

Annual Report 2017

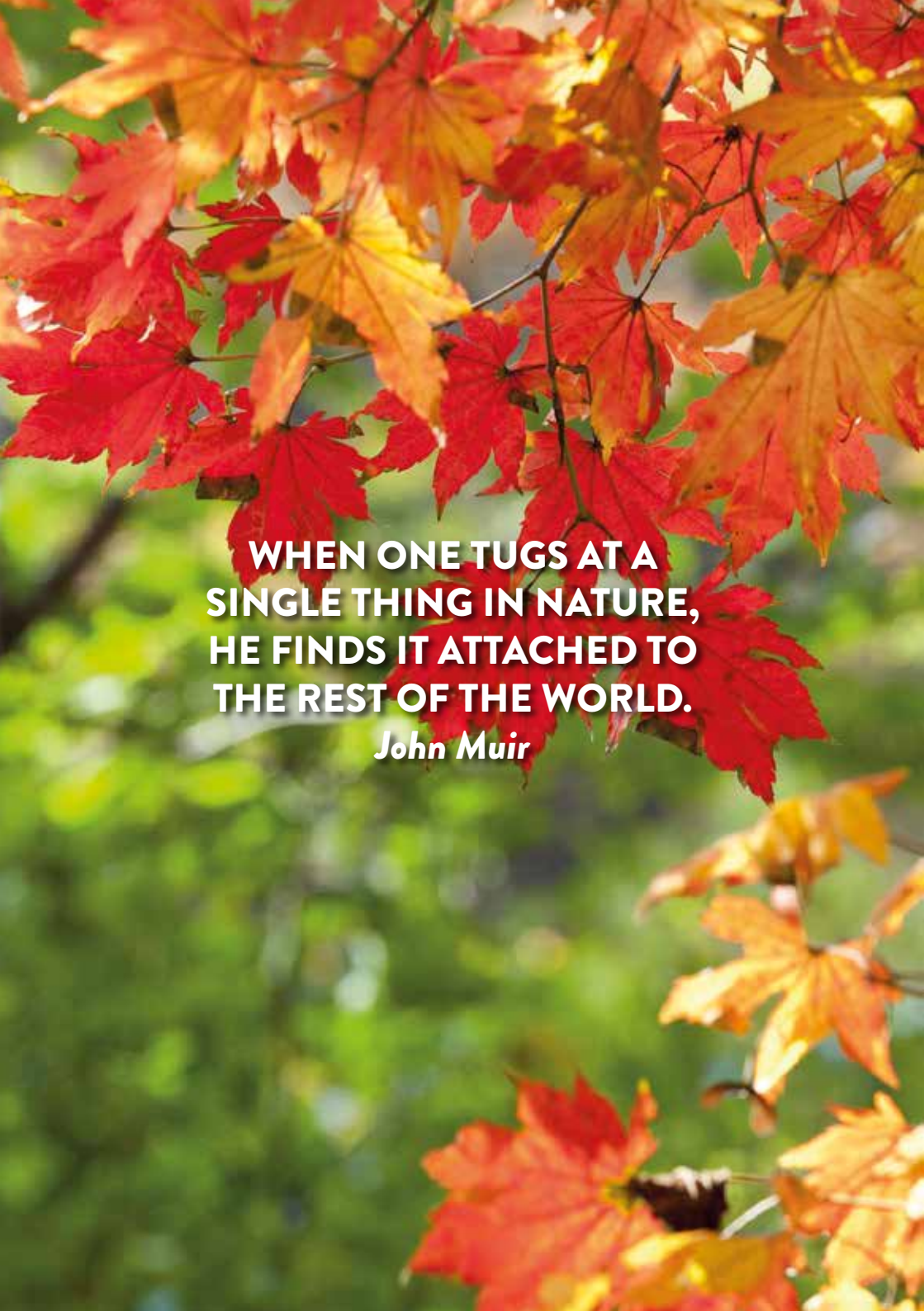


St. Columb's Park House

THE HEART IN THE PARK



'Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding'
Albert Einstein



**WHEN ONE TUGS AT A
SINGLE THING IN NATURE,
HE FINDS IT ATTACHED TO
THE REST OF THE WORLD.**

John Muir



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Message from the Managing Director | 4 |
| Chairpersons Report | 5 |
| The House | 6 |

Projects

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| M Powered | 8 |
| Compassionate Campaigning | 10 |
| Peace in the Park | 12 |
| IgnYte | 14 |
| National Citizen Service | 16 |
| Unity | 18 |
| Consensual Decision Making | 20 |
| Coming Soon Walled Garden | 21 |
| Coming Soon Disc Golf | 22 |
| Tribute to Glen Barr | 23 |

Mission

To be the heart of the park, helping nurture peaceful, vibrant, compassionate communities

Values

The values of Compassion, Inclusion, Integrity and Nurture lie at the core of the work we do and the way we interact with others

Core Themes - Heritage, Hub, Holistic

The work and strategic direction of SCPH has been aligned under three key themes of Heritage, Hub and Holistic. The Strategic aims under each of the themes are outlined below:

Strategic Aim 1: Promoting heritage of the house and the natural environment, local communities and cultures.

