



TACKLING RACIALLY MOTIVATED ATTACKS

Northern Ireland Housing Executive initiatives,
support and networks across
Northern Ireland

Housing
Executive

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Community Involvement; The Housing Community Network.....	4
Funding for Projects	6
Race Relations Support.....	17
Mediation Services	18
Anti-social Behaviour	19
Refugee Integration Team	21
Housing for All Shared Housing Programme	22
Northern Ireland Housing Council.....	24

Introduction

Racially motivated attacks taking place within Housing Executive estates and surrounding areas have been increasing since June 2023.

Local engagement to understand tensions and work towards building relationships at a local level are central to our work in tackling race hate.

The Housing Executive continues to promote and fund race relations programmes across Northern Ireland that create opportunities to promote integration, raise awareness and increase understanding around cultural diversity with a view to proactively addressing hate crime in our estates.

Below you can find out about:

- Community Involvement; The Housing Community Network
- Funding for Projects
- Mediation in Housing Executive Estates
- Race Relations Support
- Housing for All Shared Housing Programme
- Northern Ireland Housing Council

Community Involvement; The Housing Community Network

Community involvement and tenant participation helps the Housing Executive to understand tenants' circumstances and their lived experience better and empowers the organisation to take a proactive approach to problem solving.

Engagement within Housing Executive communities remains a priority: we continue to work closely through well-established existing engagement structures including the Housing Community Network (HCN) and with other community, voluntary and statutory organisations.

The HCN was established to ensure that local communities are more involved, better informed and can contribute to enhanced decision-making in relation to housing policy and how it affects them. There are currently over 500 community groups across this Community Involvement Framework. All groups welcome new members and work alongside the Housing Executive to coordinate and deliver initiatives that focus on good relations and relationship building.

The HCN works on four levels:

Community

At the estate or community level, local office and Supporting Communities staff are available to assist communities in setting up bona fide associations to represent the views of their local community to the Housing Executive and other agencies.

Area

Housing Executive area managers will look for representatives from each of the local resident/community associations across the neighbourhood to come together at a neighbourhood forum. The forum will discuss service group standards, service delivery and related housing issues.

Regions

There is also a forum set up in each of the Housing Executive's three regions, to which each District HCN sends representatives. The Regional Housing Community Networks monitor and review services throughout their area.

Centre

The Central Housing Community Network is the Housing Executive's central panel advising on our policies and procedures. The Central HCN comprises of 15 tenant and community representatives nominated from the area networks.

For more information, please email: getinvolved@nihe.gov.uk

The Housing Executive has been working extensively with a number of key statutory partners and voluntary agencies in order to support social housing applicants, tenants and communities who have been the victims of hate crime, utilising funding support as required.

Funding for Projects

Housing Executive Funded Projects

The Housing Executive promotes and funds race relations programmes across Northern Ireland that create opportunities to promote integration, raise awareness and increase understanding around cultural diversity with a view to proactively addressing hate crime in its estates.

Community Cohesion and Involvement Grants are demand led. Community and Voluntary groups apply for funding based on area needs to proactively run programmes that promote good race relations and integration within their communities. Many of these projects are pilot/first step projects, which could range from a one-day event signposting individuals, families and groups to other important services, or they could be projects that run for a longer period of time, including opportunities to gain qualifications, taster sessions and build good relations.

The applications for projects opened throughout the year. Housing Executive Good Relations Officers and Race Relations Officers will offer support to groups who identify project needs within the area.

The following projects are a sample of race relations and community capacity building programmes/projects and initiatives that have either been completed or are currently underway across Northern Ireland, funded by the Community Cohesion and Involvement Unit within 2024/25.

Area: South Antrim

Project Name: Crafting Connections, 'SMALL WORLD CAFÉ'

Host group: The Bytes Project Ballyclare

Contact 2 Doagh Road, Ballyclare, Antrim, BT39 9BH
www.bytes.org

Project status: Completed

Description:

The Housing Executive has funded two race relations projects with the 'SMALL WORLD CAFÉ', the most recent took place in Ballyclare on 5th August 2024 with young people, community representatives and local council members in attendance at the Bytes Hub.

The Small World Cafe style workshops worked with 24 people in small groups (of 4 to 6 people), who then met hosts who have come to Northern Ireland from different countries, for 15 to 20 minute slots. The hosts introduced themselves and answered questions about

their life stories and their reasons for coming to Northern Ireland. Participants moved on to visit another 'Small World' until they met most of the hosts.

