

An Evaluation of PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland

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Executive Summary

The Institute for Conflict Research (ICR) was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland's (PPI-NI) programme of work in 2012/2013. The evaluation consisted of a mixed methods approach involving both qualitative and quantitative elements. A survey sample of 1024 pupils was collected and analysed to measure the impact of PPI-NI's Primary School Twinning programme in bridging divides and changing perceptions among young people from different community backgrounds. An additional survey was also collected and analysed from participants of the Belfast Interface Games. This survey assessed the impact of the programme on young people's attitudes and opportunities. As well as this, discussions were held with; educational representatives, PPI-NI staff and funders, community centre leaders, and young participants of the Belfast Interface Games regarding other areas of PeacePlayers work.

Some of the key findings from the Primary School Twinning survey were:

- **68%** thought that Protestants and Catholics should be friends (post twinning) compared with 63% (pre-twinning);
- **46%** thought that it was good that Northern Ireland has both Catholics and Protestants (post-twinning) compared with 37% who agreed with this statement in the pre-twinning survey;
- Almost three quarters (**73%**) of respondents enjoyed playing sports with people from different religions after completing the programme.

Some of the key findings from the Belfast Interface Games survey were:

- **85%** of participants enjoyed meeting people who practice a different religion than themselves. Before BIG, this figure was 66%;
- **90%** of BIG participants enjoyed playing sports with people from different religions; and
- **81%** were interested in meeting young people from the 'other' community, through sport. This figure was 74% before the event.

The following, are some of the themes that emerged from the discussions with educational representatives and other key stakeholders, in relation to the success of this year's PPI-NI's programmes:

- **Programme content and relevance to school curriculum** - Teachers and principals expressed their satisfaction with how PeacePlayers link their community relations discussions with the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) curriculum for schools.
- **Enthusiasm of the Coaches** - The positivity and quality of the coaches at PeacePlayers are obvious for all those involved with PPI-NI to see. The enthusiasm from the staff and also their ability to relate to the young people are noted as major attributes from all key stakeholders involved in the evaluation.
- **Provision of accredited training** - Continually providing and developing OCN accredited training for teenagers involved with PeacePlayers and external sporting bodies has been a success in developing leaders and allowing for progression routes in which young people can become coaches and trainers.
- **Involvement in the Game of Three Halves (GOTH) initiative** - A working relationship with the IFA, GAA and Ulster Rugby to promote sport as a means of improving community relations has been successful. The young people have conveyed their enjoyment of playing sports that they had not previously had the opportunity to do.
- **Longer-term intervention** – Teachers have welcomed the inclusion of children from P.4 and P.5 in the primary school twinnings programme. This development combined with the establishment of the Belfast Interface League and ongoing seasonal events, has increased the length of time PPI-NI has to create and develop relationships between young people from different community backgrounds.
- **Neutral agent** - Being viewed as an impartial organisation delivering basketball and community relations in divided communities remains very important. Choosing neutral venues and providing 'safe environments' for young people to feel comfortable to express themselves and work constructively with others is another

positive element. These characteristics position and enable PPI-NI to successfully continue facilitating events such as the Game of Three Halves initiative involving other sporting bodies.

PeacePlayers core work involves the well established and efficiently delivered primary school twinnings programme throughout schools in Belfast and Lurgan town. The formation of the Belfast Interface League (BIL) this year has also been successful in bridging divides and developing leaders, through accredited training, among young people aged 11-17. Establishing strategic alliances and collaborations with external organisations such as Young Enterprise Northern Ireland and the sporting bodies, involved in the GOTH initiative, have further strengthened PPI-NI's position within the field of promoting community relations through sport.

As PeacePlayers' programme of work continues to increase and evolve it is necessary for the organisation to regularly self evaluate its impact and level of success. The findings within this report have indicated that PPI-NI is committed to discovering new innovative ways in which to promote the organisation's core objectives. Providing technical assistance to external agencies and continuing to develop leaders through accredited training has opened up new opportunities and revenue for the organisation. However in regards to future programme development it is important that PeacePlayers recognises its own capacity in considering expanding its work in this area.

In terms of future programme delivery, this evaluation has made the following series of recommendations:

Organisational Development

1. PPI-NI should continue with its realignment process and the identification of more localised primary school twinnings. This will enable PeacePlayers to deliver programmes to more schools and children who impact upon each other from neighbouring communities;
2. Identify further twinnings in East and South Belfast to help increase participation, from those areas of the city, in all of PPI-NI's programmes;

3. Increase the involvement of P.4 and P.5 pupils throughout the twinning programme to allow for longer intervention;
4. Continue the recruitment of seasonal coaches to allow PPI-NI's core staff more time to focus on programme co-ordination and curriculum development;
5. It may be useful for PPI-NI to further develop the database (SalesForce) which stores contacts details for parents. This may allow for the enhancement of communication and engagement with parents;
6. Continue exploring further opportunities to deliver technical assistance to external agencies. However PeacePlayers may need to recruit more staff or establish a separate department within the organisation to maximise its capacity in delivering such training;
7. In relation to the recruitment and training of volunteers for the organisation such as the Champions 4 Peace, it may be useful for PPI-NI to liaise with Volunteer Now who help support organisations develop and up skill their young volunteers;
8. With the impending move towards community planning and area-based consultations aimed at interface areas throughout Northern Ireland, PeacePlayers may consider getting involved in the consultation process and building stronger relationships with more community organisations and statutory bodies;

Programme Structure

9. In relation to the Game of Three Halves event held in June 2013 for P.7 pupils from the twinning programme, PeacePlayers should consider organising the event earlier in the year so that participation numbers are not affected due to school-leaving ceremonies;

Programme Content

10. It may be useful for PPI-NI to include some awareness on the use of **social media** to young people involved in the community relations discussions. This may help young people consider the effects of posting their opinions on public platforms;

11. In relation to the twinning programme, PPI-NI should consider how they could better inform parents about the content of the community relations discussions.

1. Introduction

PeacePlayers International (PPI) was founded in 2001 on the premise that *children who play together can also learn to live together*. PPI have reached out to more than 59,000 participants and over 800 youth leaders. Their year-round programmes operate in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and in Israel and the West Bank. PPI draw upon a number of theories and disciplines which aim to reduce inter-communal conflict, these include; social modelling and conflict resolution.