Strategic Aim 2: To develop the peace centre as a community hub creating a safe inclusive space for groups to meet.

Strategic Aim 3: To nurture personal and community resilience to move forward and contribute towards a peaceful, healthy society.

Strategic aim 4: To ensure SCPRT is a beacon of good practice in organisational governance, programme delivery and sustainable development.

Message from the Managing Director

Helen Henderson

Past and current approaches to peace and reconciliation have facilitated us as a society emerging from armed conflict towards peace with initiatives focusing on two main communities or traditions. The world inside and outside of NI is changing to such an extent that it is pertinent to develop an approach that reflects the current context in which we find ourselves. It is time for a new story, a new narrative for our society that moves beyond two tribes to connect with a whole world beyond borders and boundaries. A global approach to peace building can create the opportunity to widen the perspectives locally and build solidarity in a fragmented world.

The gap between rich and poor is wider than ever and we must address the structural causes of conflict and poverty in new approaches to peace building. Inequality fuels conflict and a social justice approach to peace building ensures it is relevant to people's daily lives and the challenges they face.

At a time when people who we are working with and for, are telling us that they feel overwhelmed, burned out or anxious, we

start to look at peace as a personal issue. The cultivation of personal peacefulness can restore resilience and enable us to connect empathetically with the humanity in individuals who hold perspectives that are fundamentally different to our own. We believe a better world is possible and that compassionate leadership and everyday activism are paths to peace.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has"
Margaret Mead

This year has seen real innovation and experimental approaches to peace building as we pilot new methodologies including martial arts and Compassionate Integrity Training. The location of St Columb's Park House in the heart of an urban park opens up more possibilities to connect more with the natural environment and heritage around us.



*“We can never obtain peace in the outer world
until we make peace with ourselves.”*
Dalai Lama

Chairpersons Address

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the voluntary board members and each of the staff for their contribution over the past 12 months. This has been a particularly busy time for both St Columbs Park House and for St Columbs Park Reconciliation Trust. Within St Columbs Park House we have seen an increased demand for the use of our modern meeting facilities, along with the introduction of our new look, Café in the Park which is now under new management. In addition to this, we have added a few more staff to our core team to help manage this increasing activity.

In terms of programme development, we continue to run excellent and diverse programmes which include, M-Powered Martial Arts / National Citizen Service / IgnYte and Compassionate Campaigning. Each of these programmes are delivering innovative and creative projects that are demonstrating real impact in the lives of our population.

One of our more recent projects, ‘Peace in the Park’, aims - in conjunction with a number of local organisations and groups – to improve the use and profile of the park in general. We hope to help move the park from a potential area of anti social behaviour to one that is inclusive to all and

filled with positive activities. This includes the recent introduction of activities such as Parkour training, Disc Golf, Ultimate Frisbee and a number of social events for park users and local residents.

Sean Hickey



We are excited also for our new capital works project due to start in December 2017. In conjunction with Derry City and Strabane District Council, we will be bringing back to life the Walled Garden which sits behind St Columbs Park House. We are in no doubt that this will be a fantastic addition to our facilities and we hope to fill this space with a range of projects and activities.

As we continue to develop and grow the activities in and around St Columbs Park House, we are keen to have continued involvement from anyone who is interested in helping us achieve real and positive change, so please get in touch with any of the board or staff to discuss further.

All of the above we hope will ultimately bring us towards our core mission, which is to be at the heart of the park, helping nurture peaceful, vibrant, compassionate communities.



The House

At the end of the peace bridge, nestled in a beautiful historic park, lies one of the best kept secrets in the City, St Columb's Park House. St. Columb's Park House, is a not for profit, Peace & Reconciliation Centre.

2017 was a great year in St Columbs Park House in relation to our Conference and Residential facilities. We saw a lot of new customers this year from all over the world and as always the return of our local regular customers using the centre for their weekly and monthly meetings.

The location of the House, nestled in the heart of the Park and just a 10 minute walk from the City Centre across the Peace Bridge allows our centre users the luxury of excellent conference facilities in a peaceful and tranquil setting. The Conference facilities can seat up to 190 people across a series of rooms and can be adapted to meet the needs of any group. The newly re-opened Café in the Park is an excellent addition to St Columbs Park House allowing Conference and Residential groups the option of having their catering needs tailored to suit their specific requirements.