These conversations aimed to give a fresh perspective, which helps overcome fear and mistrust of those seen as 'different', addresses misunderstandings and myths and is intended to foster respect, trust and empathy by focusing on the similarities between people.

Area: South Antrim

Project Name: "FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS"

Host Group: For Your Freedom & Ours CIC

Contact: 10 Ballyvesey Road, Newtownabbey,
Antrim, BT36 4SY
www.foryourfreedomandours.com

Project status: Completed

Description:

This event was with the local Polish community. The programme was built around 4-S's which include: Shared History, Shared Space, Shared Society & Shared Future.

The project was designed to research, explain and implement values with regards to respect, equality, mutual understanding, equity diversity & inclusion, as well as zero tolerance for discrimination & violence.

The structure included a focus on the following themes:

- Preconceptions: myths & stereotypes allowing participants to define their knowledge, as well as the way they gather information about others.
- Disclosure: the concept of shared history & things that people have in common and are anchored in the past.
- Discovery: gathering skills on how to be more culturally competent.

Area: Derry City and Strabane

Project Name: AFRICAN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY NETWORK
"World Africa Day Celebration"

Host group: African Caribbean Community Network (ACCN)

Contact: 26 Bond Street, BT476EE

Project status: Completed

Description:

This was held in St Columb's Hall, Derry/Londonderry on 25th May 2024. The event included entertainment such as acrobats, music, a fashion show, African drums, alongside children's programmes such as arts and crafts, face painting and Jo Jingles. The activities were planned to ensure that it was an all-inclusive intergenerational day.

The project brought members from the African Caribbean Community together with local community members from across NI to celebrate the event and raise awareness around embracing people from different races, religions and creeds.

By connecting communities, the group aimed to create opportunities for capacity building for their members and service users as well as promoting more understanding and trust of all cultures. Over 600 people took part in this event.

Area: South and East Belfast

Project Name: FÉILE NA HABHANN / FESTIVAL OF THE RIVER SOUTH BELFAST

Host group: Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group, (LORAG)

Contact: Shaftesbury Community & Recreation Centre, 97 Ballfour Avenue, Belfast, Antrim, BT72EW lorag.org

Project status: Completed

Description:

This event involved an array of sights and sounds that were on display at this year's popular Féile na hAbhann (Festival of the River) on Belfast's Lagan Walkway. Funding was provided for the exciting art, music and culture zone to help promote multi-culturalism. Thousands of people strolled along the river sidewalks taking part in and watching the fabulous annual celebration.

Area: Mid-Ulster

Project Name: BANN VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP

Host group: Bann Valley Community Group

Contact: c/o 122 Innishrush Road, Portglenone, Antrim, BT44 8LG
Facebook.com/bannvalleycommunitygroup

Project status: Completed

Description:

Young people from Clady, Portglenone and surrounding areas explored different cultures as part of a three-week summer scheme. The scheme gave children from Afghan and Syrian communities the opportunity to share their culture with arts and music activities facilitated by Beyond Skin.

Area: Lisburn and Castlereagh

Project Name: LISBURN FEILE

Host group: Lisburn Feile

Project status: Completed

Description:

Lisburn Feile Cultural Events were part funded by the Housing Executive to help improve community relations. Funding was provided for Irish language and Ulster Scots courses, Irish, Arabic and Brazilian dancing displays, two roller discos, and a Food from Around the World event at different venues around the city. The Feile ran from Friday 26th July until Sunday 4th August 2024 at various venues right across Lisburn with a wide range of activities and events on offer for all to get involved.

Area: Mid and East Antrim

Project Name: BILINGUAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Host group: Inter Ethnic Forum

Contact: 20 William Street, Ballymena, Antrim, BT43 6AW

<https://interethnicforum.org.uk/about>

Project status: Completed

Description:

The aim of the Inter Ethnic Forum was to support Ethnic Minority communities in MEA Borough to integrate into society by providing links to statutory, voluntary bodies & community groups. Thereby ensuring equitable delivery of services, promoting equality, strengthening good relations, capacity building & raising awareness of cultural diversity so that members of the EM communities can see themselves as integral citizens of Northern Ireland. This was done through the work of our three Bi-Lingual Advocates who support the Bulgarian Roma Romanian/ Roma & Polish/ Slovakian Communities. Bi-Lingual Advocates will contact the Housing Executive on their client's behalf should they have any queries or require assistance. As required by the Housing Executive the Forum will continue to provide interpreting services to Housing Executive staff. This will include:

- 1) Completing the Housing/Homeless Assessment and Input form
- 2) Providing assisted viewing
- 3) Signing the tenancy agreement
- 4) Providing an early support visit
- 5) Liaising with Church/faitth groups to provide additional support to tenants.

