

T:buc

Changing for the better, together



Good Relations Ambassadors:

Update Report

2020/21



Northern Ireland
Executive

Table of contents

Foreword.....	Page 2
What is an Ambassador	Page 3
T:BUC Strategy.....	Page 4
Ambassador Programme in numbers.....	Page 5
Programme Summary.....	Page 6
Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme.....	Page 7
T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme.....	Page 8
Word From Programme Administrators.....	Page 9-10
Collaborative Working.....	Page 11
T:BUC Ambassadors Programme.....	Page 12-13
Programme Outcomes.....	Page 14
Quotes from the Ambassadors.....	Page 15
Key activities from the Ambassadors Programme.....	Page 16
Monitoring Visit.....	Page 17
Programme in Pictures	Page 18-19
Ambassadors Journey	Page 20
Ambassadors Leaders Perspective	Page 21
Ambassadors Pen Pictures	Page 22
Next Steps	Page 23
Closing Remarks	Page 24

Foreword



We are privileged to have the opportunity to introduce this Report, which showcases some of the successes of the Good Relations Ambassadors Programme.

The Programme provides opportunities for young people who have taken part in the Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Camps Programme and the Uniting Communities Programme to further develop their leadership skills among like-minded peers, and to become Ambassadors for Good Relations. In doing so, Ambassadors play a key role in the T:BUC Strategy itself, delivering on its vision of a fair and equal society where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Over 100 young people have taken part in the Ambassadors Programme since it started in 2019. You will see from the Report that they have learned new skills, gained accredited qualifications, continued on their good relations journey, made new friends and built networks of contacts and opportunities that will play a positive role in their lives going forward.

The Report provides more detail on the specifics of what the Ambassadors Programme entails, and the positive outcomes it has achieved. It serves as a showcase for the many skills the young people have learned during their time in the Programme. It is a real demonstration of how Executive leadership can help to create new leaders for the future.

The programme is also a great example of partnership. Our thanks goes to The Department of Education (DE) and the Education Authority (EA), both of whom have key roles in delivering the T:BUC Camps element of the Programme, and to Co-operation Ireland and officials in the Department for Communities (DfC) who deliver the Uniting Communities Programme.

An element of this collaborative, cross-Departmental working has involved meetings of both sets of Ambassadors, to share learning and good practice. We have been present at a number of these meetings, and they have given us a real sense of the shared purpose and collective development that this Programme has instilled in the young people taking part.

We hope this report gives you an insight into the Ambassadors Programme, the achievements of the young people involved, and an idea of how the Executive's Together: Building a United Community strategy as a whole is contributing to the fair and equal society that we all want to see. We hope it inspires even more young people to join the journey and develop new experiences and skills to make positive changes in their own lives, and the lives of others in their community.

Declan Kearney MLA
Junior Minister
The Executive Office

Gary Middleton MLA
Junior Minister
The Executive Office

What is an Ambassador?

The T:BUC Strategy provides funding for a range of good relations projects, events, workshops and other activities. Each of these may focus on a particular aspect of good relations work, or a range of aspects, but all have the shared goal of contributing to the T:BUC vision of a fair and equal society where everyone can reach their full potential.

By taking part in good relations activity, programme participants become part of the process of achieving the vision set out by the T:BUC Strategy. The impact of the programmes on participants builds year on year and leads to the positive outcomes and commitment to a shared society we all want to see.

The Good Relations Ambassadors Programme forms part of the T:BUC Strategy and is delivered jointly through The Executive Office's T:BUC Camps Programme and the Department for Communities Uniting Communities Programme.



An Ambassador takes participation in a good relations activity to the next level. Every Ambassador has had previous experience of good relations delivery. They have made the decision to further develop the skills and learning from their initial engagement in good relations activity, with the intention of using their increased knowledge and understanding to become peer leaders, Ambassadors for the T:BUC Strategy and good relations work more generally.

The role of each Ambassador is to engage, encourage, and inspire other young people to make positive changes in their own lives and inspire others in their community.

Becoming an Ambassador is challenging. The young people who commit themselves to the journey inspire others with the discipline and application they have shown in their desire to improve themselves and help others.



T:BUC Strategy

The vision

The T:BUC Strategy provides a vision based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation. It also provides the framework for government action in tackling sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance while seeking to address division, hate and separation.

Key priorities

The T:BUC Strategy outlines how we in Government, in the community, and as individuals, work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of:

- **Our children and young people;**
- **Our shared community;**
- **Our safe community; and**
- **Our cultural expression.**



Headline actions

The T:BUC Strategy sets out seven strategic headline actions and a range of other actions and commitments that provide innovative approaches to bringing about the conditions that will contribute to a united, shared and reconciled community. The seven headline actions are:

Pilot **100** Shared Summer Schools By 2015.