St Columbs Park House is a versatile centre that maximises it's tranquil location to offer a wide range of events and occasions. We are a registered facility for Weddings, Civil Marriage, Civil Partnerships and Naming Ceremonies and have hosted a number of really beautiful ceremonies this year.

The highlight of the year, if we had to pick just one would be the Foyle Cup week. This year we hosted a young group from Antrim – East Coast Strikers. A group of 40 young boys and 8 Leaders stayed with us for a week. They loved the facilities within the surrounding park that they made full use of in their down time.



There were so many other highlights in 2017, e.g the Choral Festival, The Walled City Tattoo, Hands Across the Bridge, Seattle, Architectural Students, local Youth groups, Sporting groups, Political History groups and so many more groups from around the world.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL our customers and centre users for helping make 2017 a really memorable year for St Columbs Park House.



“Really thank you very much for the wonderful time. All our members, adults and children enjoyed the residential. Our children were full of energy and very active so the main Hall was just perfect”
North West Japanese Cultural Group

“Very welcoming, great parking, cosy room. Fantastic to get a cup of coffee in the café – Lovely” **Cothu**





M-Powered Project

The 'M-Powered Project' uses martial arts to engage young people in personal development and informal education. Year 2 has shown a greater awareness of the 'M-Powered' brand throughout the City as a result of the young people themselves promoting the programme amongst their peer groups. We have continued to have strong links with a variety of different community groups, delivering initial engagement 10-12 weeks programmes based in these specific communities e.g Lincoln Courts, Curryneirin, Tullyally. This has proved really successful with young people continuing on the M-Powered programme at the end of these initial engagement programmes.

One of our biggest successes is the attendance, retention and commitment of both the young people and coaches to the programme. We



have also developed a strong and successful link with a community based school for young people excluded from main stream education for a variety of reasons.

Our first Summer Camp saw 30 young people attend a week long programme including a variety of Martial Arts, Outdoor activities and Personal Development sessions. As part of our end of year evaluation we had an outdoor activity day allowing participants to meet outside the M-Powered project, to try new activities, 'to face their fears and do it anyway'. Both of these activities proved really successful with 70 young people attending. The young people really enjoyed both activities and it was a great way for us to thank them for their commitment to the programme.



Sharon Maguire M-Powered Coach Personal Statement

I have been part of the Strike Family for around 3 years now and I am currently at Green belt grade, I was given the chance to become a coach/peer mentor by Pinta in the M-Powered programme. With the other M-Powered coaches we have formed a really close team and I get so much joy seeing all our young teenagers who have joined the programme develop not just physically but mentally as well.

Through the M-Powered programme I have received training at level 2 in Youth Work and also completed and passed my examination to become a qualified Peer Mentor. I enjoy meeting all the young people from different backgrounds, religions and cultures that attend the programme. I enjoy teaching them the skills of martial arts, how to respect themselves, each other and their communities. There is great satisfaction seeing teenagers giving back to their communities without a moan or groan is amazing.

Thanks to Pinta, Shane and Colleen for starting me on this journey and showing me that I can do something worthwhile too. Also thank you to comic Relief and St Columbs Park House for supporting our programme. It is fantastic to see the Mpowered programme in action and to be involved at such a level.

Katie Mc Laughlin M-Powered Participant (14 years old)

The M-Powered project has given me so much confidence, before I started I was really worried about what people would think of me and that I might get hurt because of all the fighting. I saw the programme advertised on face book and thought it would be a good way of learning self-defence and helping me to get fit.

I have met so many friends down here and all the coaches are really good and friendly, it's like 1 big family and I look forward to every session. I have realised that martial arts is a lot more than just fighting, I used to find myself being really down at times and still do, but after the sessions on the M-Powered programme I always feel better. We don't just do Kickboxing we also do personal development work and before I started M-Powered I didn't even know what that was.

Hopefully I will achieve my next belt in martial arts which will be orange, I plan to be a black belt someday



VOLUNTEER
Deborah Mullan

The M-Powered programme so far has given me the opportunity to see today's reality for young people. The discrimination and problems youths have to face now are much worse than I've ever had to face. Hopefully I'll get a chance to be listening ear for someone as some children don't have that and in some way I hope that will help them.



PARTICIPANT
Katie McLaughlin

M-powered means to me: a chance to participate in sports for lads and girls together so that we treat each other as equals and anyone can do it if they are good or beginners.

We get the belief that we can do any sports no matter what.



COACH
Daniel "Pinta" Quigley

M-Powered has giving me a path way to connect better with teenagers and to listen to their voice, understand and focus on their needs and wants. Through martial arts and personal development sessions we have built a connection and as a team we are able to tackle a wide range of issues which they feel affect them.