Area: Derry City and Strabane

Project Name: SUMMER CULTURAL YOUTH PROJECT

Host group: Strabane Ethnic Community Association, 2 Abercorn Square, Strabane, Tyrone, BT82 8AN

Project status: Completed

Description:

An action-packed race relations summer project has broadened the horizons of many young people at risk of isolation in Strabane.

Strabane Ethnic Community Association received Community Cohesion funding for their cultural youth project. The project brought together children and their families from many different nationalities, cultures and religious backgrounds in a friendly, neutral venue.

This encouraged social interaction among parents and children through creative, fun activities facilitated by qualified instructors and educational off-site visits. Activities this year included art, music, dance, food around the world, horticulture, virtual reality, photography and safety online. They visited the local police stations, the Strabane Health Improvement Project, Strabane Community Unemployed group and the last couple of days were spent with Newbuildings Cricket Club youth members in a cricket coaching session. SECA particularly targets those groups living in Housing Executive areas where financial hardship can keep children from experiencing different settings and cultures.

The programme opened up new horizons to these vulnerable young people helping them learn to approach those from different backgrounds in a positive way, with confidence and a healthy curiosity to know more.

Area: North Belfast

Project Name: LIGONIEL MEET THE NEIGHBOURS CULTURAL DAY

Host group: Ligoniel Improvement Association

Contact: Wolfhill Centre, 148 Ligoniel Road, Belfast, Co Antrim, BT14 8DT

Project status: Completed

Description:

This one-day event was set up to support and encourage shared participation in community diverse activities celebrating commonalities in the Ligoniel area. The area has now an expansive population of traditional and non-traditional communities who are isolated from the community siloes. The aim of the project was to celebrate differences and similarities through culture, music, food and dance. Ligoniel Improvement Association reached out to Indian, Filipino, Polish and residents from other cultures. In light of recent events across NI (the rise in race hate), this project will be used as a stepping stone to a larger event in the future. It was an introduction to integrate and celebrate race relations within the local community.

Area: Mid and East Antrim

Project Name: LOVING LIVING IN GREENISLAND

Host group: Greenisland Parish Community Outreach

Contact: 108 Station Road Greenisland, Carrickfergus, Antrim, BT38 8UW
greenisland.connor.anglican.org

Project status: Completed

Description:

This project was designed as a fun day for all residents of Greenisland. It coincided with our celebration of 70 years and brought local residents together and welcomed new residents. They had a photographic exhibition of people, places and services that have existed over the past 70 years. They offered a space where local people can obtain advice and information on local events and services and ask what they like about living in the community. There were activities for tots and toddlers with Jo Jingles and 'get active with Carl' street game, as well as mixed 5-a-side football. The whole day was aimed at connecting people through fun activities and pop-up events with a focus on 'loving living in Greenisland', premised on creating a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Area: Causeway

Project Name: STREET SOCCER CAUSEWAY ACADEMY

Host group: STREET SOCCER NI

Contact: 9-11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, Antrim, BT7 1JG
streetsoccerni.org

Project Status: Ongoing – due to be completed by the end of February 25

Description:

This is a 35-week programme called Coleraine Academy which uses weekly football and fitness classes to engage lesser heard groups such as the homeless, asylum seekers, refugees, people with addictions and mental health issues. The project offers 1-2-1 support to the clients helping them with housing, employability, education and volunteer opportunities. The project delivers workshops with regards to housing, good relations, nutrition and mental health which, will help bring communities together where they can learn and develop skills in a safe place. The project will also develop a team from those engaging regularly to travel to Belfast/Derry/Londonderry for matches and tournaments with other Street Soccer programmes. Each player has access to new football boots so they can engage in the project and not be excluded.

