

North West Migrants Forum Chairperson's Report 2019-2020



Chairperson Report – 2019-2020

This year has been a very exciting and productive year for the organisation, with the successful delivery of a vast variety of participative programmes and support services which engaged with various sections of communities across the DCSDC area and beyond. Throughout 2019-2020 the organisation continued to grow in both membership and public engagement in programs, with numbers exceeding the previous year.

Throughout the year we have continued to build new relationships and strengthen upon existing relationships with schools, community, and youth organisations. The strong relationships that were established enabled us to successfully deliver our projects to a wide range of people, both adults and young people from CNR, PUL and BME communities.



Some highlights for the year 2019/2020;

- Successfully delivered our Peace IV- “Let’s Talk Cultural Diversity” Project – This project worked with 11 post primary schools across DCSDC to engage young people in discussions that focused on cultural diversity, politics, religion, and identity in NI. 123 young people; 73% CNR, 11% PUL, 16% other Engaged in a minimum of 26hrs of over a 6month period, with a lot of the young people exceeded these hours.
- Schools included, St Mary’s College, At Joseph’s College, St Cecilia's College, Thornhill College, St Columb’s College, Lisneal, Oakgrove, Strabane Academy, St Brigid’s College St Patrick’s & St Brigid’s College- Funded by DSCDC
- Delivered year 3 of the 5year funded project from the National Lottery Community Fund “Peoples and Communities Fund”
- Successfully organised and delivered a Communities united intercultural family fun day which attracted over 750 people from across the north west. This is an increase of 450% on the previous year.
- The Youth Intervention Programme continued to grow and develop throughout 2019/2020. An average of 47 regular members attended the youth club weekly on a Friday evening from 7-9pm.
- The youth committee-maintained momentum and commitment in 2019/2020. With the increase in engagement from young people the committee grew from 7 members to 12. These young people lead planning meetings, steering group meetings and committee meetings helping with the planning and delivery of youth activities. This ensured young peoples voices and views were heard throughout the planning, delivery, and evaluation stages of each programme.

- Our Drop-in service was open 5 days a week, to facilitate the provision of in-person, face-to-face advice, information sharing and assessment of client's needs.
- Essential information and general advice was translated and shared to service users on a weekly basis via all NWMF social media outlets, and emailed directly to members via mail chimp. This include Essential information and general advice on the coronavirus pandemic, EU Settlement programmes and change in immigration legislation
- We also successfully delivered our "Discover culture, embrace diversity project". – 15 people received training on creative writing, storytelling, public speaking, recipe development and food hygiene. The 15 participants then delivered storytelling and food demonstration workshops to 7 community and youth organisations. The Groups that benefited included Foyle Women's Information Network, The Women's Centre, Ballymagroarty and Hazelbank community partnership, Rutledge Training Services, Galliagh Womens Group, Bogside and Brandywell health forum and NWMF youth club & English class. 150 people participated in this project
- Production of a short story book "100 Stories for Intercultural Dialogue "featuring journeys & experiences of the participants and their traditional recipes. Funded by TEO
- We became the first organisation in DCSDC to become a delivery partner for the British Council' Active Citizens programmes. Two staff members were trained to facilitate this programme and successfully delivered it to 30 adults. We also successfully hosted an International Study Visit Community Visit Programme. We hosted 7 international active citizens here in Derry and worked in partnership with R-city in Belfast
- The EU settlement scheme helped support service users through the application process. 2 staff members were trained and received a qualification to effectively deliver this advice and support

In line with the organisations continual growth fundraising continued to be a significant focus in 2019-2020. We are also aware that we are now over 3 years into our 5-year funding from the NLCF, which has been the organisations core funding, so it is essential that we begin to prepare and seek funding beyond this. I am delighted to report that our fundraising efforts have been successful, and we have secured funding from independent funders that we have not before worked with, The Joseph Roundtree foundation and St Stephens Green Trust.

This new funding enables us to grow our team. With social media becoming more prevalent in how we engage and share information with members we have raised funds to recruit a media and communication officer. We have also secured funds to recruit a community liaison officer to communicate and coordinate activities between an organisation and the community. We also successfully secured funding to tackle racial inequalities specifically focusing on the restrictions and limitations of the common travel area.

Both funding from St Stephens Green Trust, to work with young people and the Joseph Roundtree foundation, to work with adults will focus on a specific campaign to tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunities for all residents of the north of Ireland by extending the common travel area (CTA) rights and benefits to categories of non-CTA citizens - including most BME residents - such as skilled migrants with working visas and refugees.

To conclude, I would like to wish a special note of thanks to all our board members and volunteers who showed dedication and commitment throughout 2019-2020. You are a credit to the organisation, and we could not have achieved as much if it wasn't for your continual hard work and support.

I am excited to see what the new year will bring.