Develop **4** Urban Villages.

Establish **10** Shared Education Campuses.

Get **10,000** Young People, Not In Education, Employment Or Training, A Place On The New United Youth Volunteering Programme.

Establish **10** New Shared Housing Schemes.

Develop A Significant Programme Of Cross Community Sporting Events.

Remove Interface Barriers By 2023.



Further information on the T:BUC Strategy can be found at:
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-together-building-united-community-tbuc>

Good Relations Ambassadors Programme in numbers

T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors programme:



33

T:BUC Camps Ambassadors in 2021/22



11

Council areas involved



8

workshops for Ambassadors to develop their skills



3

meetings with senior officials and Junior Ministers

Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme



Over

100

young Ambassadors have taken part since the Programme began



18

Months of support and training for Uniting Communities Ambassadors



2

Ambassadors recently worked alongside the Community Relations Council to develop this year's programme for Good Relations week



Good Relations Ambassadors Programme Summary

Start of the Programme

The Ambassadors Programme began as an opportunity for young people taking part in the DfC Uniting Communities Programme and the TEO T:BUC Camps Programme to take their participation further; to learn more about the skills and responsibilities of being a youth leader, and beginning to learn these skills, both through accredited qualifications and peer learning activities.

How has it developed

The Programme has developed significantly since its inception. Feedback from the Ambassadors themselves has been used to inform the design and structure of each iteration of the Programme.

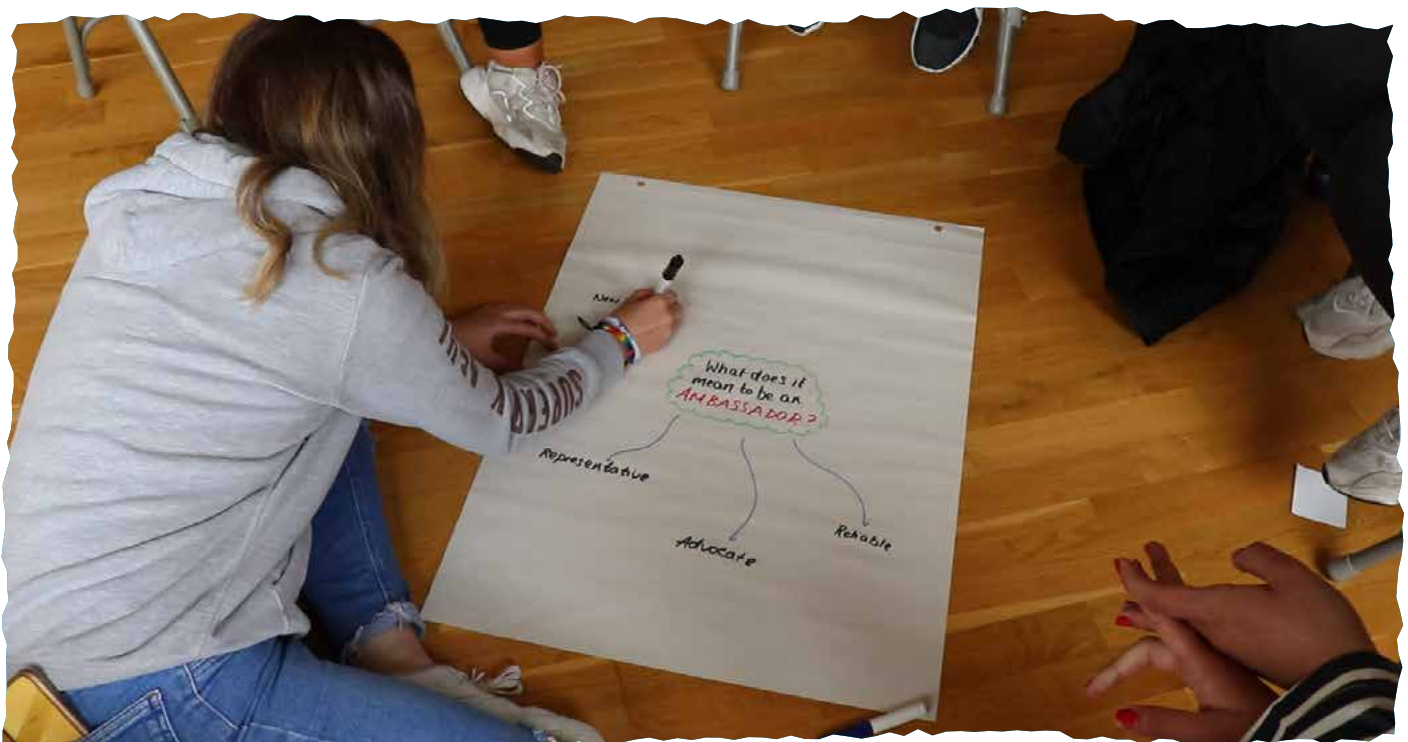
Collaborative working

Both DfC and TEO work closely together on the delivery of the respective Ambassador Programmes they are responsible for. Shared

learning events are held for Ambassadors of both Programmes to come together, share learning and consider the adoption of good practice in the delivery of each Programme. This partnership working means that each Programme is stronger than the sum of its parts, and each participant gets to benefit from the experiences of their peers and those who taken part in previous iterations of the Programme.

