

Young Voices

youth
pact

Outcomes

Something to
say about...
Peace4Youth

Relationships

Personal
Development

Fun

Mentoring
Support

Opportunities

Citizenship

Good
Relations

29 August 2018

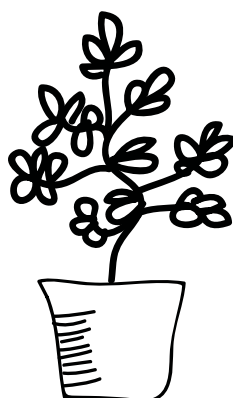


YouthPact is a project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

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"It's good to be on the programme. It pulls you out of your comfort zone whether you know it or not. It builds your confidence. It's just amazing meeting people from your own area that I didn't know and getting to know people from other communities"

Peace4Youth Programme Participant



YouthPact & Young Voices

YouthPact is the Quality and Impact body for the EU PEACE IV funded Peace4Youth Programme, managed by the SEUPB.

YouthPact is a cross-border partnership of four regional organisations:

- Co-operation Ireland (Lead Partner);
- Ulster University;
- National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI);
- Pobal.

The overall role of YouthPact is to engage with the delivery agents and their partners in the Peace4Youth funded projects to enhance the quality and maximise the impact of their work with young people by supporting a high-quality youth work approach, and nurturing a strong change and outcomes focus.

Within its overall role, a key element of YouthPact's work is to provide a youth participation mechanism to complement the work of delivery agents in this area of their practice. To deliver on this, YouthPact convened the first of six planned Peace4Youth **Young Voices** engagement and consultation events on the 29th August 2018, The Junction, Dungannon.

Alongside YouthPact staff and external contributors, 37 young people, some with additional learning needs, from eight of the then ten Peace4Youth funded projects attended. They were supported by 18 youth workers who facilitated young people's engagement and recorded their reflections, insights and experience.

All of the young people taking part in the event had been engaged on the programme for 4months+ and many reported that they were approaching the end of their participation and some were within days of completing the programme (i.e. 6months+).

Purpose

The purpose of the event was to:

- Bring together young people from across the Peace4Youth funded projects to let them see that they are part of and connected to something much bigger;
- Create the space for young people to share something they have in common, i.e. their experience of the Programme - and in doing so help give meaning to the experiences they have had;
- Identify, through the process of sharing, the essential elements of an effective Peace4Youth Programme, recognising that participants are now experts by experience;
- Use that experience to influence the shape of the Programme, give young people control, have their voice listened to, and help make sure that it is a quality learning experience for those coming after them.

Approach

This first Young Voices event was about capturing young people's experience of the Peace4Youth programme generally rather than reviewing/identifying individual projects. The event took an interactive and participatory approach. Reflective discussions were interspersed with energisers, group activities, presentations and inputs. Participants were asked to prepare written prompt-notes for their radio interview. Some of the quotations used throughout this report were recorded during group discussions, whilst others derive from these radio prompt-notes and interviews.

Over the life of the programme other Young Voices events will explore themes relevant to young people, some of which were identified during the evaluation of this event (See Appendix 1).

Programme

10:30 Registration & Breakfast

Welcome & Introduction

- Setting the scene / The Big Picture
- Icebreakers / Quiz

Young People's Stories

- Two young people sharing their experience of the programme to date

Reflective exercise (part 1)

- Table discussion on:
- What attracted you to the programme?
- What helped you stay involved?
- What got in the way of participating?

Video input - Journeys

Short video of young people talking about what they got out of taking part

Reflective exercise (part 2)

- What difference did it make?
- What made the difference?
- What are you looking forward to next?

Feedback from Table Discussions

Radio YNP Interviews

12:30 Lunch

- During lunch, we will have information stands from Careers Service, Prince's Trust & Cavan / Monaghan ETB

Signposting input

Short presentations from

- Careers Service NI
- Cavan / Monaghan ETB
- Prince's Trust

The Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

- Group exercise to capture what young people feel are the essential elements of a successful programme:
- What would you keep?
- What would you like more of?
- What would you change/ditch?
- What would you add?