Locally, PeacePlayers established itself in Northern Ireland in 2002 (PPI-NI) with the unambiguous mission to *unite, educate and inspire young people from Catholic and Protestant communities through sport, and in particular basketball*. The organisation's unifying principles are:

- Bridging Divides;
- Developing Leaders; and
- Changing Perceptions

In more recent years, PPI-NI has also focussed on **organisational development** which has reflected the changing syllabus of the Northern Ireland curriculum, and particularly: Learning for Life and Work, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, and Local and Global Citizenship. Since September 2012, PPI-NI's programmes have commenced a **realignment** process. Essentially this realignment process aims to divide PPI-NI's work, in Belfast, into four quarters (North, South, East and West). The rationale for doing so is to generate, and build upon, more localised relationships between schools and young people from the immediate interface communities. Following the initial work (primary school twinnings and the Belfast Interface League¹) within each area, the aim is then to bring together integrated (Catholic and Protestant) teams from all four areas of Belfast to compete in PeacePlayers' big events such as: JingleBall, SpringJam and the Belfast Interface Games.

¹ The Belfast Interface League (BIL) runs throughout the north, south, east and west areas of Belfast. It consists of a junior league for children aged 9-12 years old and a senior league for young people aged 13-17 years old. The junior BIL involves 4 weeks of basketball-based sessions including discussions on community relations issues. The senior BIL lasts for 5 weeks which consists of sport, community relations discussions and also the delivery of OCN training in 'Promoting Diversity Through Sport'.

In the past year, it is estimated that PPI-NI has delivered programmes to approximately 2,000 young people across Belfast and in Lurgan town. It continues to provide community relations based work and basketball coaching to some of the most disadvantaged and challenging areas within the local context.

PPI-NI's existing programme of work and developments in 2012/2013 has included:

- **Primary School Twinning Programme.**² An eight week programme of basketball and community relations based sessions, pairing up of a state Controlled primary school with a Maintained Catholic primary school. Aimed at P.4-P.7 children;
- **Formation of the Belfast Interface League (BIL).** BIL is the evolution of the Cross-Community League (CCL). It is split into a Junior BIL (aged 9-13) and a senior BIL (aged 14-17) which runs for four and five weeks respectively.³ There is a junior and a senior BIL in each area of Belfast which involves young people from community centres and a variety of schools. The junior BIL is basketball focussed and naturally aids the recruitment of the Belfast Interface Games in the summer;
- **Further Involvement with the Game of Three Halves (GOTH) initiative.** This is a partnership with the Irish Football Association, the Gaelic Athletic Association and Ulster Rugby. Each of the three governing sports bodies provides coaches who teach young participants the basic skills of the three different sports. PPI-NI coaches deliver the community relations discussion sessions in the programme. This year PPI-NI brought together the most successful P.7 twinned teams at the end of the twinning programme to participate in the GOTH initiative in June 2013;
- **Belfast Interface Games (BIG) 2013.** Funded through Belfast City Council's Peace III Strategic Grants programme, the Belfast Interface Games (BIG) involved the holding of the 'Game of Three Halves' sessions in North, South, East and West Belfast for young people aged 9-13 years old. A flagship event was then held at Seaview on 9th August bringing all participants together from across the city. Unfortunately participation numbers at the flagship event was negatively affected due to the

² In total, 18 twinned schools (14 Belfast and 4 Lurgan). Approximately 1800 children.

³ Junior BIL: North= 45, West=33, East=13, South=14. Total participants= 105

Senior BIL: North=21, West=11, East=11, South=13. Total participants= 56

eruption of violence at protest points throughout the city which seen 56 police officers injured;⁴

- **Continuing seasonal events; JingleBall and SpringJam.** These events generally attract between 100-200 young people aged 9-13. These events also provide an opportunity for young leaders involved in PPI-NI's senior BIL programme to volunteer and help mentor the younger participants at the venues;
- **Advanced Leadership Programme.** PPI-NI continues to provide three levels of accredited OCN training: OCN level 1 and Introduction to 'Understanding Diversity Through Sport', a Level 2 in 'Promoting Diversity Through Sport' and a Level 3 in 'Promoting Diversity Through Sports Clubs'.⁵ All senior BIL participants are involved in the OCN level 1 and are signposted towards further OCN's and qualifications regarding good relations through sport. In May 2013, PPI-NI developed a new OCN course entitled "Building Positive Relations Through Sport" which is currently awaiting approval;
- **Providing training and technical assistance to organisations.** PPI-NI continues to facilitate the 'Game of Three Halves' initiative. In September 2012 they also delivered an OCN level 1 course to approximately 250 young people through collaboration with YENI.⁶ Several PeacePlayers' coaches and trainers have also completed their OCN level 2. PPI-NI continues to build their capacity in delivering training and technical assistance on sport and community relations to enable them to provide this expertise to other sports clubs and organisations;
- **Super-Twinning.** In 2013, P.6 pupils were involved in PPI-NI's annual super-twinning event. Super-twinning involve integrated teams from two twinned schools from one interface area playing against the same opposition from another interface area.
- **Champions 4 Peace (C4P) and Coaches/Trainers.** C4P is the evolution of PeacePlayers' 'Ambassador' programme. Champions 4 Peace represents the highest level of involvement for a young person in PPI-NI; they adopt an advocacy role with

⁴ For more information about the event and the external disorder please see:
<http://blog.peaceplayersintl.org/2013/08/14/ppi-northern-ireland-holds-game-of-three-halves/>

⁵ According to PPI-NI staff approximately 280 young people passed the OCN Level I in 2012

⁶ Young Enterprise Northern Ireland

the organisation by helping in the recruitment of future young people in schools and in their communities. Currently there are 16 C4Ps who also act as a youth-led steering group for PeacePlayers and provide feedback on potential programme development. Coaches and Trainers consist of young people from the age of 14 who help PPI-NI at their main seasonal events and are interested in sport and working with young people. PeacePlayers offer OCN accredited training and assistance to those who wish to become a coach with PPI-NI.

1.1 Methodology

As PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland's work encompasses a plethora of activities, from their 'bread and butter' primary school twinnings to the delivery of OCN accreditation courses, ICR have adopted a multi-faceted methodology to evaluate PPI-NI's multi-dimensional programmes. The methodology will implement a mixed-methods approach to include both quantitative and qualitative elements. Due to resources available and the timescale granted to this evaluation, it is not possible to address all of PPI-NI's activities individually, however we envisage that the proposed methodology will measure the connectedness and overall impact of PPI-NI's programmes.