Area: Causeway

Project Name: VINEYARD COMPASSION COLERAINE

Host group: Vineyard Compassion

Contact: 10 Hillmans Way Ballycastle Road, Coleraine, Londonderry, BT52 2ED
www.vineyardcompassion.co.uk

Project status: Ongoing – due to be completed by the end of January 25

Description:

After successfully trialling three months of events to welcome newcomers in 2023, Vineyard Compassion continued and developed that approach this year. The aim of the project is to support for asylum seekers and refugees, as well as assisting current Housing Executive tenants. The project's goal is to integrate different groups of people into the community and support them in accessing essential services. The team is also interested in developing a shared space where people from all religions and creeds can live with their neighbours in a safe and welcoming newcomer hub.

Area: South and East Belfast

Project Name: MULTI-CULTURAL JUNIOR SUPER EAST BELFAST

Host group: Multi Ethnic Sports & Culture NI (MSCNI)

Contact: 10 Hillmans Way Ballycastle Road, Coleraine, Londonderry, BT52 2ED
<https://www.nicva.org/organisation/multi-ethnic-sports-and-cultures-ni>

Project status: Ongoing – due to be completed by the 8th September 24

Description:

Young football players from across Belfast took part in a multi-cultural Junior Super League football tournament funded by the Housing Executive. Funding was provided by the Community Cohesion Race Relations Programme. Young footballers from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds took part in the highly successful seven-a-side competition to help build relations between people from different backgrounds and culture.

Area: Lisburn and Castlereagh

Project Name: PROMOTING INDIAN CULTURE

Host group: Derriaghy Village Community Association

Contact: 70 Milltown Avenue, Lisburn, Antrim, BT28 3TR

Project status: Completed on the 14th & 15th September 24

Description:

Within the vicinity of Derriaghy, an old Masonic Hall has been bought by the Indian Community. The project set out to create relationships within the Derriaghy and Indian Community and strive to bring together two different backgrounds. It was hosted over two days, the 14th and 15th September. The first day saw the opening of the Masonic Hall (opening ceremony). This involved over 250 participants of the Indian Community that came together with over 60 plus residents from Derriaghy to share the experience and to integrate the community. This ceremony was streamed live on Facebook and Youtube as this is the first Indian Church to be established in Northern Ireland.

Area: North Belfast

Project Name: FAMILY SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Host group: TAR ISTEACH

Contact: 244 Antrim Road, Belfast, Antrim, BT15 2AR

<https://tar-isteach.org/>

Project status: Started on the 1st April 2024 and due to be completed by 31st March 2025.

Description:

Tar Isteach provides family support, welfare right/benefits advice, counselling and emotional support, good relations workshops and events, youth support, and support into training, education and employment for all. This project will provide support services and community events, cross-community events, festivals, sports amenities, English classes, and church services.

Area: West Belfast and Shankill

Project Name: SHARED NEIGHBOURHOOD

Host group: Whiterock Child & Family Centre

Contact: 91 Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PG

Project status: Started on 1st August 2024 and due to be completed by 28th February 2025.

Description:

There is a plan to run 12 programmes throughout this project. They will be offered to resident Associations/groups, schools, community groups of all ages/genders and anyone who is interested in supporting newcomers. Some of the programmes will take place in-house but for schools it will be in their school building.

Childcare costs are part of the programme as so many can't attend without it. Thankfully, the project is registered for childcare, and all staff are vetted/Access NI checked. The project seeks to offer some of these programmes with asylum seekers/refugees present as it feels that hearing the stories from individuals will help to clear up some of the myths about why people come here.

The project wants to facilitate as many of its families can't afford a holiday, so a day out will be a great way for it to bring locals/BAME families together to build relationships in a relaxed environment.

Area: Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon

Project Name: EMBRACE

Host group: Killicomaine Residents Group

Contact: 90 Ulsterville Park, Portadown, Armagh, BT63 5HB

Project status: Started on 12th August 2024 and due to be completed by 31st December 2024.

Description:

The Race Relations programme will create space for dialogue and challenge prejudices between grassroots communities by embracing diversity between local and international communities.

A variety of programme methodologies will be delivered by a key team member through both educational programmes and community navigation.

These will be delivered through the following methods:

- Educational Workshops focusing on cultural awareness, challenging stereotypes and developing understanding.
- Facilitating cultural events within the community to celebrate diversity and build relationships.
- Organise events, or signposting to support marginalised communities, developing their skills, confidence and integration, including English provision.
- Provide support to new and vulnerable community members to access existing services.
- Provide one to one support for families to improve community knowledge and access to essential services via community navigation.