Presentation of Ideal Programmes

Response to Presentations - SEUPB

Evaluation & Feedback

15:15 Thanks & Close

Speakers, Presenters & Contributors

Young people's inputs

Evan - Amplify Project, Sligo, described his months with the Amplify project, highlighting the range of activities such as residencies, surfing, abseiling, and money awareness. Speaking personally he said that increased confidence had been one of the key impacts for him, and he stressed that without engagement on the project he would never have considered this public speaking role.

Georgia - m-power project, Derry/Londonderry, described the m-power street art project, which used photography as a powerful vehicle to explore issues of mental health and suicide. In addition to awareness raising, the methodology used during the project had developed participants' problem solving skills. She noted that an m-power blog will be going live in the near future, and that the group hope to use this blog as a campaign.

Video input - Journeys Project

A brief video was shown of participants on the Springboard Journeys project, talking about their achievements and the difference the project has made in their lives. These impacts include gaining qualifications, meeting new people, being supported to plan next steps, gaining confidence, and getting experience of both volunteering and employment.

Signposting input

Nuala Madden from the Careers Service NI and Eithne O'Callaghan Cavan/Monaghan ETB both provided information about the range of statutory careers services throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. This was followed by a presentation by Conor Turley of the Prince's Trust, outlining the wide range of employment-related programmes which are open to young people in Northern Ireland.

Radio YNP

Seán McDonnell, Station Manager with **www.RadioYNP.com** set up a recording studio at the event and over the day interviewed young people, workers and contributors. This was later broadcast as a podcast - you can listen again at: **<https://www.mixcloud.com/RadioYNP/interviews-from-peace-for-youth-event-dunganon-2018-08-29/>**

From the funder

Paul Boylan, Programme Manager, SEUPB responded to presentations from young people on their 'Ideal Peace4Youth Programme'. A summary of his input can be found on page 19.



What attracted you to the programme?

Participants described their life circumstances immediately prior to embarking on the Peace4Youth project, and these accounts revealed a diversity of individual needs and starting points. Some had already been members of the youth group and were familiar with the workers and other programme participants. Some were still at school and trying to decide on their career or on further education choices, others had left school but some were in a state of uncertainty. Several participants described having been trapped in a downward spiral of unemployment, recalling how a lack of routine or sense of purpose had affected their mental health.

Given this diversity of circumstances it is unsurprising that the attraction of the Peace4Youth programme varied from person to person. However a word which was used recurrently to describe their expectations of the programme was 'opportunity'. For some, the opportunity to break from a cycle of negative behaviour or to 'get out of the house'. For others the programme sounded interesting and 'different' to other projects they had done. Many were initially attracted by the opportunity to gain skills, guidance and direction during a difficult or transitional point in their lives.

A word which was used recurrently to describe their expectations of the programme was 'opportunity'

Responses about the initial appeal of the programme largely centred around four main themes:

Social opportunities: To make new friends, team building, to socialise, to develop interpersonal relationships, to gain a sense of belonging.

Challenge: Many described the attraction of the programme in terms of being 'different', seeing the chance to try new activities and to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Some mentioned that the element of cross community and cross border was new and stimulating for them. The range of activities offered by each project was also highlighted as a major attraction, whether it be outdoor education, creative/performing arts, residential, or accredited skills courses.

Safe and secure: Some participants highlighted the importance of having a safe place to go, which would help them break from either a negative routine or a damaging relationship. The financial incentive offered by the programme was noted by some attendees as important in securing their commitment.

Supporting employability: Perceived relevance of the programme in helping to make career choices, in gaining volunteering experience which would be relevant to a career or further education course, to help to build a CV, and to gain relevant qualifications.

I have enjoyed being part of the project because...

...it's a good experience and you get to explore new opportunities

...before, I was lying in my bed doing nothing. I was bored all the time and was slowly becoming depressed... now I feel happier and more confident about myself

...it gave me the opportunity to meet new, different, and as I very quickly realised, amazing, people that I would not have met otherwise.

...opportunities to make new friends and expand my horizons

...I've met new people from different communities ...being a part of different activities

What helped you stay involved?

Responses indicate that a very wide range of factors helped young people to stay involved with the programme, including practical arrangements such as transport and free of charge food, as well as the satisfaction with interesting activities and the positive relationships within the group. In particular, the provision of one-to-one support was consistently flagged as a positive feature of the programme.