Relationship with delivery partners

Both Departments work very closely with their delivery partners to ensure the Programme is delivered successfully. DfC and TEO officials meet with their colleagues in EA and Co-operation Ireland on a regular basis to ensure the Programme is operating successfully and that any emerging issues and challenges are discussed, and any remedial action implemented and monitored to ensure progress toward agreed outcomes is maintained.



Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme

Uniting Communities is an ambitious cross community youth sports and creativity programme, delivered by DfC as part of the Northern Ireland Executives' Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy.

Specifically, the Uniting Communities programme seeks to deliver on the following outcomes;

- Engage young people in sport, physical and creative activities that bring communities together and help create the next generation of community leaders;
- Improve attitudes of young people in relation to other religious, political, ethnic and marginalised communities;
- Increase community organisational capacity and capability.

The Uniting Communities through leadership i.e. the Young Leaders Training and Ambassadors Programme (YLTAP) is one of the three key elements in the delivery model for the overall T:BUC Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity programme.



The programme has two distinct elements which are inextricably linked; the Uniting Communities through Leadership or YLTAP engages young people aged 16-24 years who are recruited to become Young Leaders and take part in a structured standardised training programme of good relations, sport, creative and leadership activity.

Running parallel to this in each geographical area is a Uniting Communities through Community Activity for young participants aged 11-16. The Young Leaders and younger participants are recruited from specific geographical areas, all of which have good relations and interface issues. Young Leaders are provided with the opportunity to co-facilitate the delivery of the community based activity programme as their training progresses.

Beyond the initial 12 month young leaders training, participants are offered the opportunity to become involved in further more in depth T:BUC Ambassador training. The vision for this element of the programme is to create a group of highly motivated, skilled and socially responsible young people who are enthusiastic about driving forward positive change in their communities and beyond.

The Programme involves a range of accredited leadership and good relations training which contributed to the objective of creating the next generation of community leaders.

T:BUC Ambassadors continue to engage with the Good Relations Week steering group led by the Community Relations Council and continue to represent the voice of young people on the group.

Uniting Communities Ambassadors are working to assist in the co-design of Good Relations Week 2021 and, collaboratively with T:BUC Camps Ambassadors, met with Junior Ministers Kearney and Lyons to discuss issues around youth leadership.

T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme

The T:BUC Camps Ambassadors programme is an invaluable opportunity for young people aged 16+ to enhance their understanding of Good Relations, develop new skills and act as an advocate and voice for other young people.

The programme is delivered and managed by the Education Authority Youth Service and is open to all young people of the appropriate age range who have previously been a participant of a T:BUC Camps Programme. Participants are selected for the programme based on a competitive recruitment process that ensures all 11 local councils are represented. There are currently 33 young people participating in the T:BUC Camps Ambassadors programme 2021/22.

As part of the delivered programme, young people have the opportunity to undertake accredited training that is designed to expand their understanding of Good Relations, key methodologies and apply that learning in a practical youth work setting. Ambassadors also receive training to help support the delivery, monitoring and quality assurance process of the T:BUC Camps programme. This includes training in how to assess applications and award funding to organisations who have applied for T:BUC Camps funding.

In January 2021, the Ambassadors began the process of editing and publishing a revised version of the Good Relations Resource Pack. This pack contains practical activities and session plans that organisations can use to support the delivery of a T:BUC Camps programme. As part of this task, the Ambassadors developed new material that organisations and young people could utilise, as well as reviewing existing content and editing when appropriate.

One of the key achievements of the Ambassadors programme to date has been the opportunities presented to young people to represent the voice of others and advocate strongly for Good Relations work at different levels. In September

2020, Ambassadors planned and delivered a virtual event to mark Good Relations Week where a panel of senior officials from The Executive Office and the Education Authority discussed and debated the impact of Covid-19 of Good Relations work and mental health issues for young people. This began a series of engagements throughout the year with Junior Ministers and other policy makers where the Ambassadors had the opportunity to present and showcase their work.

At its very core, the T:BUC Camps Ambassadors programme is a leadership opportunity for young people to develop new skills and enhance their capacity but it also provides participants an opportunity to reflect on their own identity, values and beliefs. One of the key elements of the programme that enables this reflection is an international visit to another country who have experienced similar conflict or division as our province. In 2022, the current cohort of Ambassadors will visit Croatia and Bosnia to explore peacebuilding from a young person's perspective in those nations.