The project will provide a support worker to BAME community members, liaise with local key stakeholders and coordinate the wider programme.

Area: Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon

Project Name: AUTUMN/WINTER MULTI SPORTS PROGRAMME

Host group: Armagh Harps GFC

Contact: Abbey Park, ARMAGH, BT61 7PB [Armagh Harps GFC](#) | [Armagh](#) | [Facebook](#)

Project status: Starts on 2nd September 2024 and due to be completed by 31st March 2025.

Description:

This project is designed to encourage a wider range of people to come together in a common interest through sport in the newly refurbished facility at Abbey Park, Armagh. These facilities include a large indoor sports hall which will be used to play basketball, indoor football and netball. Enquiries have been received from local residents' groups from the within the local housing estates, including representatives from ethnic minority communities expressing an interest in using the hall for sport and recreation during the Autumn and Winter. This programme will help to improve cohesion and good relations throughout a widely deprived area that is also a local Neighbourhood Renewal area. It will also include members of the ethnic minority communities who are encouraging the club to look at other sporting activities including basketball. The club will organise a wide range of sport and recreational competitions for the local community which, will bring everyone closer together through sport and help the BME community find a voice to influence other clubs to offer a more diverse range of sporting activities for all.

Area: Derry City and Strabane

Project Name: RECLAIMING NARRATIVES-THROUGH BLACK HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Host group: North West Migrants Forum

Contact: 2nd Floor & Part 3rd Floor Embassy Building, Derry, Londonderry, BT48 7BH
www.nwmf.org.uk

Project status: Starts on 16th Spetember 2024 and due to be completed by 11th November 2024.

Description:

Reclaiming Narratives through Black History and Heritage aims to foster positive relations between Housing Executive residents from Black and minority communities and the wider community. Using a human rights-based approach, the project will challenge institutional and structural racism through inclusive workshops, community interaction activities, and awareness campaigns utilising seminars and intercultural dialogue. The Forum facilitates learning exchanges through traditional foods, music, discussions and creative arts to support communities across differences, fostering mutual respect and understanding. Additionally, it aims to enhance self-confidence and participation within minority ethnic groups through educational and cultural activities.

Other Funding streams

The Housing Executive has participated in a Peace Plus application with partners, which aims to reduce racism and social division and promote cohesive and inclusive communities. An application for project funding has been submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) under Theme 1, Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, investment area 1.3: Building Positive Relations.

The BRIDGE Project (Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue & Genuine Engagement) will be delivered in 35 areas: 24 in Northern Ireland and 11 in bordering counties within the Republic of Ireland over a 3-year period. The project's key objectives will be to create a place-based, evidence-backed & sustainable delivery model to support long term positive engagement between minority ethnic/migrant/refugee/asylum seeker communities and existing communities in this programme area.

This project is aligned to support the objectives of the PEACEPLUS Programme, the Racial Equality Strategy, the Draft Refugee Integration Strategy, the National Action plan against Racism Ireland and the Migrant Integration Strategy, Ireland.

Race Relations Support

The Housing Executive continues to support the following organisations by providing advice, assistance and guidance on housing matters.

NORTH WEST MIGRANTS FORUM (NWMF)

Contact: info@nwmf.org.uk

The NWMF is the leading anti-racism charity in the North West. Established in 2012, the Forum is a medium-size, high-impact organisation deploying complementary expertise and methodologies. The organisation brings proven expertise in grassroots campaigning as well as broader lived experience, rooted in being an umbrella forum led by the community's needs.

EBRRN (EAST BELFAST RACE RELATIONS NETWORK)

Contact: info@ebcda.org

Established in 1970 as East Belfast EBCDA is the 'umbrella organisation' supporting community development in East Belfast. Their membership is made up of community groups drawn from an area that contains almost 94,000 people. It is representative of a broad range of interests and needs within communities and encompasses a variety of groups, including local residents' associations, faith-based organisations, sports clubs, older people's projects and women's groups. The Housing Executive's Race Relations Officer is a member of the forum.

MIGRANT CENTRE NI (MCNI)

Contact: [Home - Migrant Centre NI](http://Home-MigrantCentreNI.org)

The organisation was initially established as The Belfast Migrant Centre and officially recognised as a charity in March 2012. In 2014, to reflect the work of the organisation the name was changed to the current Migrant Centre NI. MCNI was established to protect the rights of migrant workers in NI, tackle racism, eliminate barriers against migrant workers, advance education and raise public awareness about their rights. MCNI has 3 offices across NI, in Belfast, Lurgan and Derry-Londonderry.