The range of responses included:

- The importance of good relationships, both with the staff and within the group. Workers were typically described as welcoming, positive and fun
- One-to-one mentoring with the key worker was mentioned by all the groups, and many emphasised the importance of confidentiality and being listened to without feeling judged
- Travel being organised and/or transport being paid for
- The ethos within the group - mutual support from peers, 'always good craic, never boring', fun, feeling part of something, 'every day we have a good laugh'
- The provision of free of charge food and refreshments
- Perceived relevance of the programme in helping participants to reach personal goals and / or supporting their career choices
- Incentive payments (although these were not available to every group, nor were the payments seen as essential by every group which received them)
- Learning new skills and a sense of achievement
- The diversity of activities, 'always something to look forward to after a long day at school'
- The cross community and/or cross border elements

I have enjoyed being part of the project because...

...It has helped me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people

...I have made so many friends and it also give me something to do during summer

...It's a fun and enthusiastic place to be, you have a lot of fun while learning and getting experience and qualified

...new experiences: building relationships; incentives

...just nice to chill out and actually get stuff done without it feeling like work

...It's a brilliant opportunity, I've got to meet new amazing people and I've got to do a lot of fun new things

What got in the way of participating?

Whilst reflections on their experiences were overwhelmingly positive, some participants did identify a number of barriers which at times impeded their participation in the project. Some issues related to the particular environment of the group, for example being in a rural location created travel issues, or encountering problems with a specific venue.

Other barriers identified during the discussion can be placed into three general categories:

External barriers: these included the July holidays, the pressure to get a job, constraints with the benefit system and with Steps to Success. The inclusion of a cross community dimension was mentioned as initially worrying for one group located in an interface.

Issues with the programme or group: the evaluation surveys were criticised by several participants as being unwieldy, time consuming, or including questions which were perceived as inappropriate. Other mandatory forms of paperwork, such as timesheets, were also felt to be too bureaucratic. Some mentioned issues within their group, such as the impact of non-attendance by some participants, or conflict between members.

Individual barriers: some young people faced competing priorities for their time, such as having a job or caring responsibilities (for parents or siblings). Other participants identified their initial lack of confidence, personal preconceptions, or their poor literacy skills as barriers. For some participants the adjustment to a new routine, with early morning starts and making a regular time commitment, had presented a personal challenge.



What difference did it make?

Participants were given a set of cards with the anticipated programme outcomes on them and asked to select those which they identified most with. Although the entire range of outcomes was mentioned, some outcomes were emphasised more than others.

In particular, the benefit of increased confidence, self-belief and self-awareness was noted by all groups, including:

- communication skills
- greater confidence in social situations
- improved ability to interact with others
- a new ability to speak in public,
- friends noticing that 'I speak up more'
- self-expression
- better ability to work in a group
- a more positive outlook on life
- less likely to 'put myself down'
- having a new sense of purpose
- ability to look at own identify and beliefs



The descriptions of personal development outcomes extended to fundamental changes in health and lifestyle for some participants, including being able to sleep better at night, to adjust to a daily routine, and being mentally well enough to come off medications.

Overall therefore, 'personal development' was the most mentioned outcome. This confirms the expectation in the Peace4Youth Programme design that "personal development or social and emotional capabilities form the foundation of the participant's learning journey in that they represent an essential platform for the development of capabilities across the other Programme outcome areas", i.e. 'citizenship' and 'good relations'.

Outcomes which were cited in terms of good relations included having greater respect for difference and being less prone to judge or to accept stereotypes. Outcomes relating to citizenship were mentioned by a few groups, with comments such as '[the programme] made me open my eyes to what happens', feeling able to take on a leadership role, as well as being more likely to carry out voluntary work or social action projects.

The range of positive comments strongly suggests that all the core planned outcomes had been achieved within all groups. Some participants specified additional outcomes, such as the acquisition of new skills, hobbies and interests, or renewed plans for a career route and/or further education choices.



Having taken part in the project I am better able to....

**...express
opinions**

**...communicate
well with others
and improve my
self confidence**

**...interact with others
under circumstances
which I would have found
difficult before, and still I
believe will benefit me in
the future**

**...take charge in
a role and be the
leader**

**...be more
confident and
more talkative**

**...be open
to new
experiences**

**...understand people from
other communities and
better able to understand
myself and what it is that I
want to do after**

**...take care of money
(money management);
communicate with
others**

What made the difference?