The evaluation therefore included:

- A survey sample of approximately 1000 P5, P6 and P7 pupils involved in the Primary School Twinning Programme;
- An additional survey sample of approximately 200 young people involved in the Belfast Interface Games (2013);
- Interviews with three PPI-NI staff, the director, and representatives of funding organisations;
- Six focus groups with young people participating in the Belfast Interface Games (approximately 40-50 young people);
- A focus group with PPI-NI's Champions 4 Peace;
- Interviews with 4 community centre leaders involved in the Belfast Interface League and OCN accreditation courses; and

- Interviews with 11 educational representatives.

1.2 Structure of the report

The subsequent section (2) of the report documents the findings from the survey conducted with primary school pupils. Section 3 addresses the themes which emerged from interviews and focus groups with; educational representatives, PPI-NI staff, community leaders, BIG participants and Champions 4 Peace (ambassadors), in relation to PPI-NI's work in 2012/13. Finally section 4 offers some concluding remarks and recommendations for the implementation of PPI-NI programmes moving forwards.

2. Primary School Twinning Programme - Survey Findings

In total, a sample of 1024 primary school children across 13 schools, who participated in PeacePlayers' Primary School Twinning Programme, completed surveys as part of this evaluation.⁷ From the sample; p5 pupils represented 4%, p6 pupils represented 42% and p7 pupils represented 54%. Of the 1024 surveys, 84% of the children had been involved in the twinning programme previously while the remaining 16% were experiencing it for the first time. The surveys documented in this report were completed between September 2012 and June 2013.

The surveys were collected in June 2013. They were inputted and analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The analysis of the data will outline; levels of contact between pupils from differing schools, attitudes towards 'others', and existing opportunities to meet new friends from across the community divide. The interpretation of the data will focus on the impact of PeacePlayers' Twinning programme across these three key issues.

Of the 1024 surveys collected, 521 young people participated in a pre-twinning survey which was distributed before the first session and 503 pupils then completed a post-twinning survey. The discrepancy in the numbers is as a result of some pupils not being in attendance at school when the post-programme survey was completed. Table 1 indicates the numbers of young people who completed the survey.

Table 1: Gender

	Before Twinning		After Twinning		Total Number
	Number	%	Number	%	
Male Participant	224	43	222	44	446
Female Participant	297	57	281	56	578
Total	521	100	503	100	1024

N.B. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

⁷ These schools included; St. Kevin's, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Our Lady's, Victoria Park, Glengormley Integrated, Holy Cross Boys', Holy Cross Girls', Wheatfield, St. Clare's, Carr's Glen, Glenwood, King's Park and Lurgan Model.

The one significant finding from table 1 is that female participation on the programme is 56%. This indicates that PeacePlayers has been successful engaging girls in sport-related activities (a circumstance that remains a major challenge for many other sporting bodies and organisations).

2.1 Contact

Table 2 displays the levels of contact between young people from different community backgrounds before and after the twinning sessions. This data specifically relates to young participants in the twinning programme.

Table 2: How often do you spend time with someone from a different religion?

		Before Twinning		After Twinning	
		Number	%	Number	%
In school	Often	91	18	124	25
	Sometimes	160	32	194	39
	Never	252	50	180	36
	Total	503	100	498	100
Playing Sports	Often	108	22	143	29
	Sometimes	252	50	245	49
	Never	140	28	110	22
	Total	500	100	498	100
At a PPI-NI programme	Often	235	47	369	74
	Sometimes	173	34	111	22
	Never	97	19	17	3
	Total	505	100	497	100
At your house	Often	66	13	55	11
	Sometimes	83	17	100	20
	Never	340	70	341	69
	Total	489	100	496	100
At a friend's house	Often	54	11	57	12
	Sometimes	137	28	133	27
	Never	299	61	301	61
	Total	490	100	491	100
In your neighbourhood	Often	85	17	82	17
	Sometimes	129	26	130	26
	Never	285	57	279	57
	Total	499	100	491	100

N.B. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Missing responses have been excluded from the results.

Table 2 indicates some interesting results:

- Prior to participating in the twinning programme, 50% of respondents claimed that they had never spent time with other young people from a different religion in school. This figure dropped to 36% *after* the twinning programme which meant that participants are **14%** more likely to indicate that they meet other young people from a different religion in school *after* the twinning compared to before the programme began ;
- An increase of **6%** felt that they had met someone from another religion through playing sports *after* the twinning compared to before the programme;
- Pupils were more likely to report, *after* the twinning programme, that they had met someone from a different religion at a PeacePlayers event (47% pre-twinning, **74%** post-twinning).
- The proportions of young people saying they ‘never’ spent time with someone of a different religion at a PPI-NI event declined from 19% pre-twinning to **3%** post-twinning.

Contrary to the positive findings above, the data reveals very little change in relation to the level of contact with ‘other’ young people at one another’s houses. The statistics also disclose that levels of contact between young people from different religions, in their own neighbourhoods, have remained the same (57% ‘never’ having contact pre-twinning and post-twinning). These figures exhibit the stark reality of the widespread residential and educational segregation throughout the context in which PPI-NI programmes operate. Despite the best efforts and positive impacts of PPI-NI increasing levels of contact among young people from different religions and creating opportunities for genuine friendship in schools and through sports, such external influences continue to inhibit this contact within segregated communities. Unfortunately these broader structural issues are far beyond the capacity of PPI-NI to challenge as an organisation alone.

2.2 Attitudes towards others

This section of the questionnaire was designed to measure attitudes and perceptions, among young people, pertaining to people from different religious backgrounds. Table 3 documents the survey findings for young PPI-NI programme participants.

Table 3: Attitudes towards others

		Before Twinning		After Twinning	
		Number	%	Number	%
I think that Protestants and Catholics should be friends	Yes	323	63	339	68
	No	72	14	53	11
	Don't Know	119	23	110	22
	Total	514	100	502	100
I enjoy meeting people from different schools	Yes	392	76	376	75
	No	52	10	47	9
	Don't Know	69	14	77	15
	Total	513	100	500	100
I enjoy meeting people who practice a different religion than me	Yes	279	55	297	60
	No	53	10	68	14
	Don't Know	179	35	134	27
	Total	511	100	499	100
I enjoy playing sports with people from different religions	Yes	348	69	364	73
	No	58	11	52	10
	Don't Know	101	20	81	16
	Total	507	100	497	100
I know about the different religions in NI	Yes	266	53	290	58
	No	105	21	80	16
	Don't Know	135	27	128	26
	Total	506	100	498	100
I think it is important to meet people from different religions	Yes	306	60	270	54
	No	55	11	75	15
	Don't Know	148	29	152	31
	Total	509	100	497	100
I think it is good that NI has both Catholics and Protestants	Yes	192	37	231	46
	No	121	24	83	17
	Don't Know	200	39	183	37
	Total	513	100	497	100

N.B. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Missing responses have been excluded from the results.