BELFAST ISLAMIC CENTRE (BIC)

Contact: info@belfastislamiccentre.org.uk

Belfast Islamic Centre was established in 1978 by a group of Muslims from the local community to provide a focus for all Muslims living in Northern Ireland. The centre operates for the benefit of all Muslims irrespective of their ethnic background, gender, country of origin or age. At present those who use the centre represent 42 nationalities. No-one is absolutely certain about the number of Muslims in Northern Ireland, the total population of the Muslim community in Northern Ireland (from the 2011 census) is around 4000

individuals. We believe this figure only reflects the settled community in Northern Ireland and does not take into account other social demographics such as students.

The Housing Executive Cohesion Unit contributes to the creation of more stable, safer neighbourhoods in our diverse society. A Race Relations Officer works with 13 Good Relations Officers and other partners to support a community-led approach to:

- Promote good relations within and between minority ethnic groups and the host community.
- Support Community Cohesion and Good Relations Projects aimed at creating opportunities to promote integration, raise awareness and increase understanding around cultural diversity with a view to proactively addressing /reducing /preventing hate crime in our estates.
- Actively identify and increase participation from members of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community in all areas of Housing Executive work, utilising the Housing Executive's Housing Community Network – creation of BME Housing Executive tenant engagement groups.
- Develop a publication on Housing Myths for persons from outside NI.

Mediation Services

Cohesion work is ongoing, including working with the Housing Executive Independent Mediation Service provided by TIDES Training & Consultancy, to provide Community Mediation as appropriate. This service is available across Northern Ireland, with referrals made by the Good Relations Officer in each respective area.

Anti-social Behaviour

The Housing Executive is actively working to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), including hate incidents within our communities. The Housing Executive tackles ASB by employing an incremental approach. The priority is to address the antisocial behaviour and work with the perpetrator through a range of early intervention and diversionary methods. These may include warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, the Assisting People and Communities Programme, support for underlying issues, mediation, or a Community Restorative Justice resolution. Where individuals fail to respond to offers of assistance, or where the ASB is of a serious nature then the Housing Executive will take immediate action using our statutory powers to protect victims. These powers include initiating possession of a Housing Executive property, injunction proceedings or seeking an Anti-Social Behaviour Order.

Support for victims and witnesses is available, and the Housing Executive will signpost individuals to specialist organisations to avail of their services. All witnesses have a crucial role to play in tackling ASB and will require support throughout the process. By demonstrating a genuine commitment to resolving issues and responding to tenant and community needs, the Housing Executive can build trust and confidence in its ability to effectively tackle challenges. Harassment reported to the Housing Executive will be investigated under the ASB process and we will respond in a sensitive way, taking appropriate actions responding to hate incidents within communities.

The Housing Executive works in a joined up multi-agency approach to reduce ASB and hate crime for individuals and communities, whilst utilising and promoting its Hate Harassment Toolkit further. The Hate Harassment Toolkit has been developed to help those who are experiencing or know someone who is experiencing harassment, persecution and / or intimidation, all of which can be described as hate harassment. The Housing Executive acknowledges that hate harassment has been identified as a very present issue in Northern Ireland, and the Hate Harassment Toolkit enables hate harassment to be explored and explained in greater detail ([Hate Harassment Toolkit \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/hate-harassment-toolkit)).

The Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA) is available across Northern Ireland to support victims of hate incidents in their homes. The scheme can provide personal and home protection measures if the home has been damaged or a victim has been targeted in the vicinity of their home, where the motivation for the attack is racist, homophobic, transphobic, disablist, sectarian or faith related. When an incident is confirmed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the victim wants to remain in their home, the Housing Executive can provide security measures to the home in order to assist them to remain there safely.

The HIPA Scheme is available to all tenures, victims may be owner- occupiers, tenants renting privately, Housing Executive tenants or Housing Association tenants and is jointly supported by the DoJ, PSNI, the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities (DfC).

The HIPA Scheme is available 24 hours, 7 days per week to provide support and reassurance to victims. Contact the Housing Executive on 03448 920 901.