Responses to this question were consistent with comments previously made about the appeal of the programme, which reinforces the value of these elements for the young people. Observations included:

- The relaxed environment of the group, fun, craic
- The quality of support from the worker: the mentoring dimension: someone to talk to and who will listen
- Feeling valued
- Having a choice / a say in the activities, or being involved in planning, taking responsibility
- The flexibility within the programme
- The range of activities (including acquisition of new skills, accredited courses, volunteering, team-building, drama, performance, camping)
- Methodology e.g. residentials, trips, workshops and outdoor learning
- Being pushed out of my personal comfort zone, e.g. through engagement in new activities and reflective group work
- Positive role models
- The support of peers within the group / positive team ethos / bonding
- Getting a taste of career opportunities



What are you looking forward to next?

Whilst some noted a sense of sadness or nostalgia that their project was coming to an end, the responses suggested that most participants had a clear sense of direction about their next steps, whether it be enrolling in further or higher education, doing voluntary work, getting a job or internship, or continuing with a new hobby. Many observed that the programme has given them the impetus, skills and confidence to make key decisions about their next steps in life.

Having taken part in the project I am looking forward to.....

...taking on all the skills I have learned to use in life

...new beginnings, new friendships and tons of laughter

...furthering my qualifications in the youth work sector

...starting the South West College and getting involved in the community

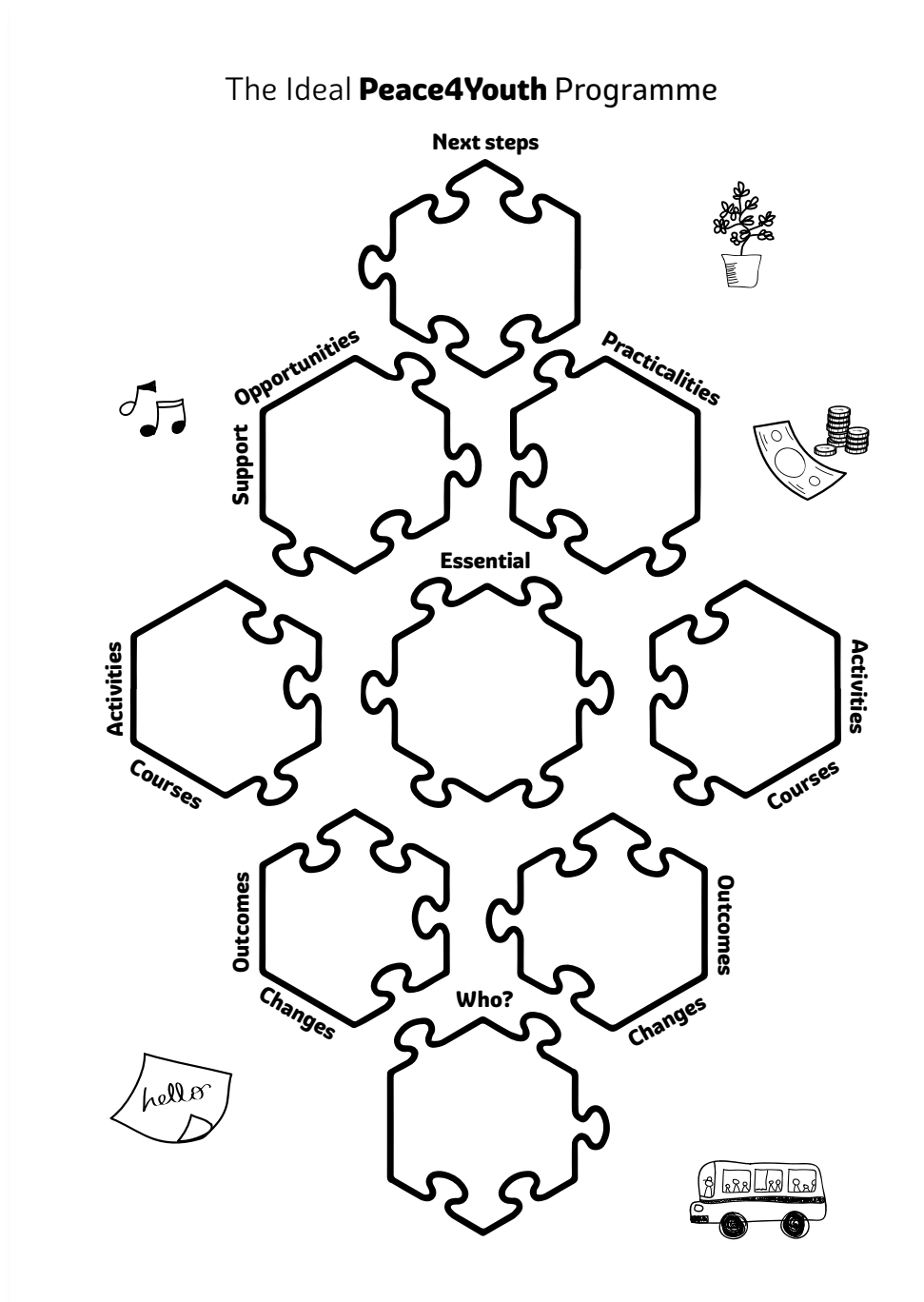
...getting more involved in youth work and employing the skills I have learned