Overall, the success of the T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme is rooted in working in partnership with other agencies to enhance our reach and deliver stronger services collectively for young people. We are proud that, combined with our partners in DfC and Co-Operation Ireland, our Programme is part of the wider Good Relations Ambassadors Programme and we have no doubt that the initiative will continue from strength to strength as we build on our previous success.

Word from the Programme Administrators

Education Authority

In September 2019, the Education Authority proposed the establishment of a pilot Programme to be entitled the 'T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme' and run initially from 2020-2022.

50 applications were received before the 30th April 2021 deadline from young people wishing to become T:BUC Camps Ambassadors. Applicants were asked to outline their experience in terms of Good Relations, their involvement in T:BUC Camps Programmes, relevant skills they possessed and why they wanted to become a T:BUC Camps Ambassador. This was followed by a supporting statement provided by a youth worker or previous Camp Leader from the young person's T:BUC Camps programme. The Education Authority T:BUC team ranked applications based on competency and experience via the answers provided.

In addition, applications were ranked by Council area to maintain a wide representation of young people, resulting in the top two applications from each Council area being awarded a place on the Programme for 2021/22.

33 young people were offered a place on the new cohort for 2021/22. A letter was sent to their home address making them aware of this and inviting them to attend an initial introductory session on 5th June 2021. The programme from June 2021 to April 2022 includes the delivery of the OCN Level 2 Award in Uniting Communities Through Leadership, regional training days, a joint Good Relations Week event in partnership with the DfC Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme, cross-border engagement to explore good relations work with The Glenree Centre, and an international study visit to the Balkans in 2022.



Word from the Programme Administrators

Co-operation Ireland

Co-operation Ireland are proud to deliver the young leaders and Young Ambassador's programme. The programme fundamentally develops long term change in our young people. It offers young people a chance to develop their leadership and ambassadorial skills to become agents of social change within their communities, through sport and creative activities.

The programme will fundamentally enhance young people to make positive life choices, we support young people to become leaders, by giving them a unique toolkit.

Co-operation Ireland leads the delivery of this dynamic and inspiring programme of personal development and good relations work on behalf of our established consortium.

This partnership (established since 2012) provides a comprehensive blend of skills, resources, experience (Good Relations, Youth Work, Training, Volunteer Management, Outdoor Learning, Community Development), and regional outreach capacity to deliver the Young Leaders Training and Ambassadors Programme.

The strong partnership and collaborative working of these regional organisations with a proven track record of delivery for DfC, aligns with the T:BUC vision of a society in which all work together to achieve the NI Executive's goal of a united and shared society, underpinned by strong good relations practice. Our consortium makes this vision a reality through our common commitment to work together as a sector to bring about real change for young people and communities.



Young leaders take part in a series of sessions to understand themselves and their values. From this, they will decide what issues, in their local communities, they wish to address through sport and creative activities training will include various formal qualifications formal qualifications.

Once their skills in companies have been developed, the young people will write down their own delivery programmes and work independently in the community.



Collaborative Working



A key strength of the Good Relations Ambassadors Programme as a whole has been the collaborative working between TEO and DfC to add value to the delivery of their respective Ambassador Programmes.

The focus for the collaborative process is provided by the Ambassadors Working Group, a policy initiative co-chaired by senior officials from both Departments and including representation from TEO, DfC, EA and Co-operation Ireland. The Group meets regularly throughout the delivery cycle of the Ambassadors Programme, and acts as a forum to share best practice, and provide opportunities for both sets of Ambassadors to meet and participate in shared activities.

The Working Group has held a number of engagement workshops where Ambassadors have met with each other and discussed various aspects of the Programme with relevant stakeholders. This process of collaborative engagement has developed over time, and culminated on 16th March 2021, when a representation from the Ambassadors

programme met with TEO Junior Ministers, Declan Kearney MLA and Gordon Lyons MLA and other key officials from the Education Authority, Department for Communities and Co-operation Ireland in an event that showcased the role of the Ambassadors programme and the importance of Good Relations work with young people.

The Working Group represents a model for collaborative working between Departments leading to positive outcomes for individual good relations projects and collective Programme goals. Feedback from the Ambassadors themselves is used to inform the future development of the Group, and the collaborative work between TEO and DfC is scheduled to continue alongside the delivery of the 2021/22 Ambassadors Programme.



