,850	20,880	21,400	24,199
Donor contributions due	5	568	591	644	685
Other amounts receivable	6	11	35	10	38
		19,429	21,506	22,054	24,922
Current liabilities					
Approved project expenditure outstanding	7	(7,092)	(2,886)	(8,052)	(3,344)
Creditors	9	(2,776)	(2,657)	(3,153)	(3,080)
		(9,868)	(5,543)	(11,205)	(6,424)
Net current assets		9,561	15,963	10,849	18,498
Net assets		15,352	22,161	20,105	28,327
Fund balance at 30 September 2017		15,352	22,161	20,105	28,327

Approved by the Board on 22 February 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Adrian Johnston
Chairman

Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Member of the Board

The notes on pages 75 to 80 form part of the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

for year ended 30 September 2017

	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
	2017	2016	**2017**	2016
	£'000	£'000	**€'000**	€'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Excess of expenditure over income	**(6,811)**	(2,344)	**(7,734)**	(2,716)
Adjustments for:				
Decrease /(increase) in donor contributions due	**23**	1,647	**41**	2,333
(Decrease)/increase in approved project expenditure outstanding	**4,206**	868	**4,708**	621
Decrease/(increase) in other amounts receivable	**24**	31	**26**	51
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and accrued expenses	**65**	329	**73**	(57)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of assets	**(2,343)**	0	**(2,660)**	0
Interest received	**(98)**	(92)	**(111)**	(107)
Exchange difference in opening balance	**(19)**	(666)	**34**	(389)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**(4,953)**	(227)	**(5,623)**	(264)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Purchase of fixed asset investments	**–**	–	**–**	–
Disposal of fixed asset investments	**2,750**	5,000	**3,122**	5,794
Interest received	**98**	92	**111**	107
Net cash from investing activities	**2,848**	5,092	**3,233**	5,901
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	**(2,105)**	4,865	**(2,390)**	5,637
Balance at 1 October 2016	**20,880**	15,252	**24,199**	20,570
Retranslation to current year exchange rates	**75**	763	**(409)**	(2,008)
Balance at 1 October 2016 retranslated to current year exchange rates	**20,955**	16,015	**23,790**	18,562
Balance at 30 September 2017	**18,850**	20,880	**21,400**	24,199

The notes on pages 75 to 80 form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements consists of the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland including Financial Reporting Standard 102. These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention. They are prepared in order to present financial information relating to the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") on a non-consolidated basis.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Fund because they do not reflect the performance of the Enterprise Equity venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors' report on those financial statements and the Board Members' annual report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from the Fund at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 22 February 2018.

The principal accounting policies are set out below.

Currencies

The Fund's transactions are effected in the currencies of each part of Ireland. The financial statements are presented in both currencies, each representing an aggregation of all of the transactions for the year in each part of Ireland translated at the respective exchange rates at the year end. Differences arising on the restatement, to the year end exchange rate, of monetary assets and liabilities (e.g. amounts due from funders, amounts due to projects and bank balances) at the start of the financial year are adjusted against the Fund balance, reported in the statement of total recognised gains and losses and accounted through reserves.

Non-monetary assets (e.g. equity or debt investments in subsidiaries) are not subject to retranslation at each year end. However, any foreign exchange gains or losses arising on the disposal of non-monetary assets are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period that they arise.

Approved projects

The Fund make grants to fund or assist in the funding of projects and to make or enter into arrangements which are designed to meet expenditure that promotes economic and social advance and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland.

The income and expenditure account reflects the anticipated cost of projects approved in the year (after deduction of projects which did not proceed) and related administration expenditure. The projects approved in the year are considered as a hard commitment, which is defined as the grant sum payable over the life of a project on which we have a written contractual agreement with the applicant. Hard commitments are charged to the income statement in the year that the contracts are signed. Project approvals are shown on the balance sheet as a liability, the balance being reduced as payments to grant recipients are released.

Loans

Funds disbursed to projects by way of loans are reflected in the total of the programme disbursements and are not included in the balance sheet. Any loan repayments received during the year are credited to the income and expenditure account.

Interest income

The income and expenditure account includes interest credited to the bank deposit accounts during the year together with interest accrued, but not actually credited, at the year end.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their purchase cost less any provision for diminution in value. Investment income is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Income recognition

Donor countries allocate Funds on the basis of calendar years. The whole amount allocated is recognised in the financial year when it has been contractually allocated by the donor country.

Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the Fund's accounting policies, no significant judgements have been made. There are no key assumptions concerning the future or other key sources of estimation, that have a significant risk of raising a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 INCOME

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
From donors after exchange rate adjustments				
United States of America (2017: US$0.75m; 2016: US$0.75m)	562	576	638	668
ROI (2017: nil; 2016: 2.5m Euro)	0	2,157	0	2,500
UK Gov't (2017: £0.25m ; 2016: £ nil)	249	–	282	–
Exchange rate adjustments	(20)	109	(23)	124
	791	2,842	897	3,292
Interest receivable	96	72	109	83
Miscellaneous income	11	41	13	48
	107	113	122	131
	898	2,955	1,019	3,423

The exchange rate adjustments relate to exchange gains and losses arising from the translation of US$ and Euro denominated donor contributions. The exchange translation losses consist of £19k/€22k of realised losses and £1k/€1k of unrealised losses (2016:£109k/€124k of realised gains). The extent to which any unrealised gain or loss is realised will depend on exchange rate movements up to the date of receipt of contributions due.

3 NET ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Board Members' fees	90	90	102	105
Board meetings	30	7	34	8
Consultancy and other fees	132	156	150	181
Auditors' remuneration - Audit	31	11	35	12
Travelling and subsistence	54	55	62	64
Postage, stationery, telephone and office	24	16	27	19
Promotional and advertising expenses	97	86	110	100
Miscellaneous	33	20	38	21
	491	441	558	510
Less: Contributions receivable from the Governments of the UK and Ireland in respect of an element of the above expenses	(194)	(137)	(220)	(159)
	297	304	338	351

4 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investment £'000	€'000
Cost		
At 1 October 2016	7,124	11,332
Foreign exchange re-translation	–	–
At 1 October 2016 re-translated	7,124	11,332
Additions	–	–
Disposals	(407)	(573)
At 30 September 2017	**6,717**	**10,759**
Provision		
At 1 October 2016	926	1,503
Charge in year	–	–
At 30 September 2017	**926**	**1,503**
Net book value		
At 30 September 2017	**5,791**	**9,256**
At 30 September 2016	6,198	9,829

5 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS DUE

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
United States of America				
- 2016 (US$0.75m)	7	14	8	17
- 2017 (US$0.75m)	561	577	636	668
	568	591	644	685

6 OTHER AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Government contributions	0	20	0	23
Bank interest receivable	11	15	10	15
	11	35	10	38

7 APPROVED PROJECT EXPENDITURE OUTSTANDING

The totals of the Fund's project disbursements in the year ended 30 September 2017 and the movements in approved projects outstanding are as follows:

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2016	2,886	2,018	3,334	2,723
Foreign exchange re-translation	17	36	(48)	(341)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2016	2,903	2,054	3,296	2,382
Project approvals in the year	9,755	4,995	11,075	5,788
Project disbursements in the year	(5,566)	(4,163)	(6,319)	(4,826)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2017	7,092	2,886	8,052	3,344

8 CUMULATIVE APPROVED PROJECTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TO DATE

Cumulatively, the totals of the Fund's approved projects and project disbursements to date are summarised:

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Total approved projects to date	728,496	718,724	914,630	903,603
Less contributions to investment companies	(27,142)	(27,142)	(40,023)	(40,023)
	701,354	691,582	874,607	863,580
Total disbursements to projects and administration costs to date	(694,262)	(688,696)	(866,555)	(860,236)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2017	7,092	2,886	8,052	3,344

To date the Fund has approved total payments in respect of specific projects and administration costs to a total of £728/€915m (2016: £719/€904m) after deduction of approved projects which did not proceed.

The approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2017 reported in the balance sheet represents the unspent balance of the projects approved for which a claim for payment of grant has yet to be received.

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER LESS THAN ONE YEAR

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Accruals	81	69	92	80
Deferred income	53	-	61	-
Loan – IFI Financial investments	2,642	2,588	3,000	3,000
	2,776	2,657	3,153	3,080

10 LOANS

The aggregate of euro denominated loans made by the Fund and outstanding at 30 September 2017 amounted to €160k (2016: €160k). The equivalent sterling value as translated at the relevant year end rate amounted to £140k (2016: £138k).