...further building on the new skills and relationships



Ideal Peace4Youth Programme - exercise

In the afternoon the groups were asked to apply their knowledge and experience of the Peace4Youth initiative to identify what they felt be the essential components of an ideal future programme. This exercise combined reflective and creative thinking and generated a wide range of suggestions about ideal target groups, support mechanisms, activities, practicalities, outcomes and exit strategies.



What follows represents a summary of key themes and ideas which emerged during the exercise.

Who should be involved in an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme?

In the main, the current age range of 14-24 was affirmed. Some felt the age range could be extended to 30.

Several groups suggested that the ideal group composition would have greater internal diversity, and suggestions included recruitment of more young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, young people with addictions; with disability; unemployed; homeless or generally 'vulnerable' young people and those 'who sit around at home'.

Outcomes of an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

The responses to this validate all current Peace4 Youth outcomes, but particularly underline the importance placed by participants on personal development outcomes, as follows:

Personal development: confidence; resilience; determination; belonging/acceptance; improved communication skills; leadership; career prospects; expressing yourself; finding what I'm passionate about; increased self-awareness, understanding; courage; self-belief; options; building relationships; a positive outlook; people coming out of their shell; learning new skills; energy; motivation; less pressure; bonded; positive routine; new direction; coping abilities; travelled to places I have never been; recognise talents; self-esteem; positivity; experience.

Good relations: understanding of and respect for diversity; respect for others from different community and culture, backgrounds, abilities and orientations; leadership; awareness of and sensitivity to the values, beliefs, customs and traditions of others; understanding of their own identity; more chances to meet with groups of another background; meeting new people; getting rid of toxic relationships.

Citizenship: more involved in the community; planning and problem solving; other agencies; volunteering; positive participation in community structures and democratic processes; build purposeful relationships; volunteering in communities of place and/or interest; open our eyes more.



Activities within an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

A very wide list of potential activities was suggested, and these were almost exclusively based on the range of activities which had been experienced during Phase 1

The most mentioned suggestions for activities in an ideal programme were:

- Creative activities
- Physical activities
- Residentials
- Cross community and cross border
- OCN / accredited qualifications
- Career related activities
- Health/mental health/first aid

The full list of suggested activities is reproduced below, and illustrates the diversity of activities that had been enjoyed across the different projects.

abseiling	flex fitness	peer education in schools
activation	friendship club	personal development
archery	go-karting	planning activities
artbridge workshop	golfing/crazy golf	Pride
budgeting/money matters	good relations talks	RAPP
camping	health relationships	relationships
child protection	homeless aware	road trips
citizenship	hydro park	skills connect
cliff climbing	job readiness	SNAP (photography)
community events	'lets go' hydro	social activities
cookery	life skills	sports
creative/film/media	mental health workshops	surfing
cross site/culture trips	mindfulness and well-being	swimming
cross border trips	course	team building
cross community projects	music ministry programme/	technaholics
CV preparation	music	theory test revision
cycle against suicide	name games (icebreakers)	verbal arts
'Day on' events	OCNs /qualifications	walking challenge
digital storytelling	OCN food hygiene	we are vertigo
engagement with useful	OCN personal success and	working effectively with
services	well-being	others
fab-lab	outdoor cooking	Youth work level 1
film making	outdoor pursuits	qualification
first aid	panel day	

Support Opportunities within an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

Once again, many participants reiterated the value of one-to-one mentoring, and said this would be a component of their ideal programme. The nature of such support should include advice with personal life or issues outside of the group, following the principles of confidentiality and trust.