Marjia Stuke , Chairperson

Marjia Stuke 



Project Funding 2019-2020

People & Communities
Awarded ; £ 100,000



Discover Culture Embrace
Diversity
Awarded; £ 31,879



Core Funding
Awarded £4,000



Discover Culture Embrace
Diversity
Awarded; £3,542



Let Talk Cultural Diversity Awarded; £47,003



Crisis Fund Awarded £3,000



Active Citizens Awarded £14,781.94



EUSS Awarded £20,976





Review of 2019-2020 Project Activities



Discover Culture Embrace Diversity

- This project aimed to promote public awareness of cultures and traditions of BME, provoke debates on the value and the richness of these cultures in NI, promote tolerance, acceptance, kindness and mutual understanding as well as develop intercultural dialogue and partnership between communities.
- Activities include Creative writing & Storytelling skills training for 15 people
- 98% BME & 2% CNR and PUL.
- Production of a short story book "100 Stories for Intercultural Dialogue "featuring journeys & experiences of BME
- 7 Storytelling and food demonstrations workshops were delivered to 7 community/ youth groups by the 15 trained project participants. Groups that benefited included Foyle Women's Information Network, The Women's Centre, Ballymagroarty and Hazelbank community partnership, Rutledge Training Services, Galliagh Womens Group, Bogside and Brandywell health forum and NWMF youth club
- Unfortunately due to the global pandemic, Covid-19 we were unable to host our celebration and book launch event as planned.

Outcomes



Participants responded very positively to the programme. The analysis of the before and after questionnaires shows that a positive attitudinal change has been made in all three areas. This highlights that the project met its projected aims and objectives.

- 15 trained participants agreed that food demonstrations were a great way to guide conversations and build their confidence to deliver intercultural dialogue activities.
- 48% of participants are now more likely to engage in conversations about culture, identity and aspirations
- 99% of people stated they feel the programme has helped them
- 100% of participants felt like they were treated well throughout the programme
- 65% of participants now feel they have a better understanding of cultural traditions and backgrounds
- 50% of participants feel more positively about how their culture is respected



Peace iv-DCSDC- Discover Connect Belong “Lets Talk Cultural Diversity”

Let's Talk Cultural Diversity worked with 11 primary schools across the DCSDC area to engage young people in discussions that focus on cultural diversity, politics, religion and identity in NI. Schools included, St Mary's College, At Joseph's College, St Cecilia's College, Thornhill College, St Columb's College, Lisneal, Oakgrove, Strabane Academy, St Brigid's College St Patrick's & St Brigid's College

Activities included

- Pre engagement meetings with schools
- Delivery of Intercultural dialogue and cultural workshops in schools
- Project Launch- 60 young people accompanied by parents
- Intercultural residential – 60 young people
- Intercultural learning exchange trips; Stormont, Belfast Islamic center, Belfast Jewish Community and the museum of Free Derry
- Democracy day discussion and debate x2 events ; over 100 people attended including young people, parents and politicians
- Festival of Cultures celebration event – Young people, parents, politicians & teachers

Outcomes

This project met all its outlined aims and objectives. The young people responded extremely well to this programme, they were extremely committed and maximum engagement was met.

123 young people ; 73% CNR, 11% PUL, 16% other

Engaged in a minimum of 26hrs of over a 6 month period with a lot of the young people exceeded these hours

Positive Relationships were built with schools, parents, political representatives and community leaders.

Parents and families of participants actively engaging with the programme

Many young people stated that the workshops helped them recognize their own unconscious bias which led to a greater appreciation of the negative impact of discrimination and an improvement in their attitudes regarding valuing and respecting difference and engaging positively.



National Lottery Community Fund



Intercultural Intergenerational Activities; 2 nights and 3 days Delivered in July 2019

Cultural Awareness Workshops; 2 workshops delivered in October 2019 - on (culture night and community relations week)

- Workshop 1 focused on arts and craft, presentation and culture talks featuring 10 different countries
- Workshop 2- focused on intercultural disco night featuring song and dances from 15 different countries. With a total of 80 participants taking part in both workshops.

Friendship club delivered 2 days a week initially and changed to one day a week with an average of 15 participants taking part each week

Information and Support

A drop in service operated 5 days a week, to facilitate the provision of in person, face-to-face advice, information sharing and assessment of client's needs

Youth Intervention Programme

The Youth Intervention Programme continued to grow and develop throughout 2019/2020;

- An average of 47 regular members attended the youth club weekly on a Friday evening from 7-9pm.
- The Youth Committee ; host meetings, attend Steering group meeting and help planning and organizing of Youth activities
- Educational workshops ; cultural awareness, democracy & debates
- Fun events; Quiz nights, Talent Shows, karaoke nights, games nights & discos
- Summer scheme- with trips to Creggan country park, the cinema and pottery workshops



English Language Lessons

English Language Lessons delivered in two categories;

- English Beginners class delivered at NWMF 2 days a week with an average of 15 participants taking part each week.
 - Develop basic English skills
 - To learn the lingo/ slang terms/ phrases
 - To meet new people
 - To promote social integration
- Intermediate English class delivered at NW Academy of English with an average of 40 participants taking part.



British Council – Active Citizens

The Active Citizens programme enabled us to Promote community-led social development through building trust within and between communities, and across key stake-holders.

It also gave us the opportunity to motivate 30 community members to take responsibility for their social needs while giving them knowledge, skills, experience and networks to address them

Activities included;

- Facilitator development training
- Launch event
- 6 workshops & trainings
- A one night residential
- Social Action



International Study Visit Community Visit Programme

As a partner organisation of the Active citizens we had the opportunity to host 7 international active citizens here in Derry. We worked in partnership with R-city in Belfast to co host.

Activities Included;

Visit to the mayors chamber in the Guildhall

Stormont; meet and greet

Tour of the city

Visit to the new gate arts centre

Trip to R-city Belfast

Tour of murals Belfast