Table 3 indicates a number of positive findings in the post-twinning surveys from participants:

- **68%** of young participants felt that Catholics and Protestants should be friends *after* participating in the programme (compared with 53% pre-twinning);
- **75%** of participants post-twinning enjoyed meeting people from different schools;
- **60%** of young participants' in the post-twinning survey enjoyed meeting people who practice a different religion compared to 55% of participants in the pre-twinning survey;
- Almost three quarters (**73%**) of respondents enjoyed playing sports with people from different religions after completing the programme (compared with 69% pre-twinning);
- Post-twinning, **58%** of young participants felt they knew about different religions in Northern Ireland (compared with 53% pre-twinning); and
- **46%** thought that it was good that Northern Ireland has both Catholics and Protestants (post-twinning) compared with 37% who agreed with this statement in the pre-twinning survey.

These results highlight the positive change in attitudes from young people on a number of issues. **This would indicate that PPI-NI's twinning programme is effective in terms of changing perceptions and bridging divides among young people which are two of the underlying principles of the organisation.**

2.3 Opportunities

The final section of the survey involved a set of simple 'yes or no' questions on opportunities for the young participants to answer. Table 4 displays the results.

Table 4: Do you?

		Before Twinning		After Twinning	
		Number	%	Number	%
Have friends from your twinned school?	Yes	202	41	329	67
	No	295	59	161	33
	Total	497	100	490	100
Have opportunities to meet people from another religion at school?	Yes	299	60	299	60
	No	201	40	198	40
	Total	500	100	497	100

Have opportunities to meet people from another religion in your community?	Yes	264	53	261	53
	No	238	47	230	47
	Total	502	100	492	100
Have opportunities to meet people from another religion with PeacePlayers?	Yes	477	94	485	97
	No	31	6	14	3
	Total	508	100	499	100

N.B. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Missing responses have been excluded from the results.

The one key finding which table 4 highlights is that 67% of young participants had friends from their twinned school *after* the programme (compared to 41% pre-twinning). Another key finding is that 97% of participants recognised that they had the opportunity to meet people from another religion with PeacePlayers. These findings indicate that PPI-NI has had very positive impacts on providing opportunities to build friendships for participants through their twinning programme. In terms of opportunities to meet people from another religion at school and in the community; figures remained the same for pre-twinning and post-twinning responses. As previously referred to, segregated schooling and housing in Northern Ireland reduces opportunities for young people to meet others from different religions and this may explain why these figures have not changed post-twinning.

Summary

The findings from the surveys indicate a generally positive trend regarding PPI-NI's primary school twinning programme. One of the noticeable findings is that 56% of young participants were female, which indicates that PPI-NI is successful in engaging girls in sport. The statistics also indicate that PPI-NI has had a positive impact on increasing levels of contact among young people across the community divide and in effect, **bridging divides**. The twinning programme also appears to be **changing perceptions** among young people as an increasing percentage of participants, post-twinning, feel that Protestants and Catholics should be friends and that they enjoy meeting people from different schools (75%). Finally, results from the surveys also indicate that a large proportion of young people on the programme, are building friendships with other young people from their twinned school and 97% recognise that PPI-NI provide opportunities for them to meet new people from different community backgrounds.

3. Belfast Interface Games (BIG) - Survey Findings

In July (2013), PeacePlayers held the Belfast Interface Games across four locations in Belfast. The locations were at: Seaview in North Belfast; St. John's G.A.C in West Belfast; Harlequins R.F.C in South Belfast; and Stormont Pavilion in East Belfast. The 'Games' featured the Game of Three Halves initiative which consisted of three days of sporting activities delivered by representatives of the three main sporting bodies in Northern Ireland (RFU, IFA, GAA), as well as facilitated community relations discussions held by PPI-NI. A flagship event was then held on the 9th August, bringing together all four camps to compete against each other in teams of mixed religions and community backgrounds.

Similar to the analysis above regarding the Twinning Programme, as part of this evaluation, young participants involved in the 'Games' completed before and after surveys. A total of 203 surveys were collected, inputted and analysed using SPSS (105 pre and 98 post). This section outlines key findings from the survey and also provides discussion in terms of how these findings impact upon PeacePlayers core organisational objectives.

Of the 203 surveys: 30% represented North Belfast; 19% from East Belfast, 27% from South Belfast; and 24% from West Belfast. Although East Belfast has the least amount of participants, the statistics indicate that PPI-NI has been able to recruit a relatively proportionate population in each camp across the city.

From the survey, 46% of participants had also been previously involved with PeacePlayers twinning programme. This figure implies that PPI-NI's twinning programme has aided the recruitment of the Belfast Interface Games and also that PeacePlayers continues to build lasting relationships with young people they have previously worked with. This figure also reveals that PeacePlayers has been successful in recruiting young people who have not participated in any of their previous programmes or events. In fact 54% of respondents claimed they had not participated in the twinning programme, therefore it appears that PPI-NI's relationships on the ground and with community centres have been effective in terms of advertising and recruiting for the event.

In relation to the young participants attitudes and perceptions before and after the Belfast Interface Games, table 5 displays the following findings.

Table 5: Attitudes

		Before BIG		After BIG	
		Number	%	Number	%
I think that Protestants and Catholics should be friends	Yes	75	71	78	80
	No	9	9	4	4
	Don't Know	21	20	16	16
	Total	105	100	98	100
I enjoy meeting people who practice a different religion than me	Yes	69	66	82	85
	No	9	9	3	3
	Don't Know	27	26	12	12
	Total	105	100	97	100
I enjoy playing sports with people from different religions	Yes	84	80	87	90
	No	4	4	2	2
	Don't Know	17	16	8	8
	Total	105	100	97	100
I know about the different religions in NI	Yes	78	74	69	70
	No	16	15	13	13
	Don't Know	11	10	16	16
	Total	105	100	98	100
I think it is important to meet people from different religions	Yes	74	70	72	73
	No	13	12	9	9
	Don't Know	18	17	17	17
	Total	105	100	98	100
I think it is good that NI has both Catholics and Protestants	Yes	59	56	61	62
	No	9	9	6	6
	Don't Know	37	35	31	32
	Total	105	100	98	100

N.B. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Missing responses have been excluded from the results.