The environment of support within the group would also feature in an ideal programme, with participants being treated 'the way you would like to be' and feeling valued. Group work would engender a sense of belonging, and a 'healthy atmosphere of trust' allowing participants to express themselves and receive help with their personal circumstances.

Other aspects which were felt important included the need for continued support, and for flexibility to accommodate diverse needs. Participants felt that they should share their experiences, and use this to inform other young people about the programme.

One group highlighted the importance of flexible and youth-led programming, indicating the role of young people in planning the project.

Practicalities of an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

Weekly hours and duration of the programme: it was suggested that an ideal programme would have flexibility in the timeframe (an example was given of having fixed hours for Monday to Thursdays, and making Friday a 'fun' half day). Several groups highlighted the importance of having a routine within the programme. Some groups felt the weekly time commitment should be extended and/or the duration of the programme should run for more than the existing 6-9 months. Notably, none of the groups suggested any reduction in weekly hours or project duration.

Costs: the ideal programme would retain financial incentives, provision of free of charge food and refreshments, organised transportation or supply of bus cards, and childcare costs

Environment: need a safe space; a nice venue; need technical know-how

Other suggestions included more one-to-one sessions, more personal development, and the provision of a wake-up call



Next Steps after an Ideal Peace4Youth Programme

Responses to this question highlighted the value attached to the signposting dimension of the programme, and the concern among participants that supportive exit strategies should be in place to help young people prepare for the next stage of their lives. All of the young people taking part in the event had been engaged on the programme for 4months+ and many reported that they were approaching the end of their participation and some were within days of completing the programme. Suggestions for the ideal programme included:

- An exit strategy; preparation for finishing; signposting; engagement with useful services
- CV building; support with interview skills;
- Looking at other opportunities for learning; volunteering
- Using life skills learned; supporting newcomers; peer education
- Mechanisms to maintain relationships, e.g. post-programme contact, follow-up, reunions
- Support with education / further education – job skills; life skills



Essential Programme Components

Coming towards the end of this final reflective exercise, participants were asked to highlight which aspects of the programme they considered to be essential. The responses showed that different groups placed emphasis on different elements of the programme, including ethos, process, activity and logistics. The essential components identified during this part of the discussion can be categorised as follows:

Activities

- Skills development and personal development
- Mindfulness and well-being
- Money management
- Suicide intervention; mental health; first aid; drugs and alcohol
- Meeting new people from different communities

Practicalities

- No paperwork
- Incentive payments
- Bonus payments
- Travel expenses
- Routine

Ethos

- Respect for diversity
- Open-minded / willing to try / positive
- Bonding / communication
- Feeling valued/ trust/ motivation
- Quality of relationships
- Respect for others from different community and culture backgrounds, abilities and orientations

Methodologies

- Residentials and trips
- Social action
- Cross community
- Youth-led programming
- Fun
- Signposting

Duration

Programme could be extended to last a year - need this extra time to build relationships of trust at the start and to enable planned exit strategy



A message from the funder

Representing the Peace4Youth funding body, the SEUPB, Paul Boylan, Programme Manager, expressed his appreciation to all those who had attended the event from the different sites. Having listened to individual project presentations on an 'An Ideal Programme', he welcomed that the core elements of the programme – good relations, citizenship and personal development – had been very much in evidence throughout the discussions.

Addressing the young participants, he highlighted their crucial roles as agents of social change, as peace-builders and as future leaders. He recognised the significant impact which had been made by involvement in the programmes, and especially the changes made by forming relationships with new people. He thanked everyone for completing the surveys, which are necessary to demonstrate impact. However in the light of issues raised about the scale and language of the surveys he committed to reviewing whether these can be improved.

In paying tribute to the youth workers who are the vital support mechanisms during programmes, he noted that there may be a need to extend the provision of support for young people once their programmes have completed.