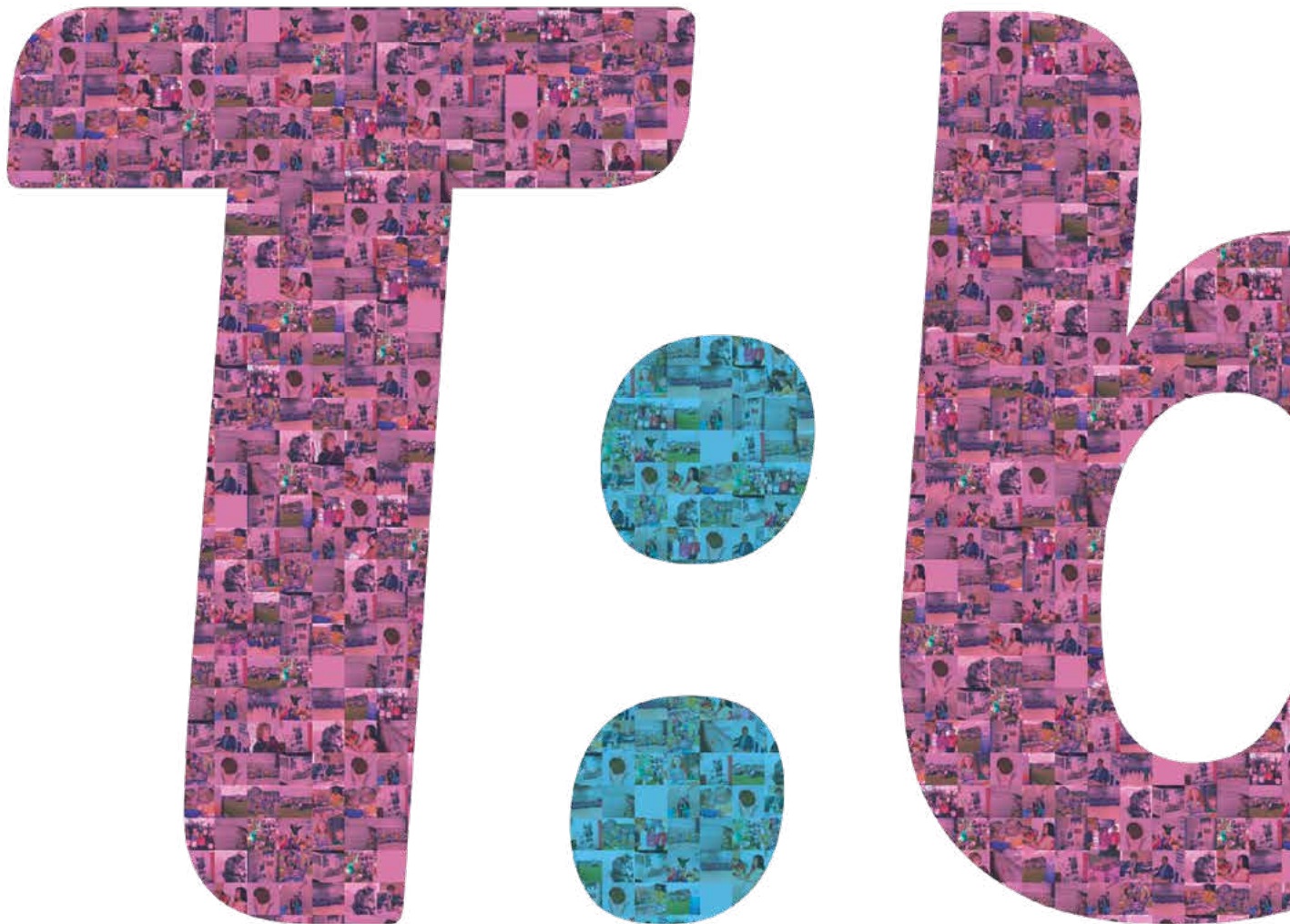
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Ambassadors

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s Programme

Programme Outcomes

A key method of analysing the impact of Programmes funded through the T:BUC Strategy is by setting defined and measurable outcomes from good relations delivery and monitoring the progress of the Programme in achieving these outcomes.

The Ambassador Programme outcomes are derived from both the DfC and TEO good relations Programmes from which the Ambassadors cohort is drawn from – the T:BUC Camps Programme and the Uniting Communities Programme.