Table 5 indicates a number of positive findings including:

- **80%** of young people felt that Protestants and Catholics should be friends after the Games. This figure was 71% before the young people participated on the programme;
- **85%** of participants enjoyed meeting people who practice a different religion than themselves. Before BIG, this figure was 66%;
- **90%** of BIG participants enjoyed playing sports with people from different religions; and
- **62%** think that it is good Northern Ireland has both Catholics and Protestants after the event compared to 56% before the Games.

These results express the positive feelings and attitudes among young people about people from other religions. In terms of changing perceptions and attitudes towards the ‘other’ community, the findings imply that the Belfast Interface Games has had a very positive impact.

Due to the perceived segregated nature of sport in Northern Ireland, young people from both communities have had fewer opportunities to engage with different sports because of their religion and the community they live in. The Belfast Interface Games however aims to provide young people with the opportunity to attempt different sports.

Table 6: Opportunities

		Before BIG		After BIG	
		Number	%	Number	%
Have you had the opportunity to play Gaelic?	Yes	74	72	74	80
	No	29	28	19	20
	Total	103	100	93	100
Have you had the opportunity to play football?	Yes	104	100	96	100
	No	0	0	0	0
	Total	104	100	96	100
Have you had the opportunity to play Rugby?	Yes	75	73	78	82
	No	27	26	17	18
	Total	103	100	95	100

N.B. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Missing responses have been excluded from the results.

Table 6 highlights the following results:

- **80%** of young people claimed they had the opportunity to play Gaelic after BIG compared to 72% before the programme;
- **Everyone** involved in the Games had previous opportunities to play football; and
- **82%** of participants admitted they had the opportunity to play rugby after the event compared with 75% before BIG.

A final question on the survey asked participants whether or not they would be interested in meeting young people from the other community, through sport: *After* the programme, **81%** claimed that they would be interested compared with 74% who said they would be interested *before* the Games.

Similar to the twinning programme, this survey also reflects positive findings in terms of **changing perceptions** and **bridging divides** among young people.

4. Interview and Focus Group Findings

The following section presents some of the key findings from discussions with:

- Principals and teachers involved in the primary school twinnings programme;
- Community leaders involved in the Belfast Interface League;
- PPI-NI staff and key stakeholders; and
- BIG participants and Champions for Peace ('Ambassadors')

4.1 Educational Representatives

In total, six principals and five teachers were involved in this evaluation. Generally the feedback was very positive regarding their school's involvement and engagement with PPI-NI. The following themes emerged from the discussions.

Communication and Programme Structure

Nine of the educational representatives spoken with had been involved with PPI-NI for a number of years and some for more than ten years. For the remaining two, this year was their first experience of participating with PPI-NI.

In terms of communication, the two new schools to the primary school twinning programme both commended the staff of PeacePlayers as they felt communication was very good. Both felt that buses and timetables ran smoothly and that staff were very prompt in responding to e-mails or any queries that the school may have had. Similarly, the other schools were also pleased with the level of communication with PeacePlayers and that staff were very accommodating when arranging dates between the twinned schools. Some teachers admitted that sometimes logistics and organising dates with other schools can be a challenge but they felt this was totally understandable. Two principals felt that the programme this year had desperately missed a former coach in terms of communication and that the course didn't run as smoothly, which was unfortunate. PeacePlayers currently run a fellowship programme which involves US coaches coming to Northern Ireland on a two year cycle, therefore the organisation always has a turn-over of coaches. To help ensure this transition process does not disrupt operational programme delivery, PPI-NI continually

invests in local coaching capacity. However, apart from this one issue, all of the educational representatives did appear to be very satisfied with the level of communication between PPI-NI and themselves.

Many school representatives also felt that the structure of the twinning programme had largely remained the same from the previous year and welcomed this. A few also highly praised the programme being extended and reaching out to some P4 and P5 students.

Community Relations and the Curriculum

Overall, teachers and principals were very impressed with how the content of the community relations discussions linked with the school's Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) curriculum:

I have always been enticed by the culture, identity, flags and emblems aspect of the programme, aside from the basketball (principal).

All those spoken with were aware of the programme's aims, objectives and learning outcomes. In terms of the content of the discussions, generally teachers felt that their pupils understood the learning outcomes and that the discussions also had an impact on their attitudes and perceptions:

The children have become much more aware of 'other' people (teacher).

Throughout the years with PeacePlayers I have noticed a significant change in some of the student's attitudes towards others (teacher).

Many also noted the importance of social integration amongst the young people and also how the community relations element challenges their perception:

It removes the kids from their comfort zone and makes them all mix (teacher).

This feedback certainly appears to support PPI-NI's unifying principles of **bridging divides** and **changing perceptions**.

A few educational representatives however were slightly more cynical about the impact of the community relations discussions. One particular teacher felt that the young people say the right things at the time while another teacher believed that the children didn't fully

appreciate the community relations element because they were not fully aware of the issues being discussed. These views however were exceptions and not representative of the general feedback received. PPI-NI believe that continual affirmation of these important messages are a key part of the programme and that it is this process which contributes to beliefs being instilled in the young participants over time. The majority of teachers and principals had no issues with the content of the community relations discussions and had no comments on how the programme could actually be evolved or improved.

Coaches and Relationships

When asked about the coaches of PPI-NI, there was widespread support and appreciation of their work among teachers and principals. Not only had PeacePlayers' coaches built positive relationships with the schools and teachers but also with the young participants. Most, if not all, teachers noted the enthusiasm of the coaches and their ability to relate to the young people as a main positive of the programme. The American influence from some of the coaches was also welcomed by the schools because they felt it excited the young people and 'hooked them' in from the start. Some teachers did recognise that there were some personnel changes among the coaches and that some previous coaches with whom young people had built a relationship would be missed, however this had no evident impact on the success of programme. As discussed above, due to the fellowship programme, coach succession and transition is always going to be a reality for the programme but the organisation are committed to increasing the capacity of local coaches to minimise potential disruption.