In closing, he reiterated his gratitude to everyone for their active and positive involvement in the Peace4Youth programmes, and also thanked YouthPact for organising this successful engagement event.



Core Insights – People, Practice Wisdom and Theory

Throughout the event young people shared personal stories and reflected on their unique and diverse experiences of the Peace4Youth Programme. Their overwhelmingly positive feedback is strongly affirmative of the overarching design of the initiative and also of the local implementation across the various sites. The young people's narratives provide unequivocal evidence of the value placed on the project, and highlight a wide range of outcomes framed around personal development, citizenship and good relations.

In many respects the participants' comments allude to the characteristics of effective youth work practice and core youth work values. The constructionist theories which underpin basic youth work methodology highlight the role of group work processes and social interactions as stimuli for learning. This was evident in the stories provided by Peace4Youth participants, who repeatedly referred to the personal benefits of association and group cohesion. Belonging to a group was highlighted as a fundamental aspect of the experience, and there were many descriptions of peer support, group solidarity, bonding, interconnectedness, and shared experiences. Viewed as a youth work process, these stories can therefore be seen to illustrate the facilitated development of social capital through group dynamics.

The reflective discussions during the event also revealed the value placed by young people on their individual youth workers, and affirm the key roles of the professional as facilitator of learning and as positive role model. One distinctive aspect of the Peace4Youth initiative was the additional and more formalised role of workers through scheduled one-to-one mentoring sessions. The feedback indicates that this form of relationship was valued by programme participants, and that mentoring had acted as a motivating force throughout their time on the programme.

One aspect of Peace4Youth programmes which was repeatedly praised by young people was the diversity and relevance of activities offered within each project. The range of activities varied greatly from site to site, and spanned traditional through to hi-tech, accredited training through to social activism. What is apparent from the narratives is that the distinctive youth work methodology had been used to ensure that all activities became vehicles for learning. Activities were structured, perceived as relevant, challenging, fun, and offered opportunities for experiential learning. In addition, many participants highlighted the importance of choice and the opportunity to play an active role in identifying or planning activities.

Another fundamental aspect of effective youth work is the requirement to start where young people are at, and to build upon their needs, interests and circumstances. The feedback gained during the event clearly confirms that this flexible and responsive approach was taken across the different project sites. Young people's narratives revealed a range of individual starting points - some having entered the Peace4Youth project at a time of personal crisis, while others were negotiating life transitions e.g. from school to training or employment. Their descriptions of very different starting points, and the personal changes which they attributed to involvement with the Peace4Youth projects, clearly reflected the ability of local youth workers to respond and adapt to specific needs and circumstances.

Taken as a whole, the feedback gathered during this engagement event points to a well-designed and relevant programme, effectively delivered through the use of a proven youth work methodology. In the main, young people spoke very positively about their experiences, and many articulated the significant personal distance travelled as a result of their involvement. The feedback showed that young people were leaving the project with greater self-awareness, confidence and a clearer sense of direction and optimism about their futures. This very positive feedback is a testament to the creativity and professionalism of all those involved in supporting the programmes, and most particularly to the expertise of local youth work practitioners.

Whilst overwhelmingly affirmative, some feedback gathered during the event did reveal a few areas of tension and ideas for future improvement. Issues about the composition of groups and ensuring diversity, minimising the extent of form-filling and administration, reviewing the length of a project (with a view to extending it to one year) and ensuring that exit strategies take a more sophisticated approach were all identified as areas for future consideration.

Finally, the evaluation of the event itself indicated that Peace4Youth participants (both young people and practitioners) were highly appreciative of having a platform to connect with other groups and share views and experiences. There was a strong feeling that engagement events such as this should become a regular feature of the Peace4Youth programme cycle.



Appendix 1

Evaluation of Event

In total 27 written evaluation forms were completed and the overall the evaluation feedback was highly positive, with the majority of respondents indicating that they had been given opportunity to express their views.

Q: To what extent during today's Young Voices event do you feel you have had the chance to share your experience of Phase 1 and influence the shape of Phase 2 of the Peace4Youth Programme?

Not at all	0%
A little	11%
A lot	67%
Totally	22%

Asked to identify one thing which they will take away with them as a result of the event, many respondents referred to the benefit of connecting with other Peace4Youth projects, hearing about other young people's journeys and having the opportunity to share their own experiences.