The Housing Executive is committed to making a difference by improving the quality of life for residents living in our estates. One of the ways we do this is by making funding available from our annual community safety budget to a range of community-based groups and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to enable the development of local solutions to address anti-social behaviour in Housing Executive estates, on a demand-led basis. Some examples include Community Safety Warden Schemes, 'Good Morning' services, Home Safety Schemes, detached youth work, diversionary activities for young people, intergenerational programmes and schemes to support victims of hate crime such as the example below.

Area: South, East and North Belfast

**Project Name: MACS (Mediation, Advocacy & Community Support)
HATE CRIME PROJECT**

Host Group: [Northern Ireland Alternatives \(NIA\)](#)

Contact: Alternatives | Restorative Justice (alternativesrj.co.uk)

Project status: ongoing – until end March 25

The aim of the MACS (Mediation, Advocacy & Community Support) Hate Crime Project is to create safer and more cohesive communities through the delivery of restorative practices and community education. This helps to create more inclusive communities where non indigenous residents feel more welcome and part of community life. The project aims to work closely with local communities to provide a programme of education and support around hate crime. It acts in a mediatory and brokering role allowing prospective tenants from ethnic minority backgrounds to accept an offer of accommodation, working collaboratively with Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO's) Sustaining Tenancies for Ethnic Minorities Project, PSNI and others to address issues of racism.

Refugee Integration Team

The Housing Executive's Refugee Integration Team assists households through the transition from the asylum process following the grant of leave to remain and award of refugee status. The team has a focus on accommodation but works alongside key partners across the Home Office, the Executive Office, Health and Education and with partners across the voluntary and community sector in assisting with the move-on, when a notice to quit has been provided for the Home Office accommodation provided by MEARS.

The Housing Executive will contact the household to discuss housing options and to establish any statutory homelessness duties. Where an individual requires assistance, the Refugee Integration Team will link in with support providers and triage the household to the relevant Housing Solutions Team within the Housing Executive.

A Housing Advisor from the Housing Solutions Team will complete the statutory homelessness assessment and temporary accommodation may be provided. Where an individual chooses to apply for social housing, an assessment is also completed by the Housing Advisor, and points allocated under the Housing Selection Scheme commensurate to the presenting needs. The individual will then join the social housing waiting list.

The Refugee Integration Team also holds housing information sessions across Northern Ireland with asylum seekers and refugees, to discuss housing options and the process for moving on and getting housing and homelessness assistance.

Housing for All Shared Housing Programme

The Shared Housing Programme (SHP) has its origins in the Northern Ireland (NI) Executive Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. T:BUC reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. The Executive Office (TEO) oversee delivery of the TBUC Strategy and Programme for Government and are the principal funder of the Shared Housing programme which is a headline action and commitment made within both TBUC and Programme for Government (PFG).

On 1st February 2024, management of the 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Programme transferred to the Housing Executive from DfC.

The Programme now supports 12 Housing Associations working across Northern Ireland on 77 developments with a total of 2,490 units. A total of 44 developments have completed and are now celebrated as shared, with another 33 under development or programmed to start.

The benefits of shared housing extend far beyond those 2,490 units as the Housing Associations work with 33 Local Advisory Groups across the shared housing communities. The Advisory Groups support the development and delivery of Good Relations Plans which benefit many communities and individuals, regardless of tenure, who live within a five-mile radius of the new development. The Good Relations Plan encourages and supports opportunities for people from different communities and backgrounds to come together to break down the barriers to mutual respect and friendships which often cause racism, sectarianism and hate crime in our society.

Given the longer term nature of the Good Relations Plan, this enables local groups to benefit from programmes of sustained intervention to build community capacity and resilience. This includes community leadership programmes, bursaries for community champions to study community development while volunteering, youth intervention and leadership and programmes targeted at the specific needs of that community, as identified by local stakeholders through the Advisory Group.

Further information on the programme and contact details for the local Advisory Groups can be obtained from the Housing Executive Housing for All Regional Leads, details below.

Housing for All Regional Leads

Housing for All Lead (Antrim & Newtownabbey, Belfast City and Lisburn & Castlereagh)

- Cathy Wright

Mobile: 074 2561 7300

Email: cathy.wright@nihe.gov.uk

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Northern Ireland Housing Council

The Housing Council was established in 1971. Together with the Department for Communities we consult the council on all matters that affect housing policy in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Council is made up of one representative from each of the 11 local councils in Northern Ireland. Four members of the Housing Council always sit on our Board. They are appointed for a four year period. [Council Members – NI Housing Council](#)

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or to request an alternative format,
please contact:

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