In terms of relationships between the schools, all respondents claimed that their relationship with their twinned school had been a success. In the main, it was through PPI-NI that existing relationships had been established and developed between schools. Some schools admitted that without PPI-NI their two schools would have no contact with one another. One principal was very grateful for PPI-NI because it brought her school together with another in the local community which would never have been foreseen previously.

It was mentioned by some school representatives that there was scope to engage teachers within the community relations discussions:

Maybe we have become lackadaisical and possibly teachers should be more present throughout the community relations sessions (teacher).

However this was not a view held by all, others felt that they would like to see the 'professionals' (referring to PPI-NI staff) do the work and according to one teacher, *'more engagement from teachers may make the kids less forthcoming about their beliefs and attitudes'*. Clearly there remains a challenge for PPI-NI regarding the future involvement of teachers during the community relations discussions. If there was consensus among PeacePlayers and teachers about developing the scope for increased teacher involvement, it is important to agree on a strategy that would have positive outcomes in terms of PPI-NI's core objectives.

Engagement from Parents

Due to the twinning programme occurring within school hours, teachers sensed that parents are generally unconcerned about their children being involved in cross-community events because the schools hold responsibility for this involvement. Several school representatives claimed that parents are usually reluctant to engage in such activities because of the location of the schools and ongoing community tensions, which can have a pervasive effect. One principal also admitted that a parent from their school had thrown his son's PeacePlayers t-shirt in the bin because it had 'Peace-Players International Northern Ireland' written on it. These are issues that PPI-NI alone as an organisation is unable to change but they remain present within the wider context in which it operates. Some teachers suggested that it may be helpful if parents are briefed or informed beforehand about the content of the discussions so that they are fully aware of the nature of the programme. Currently PPI-NI provides the key contact (usually the principal) with a copy of the community relations and sport curriculum to ensure that the schools are aware of what topics/issues will be discussed. Some schools require that parents complete permission slips, granting their child's participation but essentially it is the school's decision in regards to how much information they wish to pass on to parents.

In 2012, PPI-NI has subsequently established a database (SalesForce) in which they can store the contact details of parents. This is an important development in trying to engage more directly with parents and the hub-based approach may make it easier for PPI-NI staff to

communicate more regularly with local parents from each area of Belfast. Engagement with parents has also grown in recent years with PPI-NI's facilitation of the Game of Three Halves and Belfast Interface Games (BIG), which both have approximately 50-60 parents attending the events to watch their children participating. This summer's BIG flagship event in August (held at Seaview stadium) was unfortunately negatively affected, in terms of participation numbers from both young people and parents, by the eruption of violent protests across Belfast. However feedback on the night from participants and approximately 20 parents was very positive. It should also be noted that the BIG flagship event was one which brought young people together from different communities in Northern Ireland to compete in unified teams, sending out a positive message for the future which was in stark contrast to the rioting which was simultaneously taking place on Royal Avenue less than two miles away. Due to the eruption of violence across Belfast, the ethos and success of the Belfast Interface Games sadly received very little media attention, while the negative headlines dominated the news.

4.2 Community Centre Leaders

Similar to the feedback received from educational representatives, youth representatives voiced their satisfaction with the programmes delivered by PPI-NI throughout the year (2012/2013). Outlined below are some of the themes that emerged from the discussions.

Engagement levels with young people

The community leaders spoken to were all happy with the levels of involvement of young people from their community centres with PeacePlayers. All admitted that they would certainly encourage as many people as possible to participate in future programmes. One particular representative, who had no previous experience of PPI-NI, claimed that nine young people from her community centre participated in an OCN accreditation and approximately 20 had shown an interest in participating in the Belfast Interface League (both delivered by PPI-NI). She felt that the programmes were '*fantastic*' and was impressed by how the accredited programmes attracted so many young girls which also subsequently helped change some of their negative perceptions of sport:

The male-female ratio is great, I would say it's about 50/50 (Community Leader).

This evidence certainly confirms PPI-NI's commitment to developing leaders among young people, another of the organisation's unifying principles.

Another community leader disclosed that she found it quite difficult to attract some of the 'older' young people (13-17) to engage in the programmes because they felt they were '*too old*'. Although the OCN courses are a great incentive, she still felt they didn't appear to appeal to the young people at her youth centre. However this was not an issue exclusive to PeacePlayers' programmes, she admitted that when recruiting young people in her community for similar programmes that it was important not to emphasise the 'cross-community' nature as this puts parents off. This highlights the micro-level of community tensions which can manifest themselves throughout Belfast and beyond, as some communities are very willing to participate in cross-community activities while others are not so forthcoming.

There was widespread positive feedback regarding the coaches from PPI-NI and their ability to engage with young people:

The coaches are an integral part of the success of the programme... they really unlock that willingness to get involved (Community Leader).

The enthusiasm of the American coaches was also welcomed by the community representatives who felt that the young people really enjoyed their involvement and leadership skills. One leader expressed some concern about a perceived slight decline in the number of American coaches throughout the years. He thought that it was good that PPI-NI was 'training up' local coaches, but he also felt that it was important for PPI-NI to maintain the international element throughout their programmes.

Impact

Although it is difficult to measure the actual level of impact that community relations discussions may have on each participant's attitudes or perceptions towards others, community leaders felt that the young people's confidence had increased throughout the programme:

They are more able to express themselves without fear of reprisal, for example expressing one's enjoyment of Gaelic... This is a big step forward comment that would usually be stigmatised in our area (Community Leader).

Other youth workers also sensed that their young people had become much more aware of, and better informed on issues such as flags and negative stereotypes through the community relations work.

One community centre leader mentioned an issue concerning **social media**; she claimed that some of the young people had been posting material on Facebook after a PPI-NI event regarding the community relations issues that may appear offensive. She recommended that for future reference PPI-NI could include some awareness training on social media as many young people are now communicating messages through such social media platforms as Facebook.

Another leader who has been involved with PeacePlayers for a number of years spoke very highly of the organisation's work and the content of their programmes, specifically their OCN development courses:

Ideally if we could get the funding, I would buy some of the programmes of PeacePlayers for our youth club children (Community Leader).

This highlights the success of PPI-NI in delivering technical assistance to external agents and the aspiration from some of those groups to buy programmes from PeacePlayers.

