

Subject:

FW: Query

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:02 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Query

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Yes it does replace this. I have spoken to [REDACTED] about this. This programme like TPP – the areas were not chosen by EA and deemed the priority to make progress across NI. Yes [REDACTED] is the lead officer for this programme. [REDACTED]

Youth Service | Children and Young People's Service



**Education Authority**

Rathvarna Youth Resource Centre, 22 Pond Park Road, Lisburn BT28 3LF.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 7:50 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Query  
Importance: High

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[REDACTED]

In relation to emails below and in particular [REDACTED] of 23 May and attachment above – have been asked by Linsey and Karen to clarify position.

The link on EA website <http://eanifunding.org.uk/ycep/>. This is, to the best of my knowledge, the £300k in 23/24 that has been cut from £370k and therefore what is now known as the Youth Cultural Expression Programme – Is that correct i.e. formerly SPARKS but now re-branded as Cultural Expression Programme?

Secondly, can you give me a bit of background on the following points:

- Funding has been made available by The Department of Education for the provision of A Youth Cultural Expression Programme as part of the **Building Cultural Networks under the International Fund for Ireland Peace Impact Programme.**

- The overall aim of the project is to develop a strategic and community-led approach to positive cultural expression in Protestant, Loyalist, Unionist (PUL) areas across Northern Ireland. The project will look at a long-term solution to issues around cultural expression.

I think I am right in saying that [redacted] leads on a cross Departmental and vol/community Group that leads on this work but have you any background as to that Group and:

- Importantly, how and why solely PUL areas have been identified for funding;
- Also the links to IFI Peace Impact Programme can that be explained; and
- Who is the best person for [redacted] to speak with

Any other information appreciated – I've already set out to Karen that, currently, the £1.9m made available for TP youth interventions in 23/24 does not currently allow for funding of bonfire projects as occurred last year and which also included CNR sites.

Grateful for an early response.

[redacted]  
From: [redacted]  
Date: Tuesday, 23 May 2023, 9:02 pm  
To: Farrell, Linsey <[Linsey.Farrell@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Linsey.Farrell@education-ni.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Query

Hi Linsey

I hope all is good with you. I was contacted earlier today in relation to a newly announced Youth Cultural Expression Programme, see attached link to EA's website <http://eanifunding.org.uk/ycep/>. I was advised that this replaced an EA funded bonfire diversionary programme called SPARK.

I am trying to ascertain some detail behind the programme and to confirm the funding source for it. There are references to the IFI and our Peace Impact Programme in the About the Youth Cultural Expressions Programme Funding section in the link above, however there was no contact made with us prior to this going live on the EAs website.

I am trying to find out who best to contact within DE before reaching out to EA, can you please point me in the direction of the most appropriate person within DE?

Happy to discuss.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Joint Director General  
International Fund For Ireland  
Seatem House  
28 - 32 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EN

[redacted]  
Email:

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Board of Action for Community Transformation (ACT), I would like to invite you to nominate a departmental official to join the Strategic Advisory Group of the *Building Cultural Networks programme*. At its November 2022 Board meeting, the International Fund for Ireland agreed to provide financial assistance to ACT of up to £876,573 through the Peace Impact Programme, towards the delivery of the *Building Cultural Networks*.

The overall aim of the project is to develop a strategic and community-led approach to positive cultural expression in 16 Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist Communities areas across Northern Ireland. The project will look at a long-term solution to issues around cultural expression, particularly those connected to bonfires.

The programme will work across the following councils, targeting a minimum of 16 areas:

- Belfast (North, South, East, West)- targeting 6 areas
- Londonderry/Strabane – targeting 2 areas
- Causeway Coast and Glens- targeting 2 areas
- Armagh, Craigavon, Banbridge South-targeting 2 areas
- Mid & East Antrim -targeting 2 areas
- Mid Ulster-targeting 2 areas.

This is a unique programme given the size, scale, ambition, complexity and sensitivity of the project. The role of the Strategic Advisory Group will be to provide advice, guidance and support to the Project. In understanding the current context in relation to bonfires and other issues relating to cultural celebration, we recognise the ongoing and valuable efforts by public bodies, government departments, local authorities and other civic organisations to develop approaches to supporting good relations outcomes/maintaining community safety.

To take account of the complexity of the current context and to avoid the potential of operational overlap or duplication, the *Building Cultural Networks* model will ensure there is complementarity to existing efforts, by providing an enhanced platform for discussion, engagement networking, as well as supporting a more united and coherent voice as regards issues and approaches relating to cultural celebrations. In this respect, this pilot programme will assist in maximising the effectiveness of organisational efforts and improve the focus of resources, in a way that increases the capacity to achieve sustainable solutions.

That said, we want to make clear that while the *Building Cultural Networks* has an important contribution to make in addressing issues with regards cultural celebration, it is no panacea. Resolving issues around cultural celebrations is going to take time and a whole-system approach.

The Strategic Advisory Group will be led by an Independent Chairperson with input from ACT as the lead partner, and its first meeting is proposed for **Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 10am in Farset Hotel Complex**. Your experience and expertise in assisting the implementation of this pilot programme would be greatly appreciated. If your nominated representative is unable to attend the meeting, it would be appreciated if another person could be appointed to deputise.

If you are in agreeance, could you please confirm the name of the appointed representative and their availability to attend this initial meeting to [lara.actinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:lara.actinitiative@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely – William Mitchell, Project Director