The latest outcome data from the two Programmes, which the Ambassadors are key contributors to, highlight the positive impact the Ambassadors Programme is having:

T:BUC Camps Programme

- 89% of participants feel more favourable people towards people from a different religious /community background
- 88% of participants feel more favourable towards people from a different ethnic background
- 76% of participants have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds
- 85% of participants feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different religious backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland
- 85% of participants feel more strongly that the culture and traditions of different ethnic backgrounds add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland
- 91% of participants plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends

Uniting Communities Programme

- 99% of young people satisfied with quality of training
- 80% of young people reporting increased confidence
- 90% of young people reporting increased self-efficacy
- 78% of young people reporting positive attitudes towards people from other religious backgrounds
- 74% of young people reporting positive attitudes towards people from other ethnic backgrounds
- 76% of young people making a new friend from a different religious background

Quotes from the Ambassadors

It helped us to have a better understanding of ourselves so we could go out and get a better understanding of our communities

Probably the best thing to come out of the Programme was partnerships and future opportunities. That has 100% opened doors for us

I think the whole Programme in general from Day 1 being involved in Uniting Communities, it has changed a lot of people's lives in our communities in terms of confidence, self-esteem, awareness of other communities, how you get to engage with other communities

The Young Ambassadors training is more in depth and involves more planning, it's a more solid form of youth work than I've been involved in before. I never thought I'd be in this position where I am today. Programmes like Young Ambassadors have changed my life and if anyone has a chance to do it... just do it and don't hold back.

Our leaders tried to create a safe space for us from the very beginning. It was hard because we came from so many backgrounds but we worked at it, and I enjoyed the way we were challenged to give our opinion more and more. Then to be able to lead other young people in the same discussion was pretty awesome!

I realised that difference really does make us stronger

We really built strong friendships by understanding more about our culture and faith and diversity

I never believed I could be a leader. I certainly didn't ever think I could lead activities about diversity and division. This has been an adventure – sometimes amazing, sometimes a bit frightening – but I've really enjoyed it. I've learned so much, but the best bit has been doing it with such a mixed group of people. We 50 laughed together and sometimes cried together and we've become friends for life

Key outcomes from the Ambassadors Programme

T:BUC Camps Ambassadors successfully planned and delivered an event on 17th September 2020 to mark Good Relations Week. The event consisted of a question and answer session with Ambassadors and key officials from The Executive Office and Education Authority. As part of the event, Ambassadors contributed to a discussion that explored the impact Covid-19 might have on Good Relations work province-wide, the Ambassadors programme and the general mental health of young people throughout the pandemic.

Two Ambassadors attended the meeting of the TEO Programme Board to represent the voice of young people and were able to offer particular views from a young person's perspective at the meeting.

The Ambassadors played a substantial role in the planning and delivery of the online Camps in the Community event which took place on 27th March 2021. This was a significant piece of work that required considerable engagement from the Ambassadors to plan and deliver within a short timeframe. The success of this event is captured in a separate report that has been made available to the Programme Board.

Six young people from the T:BUC Camps Ambassadors programme successfully applied to attend the 2021 One Young World conference in Munich as part of the delegation representing the Education Authority.

Ambassadors completed an OCN Level 2 Award in Diversity within Society, attended monitoring visits in support of EA T:BUC staff and reviewed the Good Relations Resource Pack to suggest improvements or amendments before an updated version is sent for print.

The Ambassadors cohort completed the 'MyVoice' consultation in partnership with the Education Authority Participation team to inform The Department for Communities new Sport and

Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The cohort were significantly impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, and were not able to attend residential, nor the planned Balkans visit, and whilst this was disappointing, the engagement online demonstrated their commitment to the programme and willingness to contribute to the development of the voice of young people into TBUC Camps.

The cohort evaluation indicated that the programme provided a very positive, worthwhile, and supportive experience to young people in the challenging context of a global pandemic. Participants recalled, as part of quarterly and end of project evaluation, how the programme offered structure to their lives during the first lockdown and additionally gave them something to focus on. The supportive nature of EA T:BUC staff was consistently referenced in evaluation reports by young people and this was a key factor in retaining the engagement of participants throughout the year. Even though the experience was not fully delivered as anticipated in February 2020, all young people indicated they believed they had improved their capacity and had the opportunity to develop new skills.



Ambassadors Monitoring Visit

Twenty two of the thirty three Ambassadors recruited for 2021/22 met together for the second time in person at Belvoir Youth Centre on 3rd and 5th August 2021. I was lucky enough to join them for the morning session on their first day. As the buses arrived bringing the young people from every corner of the country the sausage baps and drinks were being set out in preparation! There was a real buzz about the youth centre as it filled up with chattering voices. It was great to see some familiar faces and lots of new faces too.

The day got off to an energetic start with EA Senior Youth Leader, Stuart, leading on some great ice-breakers outside while the rain stayed off which helped everyone to get their energy levels going again after some long bus journeys. My personal favourite was the splat game which ended in a “moo off” (yes, you read that right!) between the last 2 Ambassadors standing and I am pleased to report that Tom won that!

The young people were then asked to get into pairs with somebody they didn't know. They were asked to have a chat with each other and then come back to the bigger group and introduce their partner telling everyone their name, where they were from, their favourite film, favourite hobby and favourite food. This was a great way to get everyone talking and learn a little bit about each other and we all learned that mac and cheese is a firm favourite amongst the group!