4.3 BIG Participants and Champions 4 Peace (C4P)

In July 2013, PeacePlayers co-ordinated the Belfast Interface Games which included the Game of Three Halves element alongside community relations discussions with young people from differing backgrounds across Belfast.⁸ During the events, ICR conducted a series of focus groups with the young participants and with Champions 4 Peace who were volunteering at the venues.

⁸ The Game of Three Halves initiative incorporates the three most popular sports in Northern Ireland (football, rugby and Gaelic). Coaches from Ulster Rugby, Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Football Association come together to deliver fun-filled sport camps to young people. The aim of the initiative is to promote respect for diversity in a fun and safe environment.

All participants who were involved in the discussions conveyed their excitement and pleasure at being involved in the programme. It was also palpable to the research team that friendships had been built up among the young people across the community divide. It was also apparent that the young people were genuinely interested in the community relations discussions and that they had learned about stereotypes and prejudices within the context of Northern Ireland:

I used to think it was only Catholics that could play Gaelic (Young Participant);

I learnt that Glentoran have Catholics who play for them and Cliftonville have Protestants that play for them (Young Participant);⁹

Several of the participants also admitted that BIG was one of the few times they got the opportunity to meet with people from different religions and community backgrounds:

It's a chance to meet new people from different religions and learn about their background (Young Participant).

I go to St. Malachy's now which is an all Catholic school and before I went to a bunscoil¹⁰, so I don't really get much of a chance to mix with other communities so that's why I like coming here (Young Participant).

In relation to the Champions 4 Peace, two of them had been involved with PeacePlayers for the past six years and are now senior ambassadors with the organisation. Each had completed two OCN accreditation courses delivered by PPI-NI and now they have willingly become advocates for the organisation:

We represent PeacePlayers and try to encourage more people to come (C4P Representative).

One Champion 4 Peace claimed that through this leadership development programme, she had become much more independent and learnt new skills that she can not only transfer into her personal life, but also into her community through promoting positive social change.

⁹ Glentoran FC and Cliftonville FC- football clubs that play in the Irish Premiership. The former club predominately associated with Unionist population of NI, while the latter would be predominately associated with the Nationalist community.

¹⁰ Bunscoils are Irish language primary schools.

Some of the junior ambassadors were eager to complete their OCN courses and conveyed how they enjoyed taking up a mentoring role and promoting a positive atmosphere among all the young participants at the Belfast Interface Games.

4.4 PPI-NI Staff and Funders

The following section outlines the issues raised by the director, staff members and external funders of PPI-NI which impacted upon the work of PeacePlayers in 2012/2013 and will continue to impact upon future work.

Organisational Development

Over the past twelve months, PPI-NI has begun a realignment process to their year-round programmes and seasonal events. This realignment, essentially, has altered the structure of PPI-NI's programme delivery to a 'hub-based' approach. This hub-based approach, which divides Belfast into quarters (North, South, East and West), has been implemented into all aspects of PPI-NI's work with the exception of the primary school twinnings programme. However in the immediate future, PeacePlayers will attempt to merge this approach with the twinnings programme which will allow the formation of new and localised relationships between schools located at the same interface area in Belfast. The rationale for this is to provide programmes to young people, from P.4 upwards, who live in the same area as one another and are likely to come into contact with one another outside school.

The Belfast Interface League (BIL) has adopted this new approach and works with young people, from each area of the city, for a period of 4-5 weeks. The BIL is often '*the recruitment ground for the Belfast Interface Games*' and again the 'Games' (BIG) adopt the same format by setting up camps in each area of the city for young people to participate in the Game of Three Halves initiative. Following the completion of the camps, PPI-NI facilitates a flag-ship event which brings young participants from all four areas together to compete against one another.¹¹ This realignment process also feeds into PPI-NI's intention to provide a more long-term intervention by working with young people, from conflict-affected communities, for up to a period of 14 weeks throughout the year.¹²

¹¹ Flagship event was held at Seaview (Crusader's FC football ground)

¹² 14 weeks = 8 weeks primary school twinning, 4-5 weeks BIL, 1 week BIG + any additional seasonal events.

Another organisational development has been the recruitment of more seasonal coaches to work at PPI-NI's festive and flagship events. These coaches are predominately drawn from the basketball community but in the future, PPI-NI are hoping to recruit from a wider pool of people who either have experience working with young people or have community relations training. These coaches may also include young people who have participated in PeacePlayers programmes and have since received training from the organisation. According to the director of PPI-NI; *'Our core objective would be to train the guys who come through our programmes to become coaches themselves at PeacePlayers'*. The theory behind increasing the capacity of seasonal workers is not only to **develop leaders** among young people, but also to allow PPI-NI's core staff more time to focus on developing the curriculum and overseeing programmes.

Successes

According to the director and staff members of PeacePlayers, there were numerous successes with regards to the development of some of their programmes in 2012/2013. Due to the increased recruitment of seasonal coaches, PPI-NI's core staff admitted that they now have more opportunities to work on programme development and project co-ordination as opposed to constantly delivering all programmes as well. One staff member conveyed her contentment with the realignment process because she feels staff members can now share the workload and each member can take responsibility for the management and co-ordination of programmes in each area of Belfast.

Another success for PPI-NI this year has been the establishment of both the senior and junior BIL in each area of Belfast. The junior BIL has also been successful in recruiting the potential candidates for the Belfast Interface Games, while the senior BIL has been successful in providing training to the participants and empowering them to work with younger participants at PPI-NI events.

The collaboration with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland and the delivery of OCN accredited courses to approximately 250 young people has also been a success for PPI-NI in identifying further revenue for the organisation. Providing accredited OCN training and progression routes (C4P & coaching/training) for participants aged 14-17 years old has also

been an achievement in attracting more young people to remain involved, in some capacity, with PPI-NI.

Challenges and Opportunities

In terms of the practical delivery of programmes, generally staff felt satisfied with the success of each. However this year, when PPI-NI piloted the Game of Three Halves initiative with P.7 children from twinned schools, staff found it difficult to organise the event with schools due to graduation ceremonies and school sports days. It may perhaps be advisable in the future that PPI-NI aim to organise this event earlier in the school year to avoid this problem.

The main challenge, voiced by staff members, was the demanding work involved in providing the technical assistance to other groups and organisations. Staff were aware that the expansion of such work was necessary to generate more financial opportunities for PPI-NI but were concerned about the capacity of the team in delivering the work.