11 COMPONENTS OF CASH AT BANK AND ON DEPOSIT

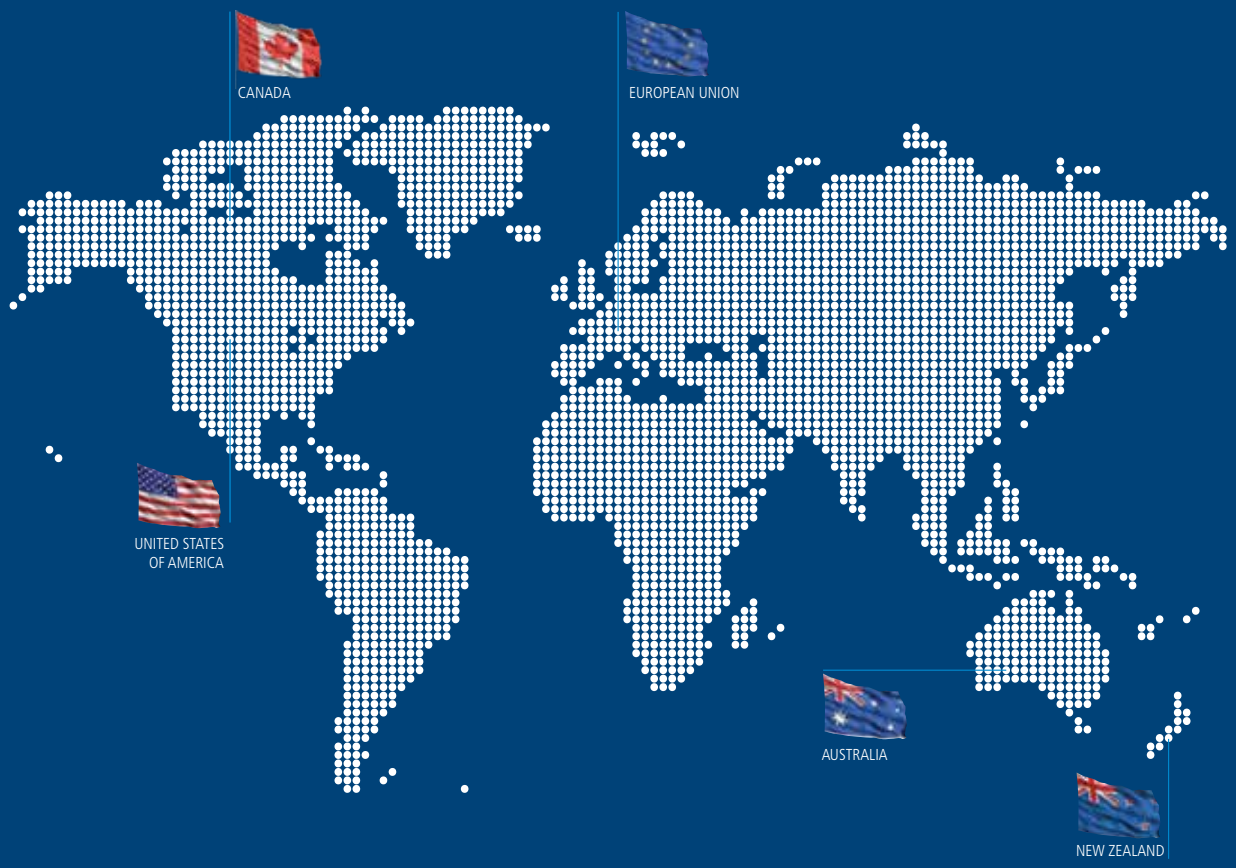
	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Cash	18,850	20,880	21,400	24,199
	18,850	20,880	21,400	24,199

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR AND OF APPROVED PROJECTS OUTSTANDING AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2017 (UNAUDITED)

	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2016	Retranslated at 30 Sept 2017	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2016 (retranslated)	Project approvals and admin costs	Project and admin disbursements	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2017
Expressed in £'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Building Foundations						
CBESR	24	1	25	–	–	**25**
AMBIT	–	–	–	75	91	**(16)**
Building Bridges						
Community Bridges	(19)	(2)	(21)	26	–	**5**
Building Integration						
Integrating Communities	5	(2)	3	(3)	–	**–**
Peace Projects						
Peace Walls	409	(7)	402	716	793	**325**
Peace Impact	1,567	15	1,582	5,393	3,210	**3,765**
Personal Youth Development	900	12	912	3,548	1,472	**2,988**
	2,886	17	2,903	9,755	5,566	**7,092**

Expressed in €'000	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
Building Foundations						
CBESR	28	–	28	–	–	**28**
AMBIT	–	–	–	85	103	**(18)**
Building Bridges						
Community Bridges	(24)	1	(23)	30	–	**7**
Building Integration						
Integrating Communities	6	(3)	3	(3)	–	**–**
Peace Projects						
Peace Walls	474	(18)	456	813	900	**369**
Peace Impact	1,816	(20)	1,796	6,122	3,644	**4,274**
Personal Youth Development	1,044	(8)	1,036	4,028	1,672	**3,392**
	3,344	(48)	3,296	11,075	6,319	**8,052**

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND



We remain grateful to our international donors for their support and encouragement. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £728 million and €914 million.

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