The next activity the Ambassadors did in small groups but they were asked to individually consider the following and write down their thoughts:

- How You See Yourself
- How You Think Others See You
- How You See Your Future
- Hopes and Fears
- Motto You Live Your Life By

The Ambassadors were then asked to stand up in front of the bigger group and tell everyone what they had written. Many would have found this daunting but I was incredibly impressed at how confident and articulate everyone was! But one Ambassador, Matthew, really blew me away with his open and honest feedback and when his leader told me that this was his second year as an Ambassador and last year there would have been absolutely no way he would have stood up in front of a big group I knew I needed to have a chat with him! So when we broke up for lunch Matthew kindly agreed to chat with me. Matthew told me that the Ambassadors Programme had been a great way to help him get out of his shell. He told me that he really enjoyed meeting other young people from different places and backgrounds and learning about diversity. Matthew said “I want to live life knowing I have done good by myself and good by everyone.” He went on to tell me, “The Ambassadors Programme has inspired confidence in me, the leaders and people you meet really help you to feel motivated.” A big thank you to Matthew for talking to me!

Over the remainder of the two days the Ambassadors were given monitoring training for T:BUC Camps, they did some of their OCN work and they were also involved in recording soundbites for Good Relation Week 2021. A busy few days for our Ambassadors but well done to everyone for taking part and to the EA leaders Alan, Michelle and Stuart for organizing everything. And finally, thanks to the Ambassadors for letting me be part of it!

Mandy Jones

T:BUC Camps Programme Manager

Ambassador Programme in pictures



Ambassador Programme in pictures



T:BUC Good Relations Ambassador Journey



Jessica talks about her experiences before, during and after participating in the T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme.

Before

Prior to T:BUC Camps Jessica was a quiet girl, lacked confidence and avoided speaking out in groups. She attended a single religion school and therefore did not have much interaction with peers from different community backgrounds.

During

Jessica was invited to join a TBUC Camps programme by a youth leader at her local youth club. This involved five groups from different backgrounds coming together and included a four day camp in Castlewellan forest.

Participants took part in activities designed to specifically support them to build friendships, explore each other's backgrounds and cultures, and dispel any myths or stereotypes held.

Working together the group completed teambuilding exercises and participated in various good relations sessions exploring symbolism, the meaning of flags and emblems, and looking at their local communities.

Initially Jessica had reservations about taking part, however thought she would give it a go.

It has been the most amazing experience I could have ever imagined, the camp especially was so natural and effortless, we had time to chat, laugh, make friends with other young people from different religions and areas, with such amazing leaders to help and support us.

After

Not only did Jessica enjoy the programme, she made new friends and challenged herself to complete things she never would have dreamed of.

Having participated in her first T:BUC Camp, Jessica felt she was now:

- more open-minded being able to look at things through the eyes of others
- more accepting of others which helped expand her friendship group.
- able to change her understanding about young people from different religious backgrounds, why they had certain traditions, what these meant to them and why.

It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made

Jessica has since been involved in two more T:BUC Camps where she has acted as a buddy for new young people, helping them to fit in and feel comfortable with those around them and also as a peer leader, assisting with smaller groups.

T:BUC Good Relations Ambassador - a leader's perspective

The Leader of Jessica's Programme provides her observations of Jessica's journey.

As part of her role as a GR Ambassador Jessica has:

- been involved in the hosting of an online workshop as part of Good Relations Week which explored the importance of good relations work in the context of the global pandemic;
- undertaken an OCN accreditation designed to support her in her Ambassadors role;
- helped with planning group work sessions for her fellow Ambassadors;
- contributed to the Good Relations Resource pack currently being developed to support local groups delivering T:BUC Camps;
- assisted with developing ideas for Camps in the Community (CITC) events proposed for Spring 2021; and
- contributed to shared learning work with young people participating in the Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme (DfC) which included a meeting with Dr Mark Browne and other key decision makers.

Jessica has been on the most wonderful Journey, which has come from being brave enough to join in with that first TBUC Camps programme. From a quiet, shy, reserved girl, she has now become someone who will speak in front of others, take the lead on issues and offer help and support to her peers. She is really flourishing in her role as an Ambassador, and has taken her learning back to her group, where she has grown into a very influential leader for the group.

Jessica has now expressed a very keen interest in youth work and helping and supporting young people like herself to become more confident, challenge themselves and move outside their own individual little bubbles to expand their learning and make new friendships for the future.