Staff retention has also become an issue for PeacePlayers over the past couple of years with some experienced staff members leaving their posts. The director of PPI-NI has highlighted the retention of great talent as a challenge for the organisation due to its charitable status and the struggle to provide competitive salaries. This is very much dependent on funding provision and the organisation's ability to expand their work within the field of good relations through sport. This is a challenge however, not unique to PeacePlayers and is felt across the Community and Voluntary sector. Losing experienced staff members has been operationally challenging in the short term for the organisation however the director believes that this represents a very natural step in the individual's development and that in the long term this can actually be strategically a very positive thing. The director is confident that staff members who leave the organisation can take their experience and learning (gained while working with PPI-NI), as well as their commitment to PeacePlayers' organisational ethos, with them to have an influence within their new organisations.

In relation to opportunities, in 2013 PPI-NI worked in conjunction with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC)¹³ to devise a business model for, and the expansion of, PPI-NI's programmes

¹³ PWC is a multinational professional services firm. For more information visit: <http://www.pwc.co.uk/>

in future years. This collaboration has helped PPI-NI clarify their role in a scaling-up process which will involve the organisation transferring their experience into other sports, whether this involves delivering training or working collaboratively with other sporting organisations:

Years ago we used to be the basketball guys, then we became the community relations through basketball guys, now we are becoming the community relations guys who happen to use sport. I think this is a good, natural progression but it doesn't mean we no longer do basketball as this is still our core work (PPI-NI director).

Another promising opportunity for PPI-NI is its continual involvement with the 'Game of Three Halves' initiative and being part of the 'Sport for Change' group.¹⁴ The Game of Three Halves has been included as an individual case study of good practice in a strategy published by the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) in May 2013 entitled 'Together: Building a United Community'.¹⁵ This strategy is a statement reflecting the government of Northern Ireland's commitment to improving community relations and building a shared society from 2011-2015. This may potentially be a source of future revenue for PPI-NI and take them a closer step to gaining core funding. Therefore it is advisable that PPI-NI continues to evolve and expand their capacity to enable them to deliver future technical assistance as well as maintaining relationships with other sporting bodies.

¹⁴ Sport for Change group involves a number of sporting bodies who meet quarterly to discuss sport and community relations issues.

¹⁵ OFMDFM- 'Together Building a United Community'. Please see: <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/together-building-a-united-community>

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Although the remit of this evaluation has been limited in terms of resources, the report has indicated a number of findings that highlight the evolution and expansion of PeacePlayer's work within recent years.

In terms of the Primary School Twinning programme, results from section 2 in this report convey that the programme continues to have a positive impact on young peoples' attitudes and perceptions of the 'other' community. Also findings from discussions with key stakeholders (section 4), reveal that the twinning programme is run very efficiently and effectively, whilst providing the applicable content to successfully link with the primary school curriculum. The twinings remain the principal area of work for PPI-NI and it is a clear manifestation of the organisation's mission to *unite, educate and inspire young people from Catholic and Protestant communities through sport, and in particular basketball.*

This report has also highlighted the development of the Belfast Interface League (BIL) which replaced the Cross Community League (CCL) in 2012. Previous ICR evaluations have identified challenges regarding the engagement of teenagers (aged 14-17) for PPI-NI and in particular the difficulty of engaging those teenagers with the CCL. However the configuration of the new Senior BIL and the proposition of delivering OCN accredited training have increased participation among young people across the city. Also the formation of the new 'Champions 4 Peace' programme has provided a credible progression route for those young people who wish to represent PPI-NI and become an advocate for social change within their schools and communities.

It is evident that the plethora of PPI-NI's programme of work in 2012/2013 successfully linked with the organisation's overarching aims of; **bridging divides, changing perceptions and developing leaders.**

In relation to **organisational development**, this year PPI-NI has set in motion the realignment process which aims to increase the participation of young people across the whole of the city (Belfast) and to identify additional relationships (between schools) within a more localised context. This process has made organising events such as: the Belfast Interface Games, Super-Twinings, Jingle Ball and SpringJam much easier for staff to co-

ordinate and facilitate. Although the twinning programme and BIL are PPI-NI's core work, following the collaboration with PWC on devising a future business strategy, PeacePlayers recognise the opportunities to expand their work to promoting community relations through sport. The 'Game of Three Halves' initiative and being part of the 'Sport for Change' group highlight PPI-NI's expertise in community relations and also confirm PeacePlayers ambition to expand upon their existing work. Due to the ongoing struggle to secure funding for the organisation, PeacePlayers continues to deliver technical assistance and training to external agencies to gain additional revenue. However the future augmentation of this training may ultimately depend on the organisation's capacity and resources available to provide it.

In terms of future programme delivery this evaluation makes the following series of recommendations:

Organisational Development

1. PPI-NI should continue with its realignment process and the identification of more localised primary school twinings. This will enable PeacePlayers to deliver programmes to more schools and children who impact upon each other from neighbouring communities;
2. Identify further twinings in East and South Belfast to help increase participation, from those areas of the city, in all of PPI-NI's programmes;
3. Increase the involvement of P.4 and P.5 pupils throughout the twinning programme to allow for longer intervention;
4. Continue the recruitment of seasonal coaches to allow PPI-NI's core staff more time to focus on programme co-ordination and curriculum development;
5. It may be useful for PPI-NI to further develop the database (SalesForce) which stores contacts details for parents. This may allow for the enhancement of communication and engagement with parents;
6. Continue to explore further opportunities to deliver technical assistance to external agencies. However, PeacePlayers may need to recruit more staff or establish a

separate department within the organisation to maximise its capacity in delivering such training;

7. In relation to the recruitment and training of volunteers for the organisation such as the Champions 4 Peace, it may be useful for PPI-NI to liaise with Volunteer Now who help support organisations develop and up skill their young volunteers;
8. With the impending move towards community planning and area-based consultations aimed at interface areas throughout Northern Ireland, PeacePlayers may consider getting involved in the consultation process and building stronger relationships with more community organisations and statutory bodies;

Programme Structure

9. In relation to the Game of Three Halves event held in June 2013 for P.7 pupils from the twinning programme, PeacePlayers should consider organising the event earlier in the year so that participation numbers are not affected by school-leaving ceremonies;

Programme Content

10. It may be useful for PPI-NI to include some awareness on the use of **social media** to young people involved in community relations discussions. This may help young people consider the effects of posting their opinions on public platforms;
11. In relation to the twinning programme, PPI-NI should consider how they could better inform parents about the content of the community relations discussions.