

# LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL FUNDS

CRC Core Funding enabled groups supported by the Scheme to leverage an additional £2.3 million for Good Relations activity.



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## SOCIAL VALUE

During 23/24 CRC conducted an independent social value analysis using the internationally recognised Social Value Engine Platform to examine the investment made through the Core Fund scheme in 21/22. The multiplier effect of our support and investment, and after various deflators have been applied, has been verified at £5.69 of social value per £1 invested in the core fund.



Here are some of the key findings explored during Social Value analysis:

- Connecting and building relationships
- Employment and supporting the economy
- Validity of the work delivered
- Sharing learning and expertise
- Focus and depth of Good Relations work
- Strategic focus
- Innovation, creativity and research.

## KEY STATS

Throughout the year, the Community Relations Council achieved the following targets:

£1.2 million investment & 31,000 beneficiaries - Core Funding Scheme



£600k investment & 21,000 direct and indirect project participants - NBSGRP



£164k investment & 74 projects funded - CR/CD Scheme



3 T:BUC Engagement Forums delivered on behalf of TEO.



75 Good Relations Awards nominations received across 5 Award categories.



221 events took place during Good Relations Week 2024.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2023-24

This report is a summary of the Community Relations Council's (CRC) activities outlining the difference we have made during the year 2023-2024.

### Who we are

CRC is an arm's-length body of The Executive Office (TEO) and a key delivery agent of the Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy. The T:BUC strategy reflects TEO's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

### What we do

CRC distributes funding on behalf of TEO to invest in the delivery of outcomes in the Programme for Government and the T:BUC policy. CRC believes that effective public policy and service delivery depends on the relationship between policy, practice and continuous reflective evaluation to sustain good community relationships.

### How we do it

This year, CRC operated 3 grant funding programmes to invest in community-based organisations delivering peacebuilding in local communities. We also bring together our funded organisations to share their learning and expertise with each other and TEO. An example of this is the T:BUC Engagement Forum, which we deliver on behalf of TEO. Additionally, we also deliver Good Relations Week and the annual Good Relations Awards.

- 1. SERVICE**  
34 years of delivering Good Relations investment and support.
- 2. FUNDING**  
£2 million invested through three grant programmes.
- 3. INVESTMENT**  
115 organisations received direct investment and support.
- 4. CONNECTING**  
Delivering Good Relations Week, GR Awards, and T:BUC Engagement Forums.
- 5. SOCIAL VALUE**  
Social value return of £5.76 for every £1 invested (21/22 figures).

## FIND OUT MORE

This summary presents a snapshot of CRC's work to promote peace and good relations throughout Northern Ireland. It provides information on where we fund work, examples of the types of projects we fund, and the difference our funding makes to the delivery of good relations work. Most importantly it shows how we are building united communities together.

You can dive into the details of our full work, including our Delivery Plan and Annual Reports, on our website: [www.nicrc.org.uk](http://www.nicrc.org.uk).

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

## FUNDING SCHEMES

The Community Relations Council delivers 3 funding programmes that invest in community-based activity to deliver progressive good relations outcomes across the region and the T:BUC strategy.

The funding programmes for 2023/24 were as follows:

- 1 CORE FUNDING SCHEME**  
Strategic funding for groups at a regional level.
- 2 SMALL GRANTS SCHEME (CR/CD)**  
Focused on community and voluntary groups.
- 3 NORTH BELFAST STRATEGIC GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME**  
Improving community relations in North Belfast.

## RESEARCH

The sixth edition of the NI Peace Monitoring report was launched in December 2024 with support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The Report reviews the journey towards or away from peace across many aspects of life under four themes: Safety, Equality, Political Progress and Social Cohesion.

Read the report on the [CRC website](#).

## GOOD RELATIONS AWARDS 2024

During the year, four new Good Relations Awards categories were introduced alongside CRC's exceptional achievement award in peacebuilding, which has been awarded annually since 2006. This year's winner was Dr Elizabeth Carlisle MBE, who has been CEO of Shankill Shared Women's Centre for the past 23 years.



“It's been fantastic winning this Award. It means that somewhere, someone has recognised me for the really hard work that I've done, as well as recognise the Shankill Women's Centre and the staff team that supported me doing that work.”

**Dr Betty Carlisle MBE, Shankill Shared Women's Centre (SSWC)**

“If you don't have organisations like CRC coming in behind you, we may have great ideas, but turning them into reality is very, very difficult. So to have that funding and support and flexibility is something we are very grateful for.”

**Brian Caskey, Limestone United Cross-Community Football Club**



## PROJECT SHOWCASES



### TRUST INDICATORS

CRIS (Community Relations in Schools) is Core Funded by CRC. They also received CRC's CR/CD Small Grants funding for conducting research for this project.

The research examined the role of trust-building in CRIS's school-based reconciliation initiatives. One outcome of the research was the development of a set of "trust indicators" that may be utilised to gauge how collaboration facilitates a foundation of trust between participants.



### FAITH-BASED PEACEBUILDING

Thrive Ireland received CRC's CR/CD Small Grants funding to deliver the project.

"Inspired to Act" is an inspirational Good Relations Podcast developed by Thrive Ireland. Its ethos is to inspire peacebuilding in the faith sector in Northern Ireland.

The podcast series, comprised of eight episodes, is intended to stimulate new thinking and engagement in peacebuilding initiatives and has interviewed four local and four global peacebuilders.



### PEACE ARTWORK

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) was supported through the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

A new public artwork about peace was unveiled at Girdwood Community Hub, in North Belfast, during Good Relations Week 2023. The artwork captured residents' personal interpretations of peace through the lens of photography, with participants engaging in a series of peacebuilding workshops and Belfast Exposed's archives.

## GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2023

Good Relations Week is an annual event coordinated by CRC and supported by government departments. The week-long event is held in September, and showcases the breadth of good relations work taking place across the region.

There were 221 events that took place during Good Relations Week 2023.

More information can be found here: [GoodRelationsWeek.com](http://GoodRelationsWeek.com)

“Good Relations Week is important. It brings people together providing a solid opportunity... for challenging conversations...shines a light on the work we are doing and the challenges that are facing communities...It's a brilliant Week as there's such a wealth of diverse activity.”

**Fiona Corvan, Development Manager, Holywell Trust**