Several respondents highlighted the value of the information provided during the event about future life choices

Asked about the most and least useful aspects of the event, many respondents highlighted the importance of having a say and sharing views on their project, and the reflective environment throughout the event. Several reiterated the value of making connections with other projects, including the opportunity to meet those from the other side of the border (although some would have liked further opportunities to interact with those from other programmes).

...Knowledge of different career paths and support services available

...Ideas and inspiration for moving forward with our programme

...It was educational and awesome as I got to see the other groups and reflect on our project

...Other paths to choose from

The most useful was working in a group and letting them know we feel valued

Everyone got a chance to say their piece

Today was very exciting and everything was very useful, it was a great day

Shared voices and opinions

As a worker it gave the opportunity to work with our young people and distil their experiences and gauge the value they felt in them

I enjoyed the radio interview as I got to express my thoughts, views and opinions

The attendance of SEUPB representatives (Leanne Massey, Joint Secretariat Director and Paul Boylan, Programme Manager) during the event was welcomed. It was suggested that additional engagement between the funder and young people would be helpful in future. There were some comments about time management and a view that the event was rushed at times. Some felt that the time allocated to speakers and presentations had left insufficient time for group discussions.

When asked for ideas about future Young Voice events, the following were suggested:

- Mental health event / more discussion concerning mental health
- The use of action and creativity to enable participants to express their views / sharing of poems
- Looking at social issues which affect young people
- More icebreakers, and more fun activities
- A residential as a reflective experience / using the outdoors as an environment for reflective learning
- More interactive sessions

On the evaluation forms participants noted a variety of actions which they will start doing, continue doing, and stop doing as a result of the event. These commitments were individualised and ranged from professional to personal actions, reflecting the impacts which both workers and young people attached to the event.

Under the 'Any other comments' section, respondents highlighted their appreciation of the event organisers, facilitators and speakers, and their comments reflected high levels of positivity about the event.



Radio YNP is a youth-led online radio station aiming to engage with young people from both sides of the Irish border, to connect them and to make them more aware of the issues facing them in their local areas www.radioynp.com

Radio YNP is a project supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

PROMOTING RADIO YNP

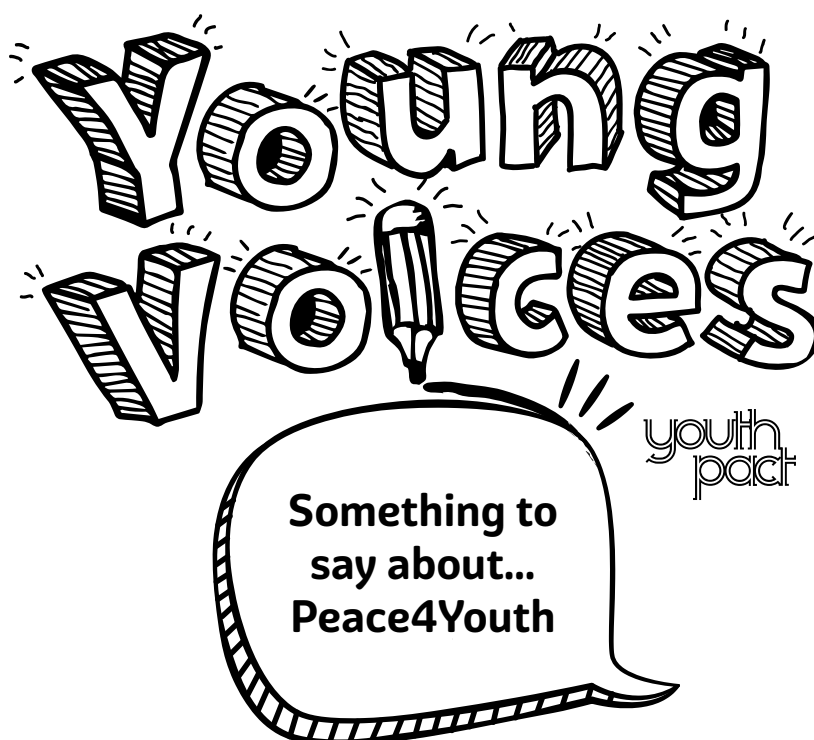






YOUR VOICE, ONLINE

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 Click on link above!





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