Only I'm seeing it for myself I wouldn't have believed the transformation in Jessica since she came to me, this quiet as a mouse shy, girl. She has now become a confident person who wants to help others and help change the perception of young people and good relations here. I am so very proud of her journey and look forward to seeing more from her in the future

Making a Difference

The TBUC Camps Programme and Ambassadors Programme has been a very positive life changing experience for Jessica. It has helped her gain confidence and self-esteem she never thought possible. She has made a new best friend by stepping outside her comfort zone and allowing new interactions and conversations to take place. This is the legacy of T:BUC for Jessica and as of now her journey isn't yet over as she continues with her peer leadership work within her group and her work within the Ambassadors programme, she will continue to go from strength to strength.

T:BUC Good Relations Ambassador Pen Pictures

Pearse Smith



Pearse started his TBUC Ambassador Programme through the Colin and Eastside Programme. After 3 years Pearse graduated as A T:BUC young ambassador and continued in his role as an ambassador. He is currently studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Queens University Belfast.

Uniting Communities has had a profound impact on me both personally and professionally. This T:BUC programme has enabled me to gain employment with Peace Players International. The T:BUC Uniting Communities programme helped give me the desire to bring communities together through sport in a meaningful and unique platform. I hope to continue help build peace across this country!

Nora Sullivan



Nora has recently graduated from the Uniting Communities Young Leaders and Ambassadors programme based in Ardoyne and Ballysillan. Having recently graduated from Queens Nora has just taken up an opportunity to undertake a PHD and research project “promoting adolescent mental health through community sport”.

I saw an opportunity arise in my local community to continue to grow in my leadership skills and help my local community. I love being involved in the T:BUC ambassadors programme as it has helped my confidence grow and an opportunity to connect with other agencies across the country. T:BUC Uniting Communities Ambassadors has given me opportunities to gain qualifications, connect with young people in my local community and beyond and supported me to where I am today in my studies and my career! I look forward to the future continuing to build relations between the many young people I have the pleasure of working alongside

Next Steps

The Good Relations Ambassadors Programme has been very successful. Across the two Departmental initiatives involving Ambassadors that make up the overall Programme, more than 100 young people have taken part and have become, or are in the process of becoming, Ambassadors of the good relations work they have been involved in.

The process has been transformational, both for the young people who have become Ambassadors and for their peers, who have been inspired by the commitment and dedication shown by the Ambassadors during their journey through the Programme.

Given this success, the first priority of the Programme is for everyone involved to continue working hard to maintain the existing level of delivery, to ensure that every year young people from both the Uniting Communities and the T:BUC Camps Programme get the opportunity to continue on their good relations journey and become Ambassadors.

In addition, the collaborative working group set up by TEO and DfC will continue to meet and explore ways to share learning from their respective Programmes with each other, and provide further opportunities for each set of Ambassadors to work together, for the benefit of the Programme as a whole.

More information

If you would like more information on the Good Relations Ambassadors Programme, further details can be found at the links below:

Together: Building A United Community Strategy:
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/good-relations-and-social-change/together-building-united-community-tbuc>

Uniting Communities Ambassadors Programme
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/tbuc-uniting-communities-young-ambassadors>

T:BUC Camps Ambassadors Programme
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/tbuc-camps-programme>

T: BUC Camps Programme | Education Authority Northern Ireland (eani.org.uk)

If you have any queries about the Good Relations Ambassadors Programme Collaborative Working Group, please contact
tbuccamps@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Closing Remarks



I really welcome the collaboration between my Department and the other organisations responsible for the delivery of T:BUC Good Relations Ambassadors that this report highlights. There is no doubt that this partnership, which enables young people to come together from both T:BUC Uniting Communities and T:BUC Camp programmes, has supported the sharing of views on many good relations issues and has had a very positive impact on identifying new opportunities for learning progression.

It has been fantastic to read first-hand accounts from the young people themselves on how involvement in their respective programmes alongside this collaborative work has helped develop long-term behavioural change and the confidence to take forward initiatives at the heart of their communities, tackling key social issues of good relations, prejudice, hate and intolerance.

These T:BUC youth led programmes offer young people an opportunity to develop their leadership skills further, to become agents of social change and to further good relations for their peers, families and communities through a structured process of training and mentoring support using a range of methods including physical, sport and creative activities.

These programmes develop long-term change in our young people and have a multiplier effect across the community. These young people are true Good Relations Ambassadors and I have no doubt their contributions towards tackling key social issues in their community will help improve attitudes of other young people in relation to other people from different religious, political and ethnic community backgrounds.

I look forward to seeing how this collaboration further develops in the coming months and would like to extend my thanks in particular to Colm Fanning from Co-operation Ireland and Alan McCann from the Education Authority for helping to forge the link between both sets of T:BUC Ambassadors, but most importantly I want to thank the T:BUC Good Relations Ambassadors for making it happen.

Thank you

Deirdre Hargey

Minister for the Department for Communities
Department for Communities

T:buc

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