The main goal of the project is to give young people a voice, build confidence, connect with their peers and also learn some self defence skills



624 coaching hours on the M-Powered programme





Campaigning Communities 2016 – 2017

Funded by The Joseph Rowntree Trust, our Campaigning Communities project began in October 2015 with the appointment of the Campaigning Communities Project Co-ordinator, Nuala Crilly. The aim of the project is two-fold:

1. To enable the voices of local people from marginalised communities (geographic or community of interest) to be heard in a decision making process which impacts on them and their communities
2. To enhance the skills, knowledge and capacity of local people to develop and drive forward a campaign on an issue they feel passionate about. The Campaigning Communities Training and Support Programme continues to support more local residents to campaign for change within their local communities or on issues they felt passionate about.

"I had burnt myself out, so when I completed the course, I felt I had gained new skills around self-care, managing stress and knowing when to take a step back. I was introduced to mindfulness and how to build my self-esteem. The course has empowered me to become a strong, more resilient and better campaigner."

"The course was fantastic, was a safe environment. Facilitators broke down information to our own level of learning, so I wasn't not afraid to ask questions and I didn't feel stupid. The course challenged my mind and really got me thinking... Nuala helped me understand law and how to start a campaign."

The most important thing I gained from "Campaigning Communities" is a recognition that we are none of us alone, that there is a network of innovative, caring activists out there who are supportive and will give their all to change their Community and Society for the better, and I now have the great pleasure, through this programme, of being able to call on many of them as "Friend and Ally"!!

I found the programme brilliant. I learned from each one of the module topics. The facilitators put a lot of work into delivering their topic. Some of the module topics I found more interesting than others. Such as Local Council, Developing an Effective Campaign Strategy, Human Rights, Media Training, Voice Coaching, and Stormont.

The Smart Pass Equality Campaign was launched in November 2016 by participants of the programme along with disability and community activists and supporters. The aim of the campaign is to get a full fare concessionary travel pass for those citizens who currently receive a half fare concessionary pass for being 'unable to drive for medical reasons'. The campaign has received the support of 4 local councils across the North and the aim is to get all councils support the goals of the campaign. SPEC representatives spoke and took part in May Day Workers Rally, supported the Stop The Cuts Campaign against cuts in the local health service. Other Campaigns included in Campaigning Communities Training and Support Programme were:

- providing backstage accessible access for performers with disabilities
- the need to provide more vegan options within hospitals for vegans
- provision of bus stops along key arterial routes in city for those with disabilities
- improving access for tourist buses within city centre

The Campaigning Communities coordinator, Nuala Crilly, continues to provide ongoing support to participants from the Training and Support programmes and recently delivered a session on Governance: Roles and responsibilities for Committee members to the new Management Committee of La Dolce Vita Project, whose development was supported through participation of its Director of Services in the first Training and Support Programme

One of the most exciting programmes was the delivery of Compassionate Integrity Training delivered in June 2017 by professors from LIFE University in Atlanta Georgia. 25 practitioners from statutory, community, peace and reconciliation work and individual counsellors took part in the programme which examined Compassion (for self and others) as the basis in which we interact with each other. We are delighted to say that Joseph Rowntree Charitable Foundation has given funding to secure the project for another three years with an increased emphasis on compassion within campaigning and how it can impact on outcomes for the campaigner and others. This new programme, Compassionate Campaigning, began in January 2017 and we are currently finalising the schedule for a new training and support programme with an emphasis on Self-care, Compassion, Non-violence as a form of protest, Understanding Systems and Interdependency and Critical Thinking.





Peace in the Park

Project Summary:

Peace in the Park is a project based in St. Columb's Park House, and funded through The Executive Office. Peace in the Park provides social and sporting activities in the Park designed to appeal to park users of all ages. It truly has something for everyone

- Monthly Cycle
- Community Clean Up
- Ultimate Frisbee League
- Heritage & History Event
- Christmas Craft Fair
- Memory Day (2018)

Ultimate Frisbee

Peace in the Park aims to engage 300 people in Ultimate Frisbee. Ultimate Frisbee is a game that can be used to engage people in responsible decision making, respectful interactions with others and it is a game that is inclusive and known worldwide. We have trained 30 youth workers, teachers



Community Clean Up

Over the Summer months we engaged with local young people using the park. We identified that litter in the park was an issue and so we responded with a Park Clean Up, inviting young people to come along and help out. This event was a huge success with over 40 young people attending to work alongside the Community Wardens.

Parkour

Through Peace in the Park we have hosted Parkour Generations, a free running organisation with many years experience facilitating Parkour all over the world. Parkour Generations provided training to 8 potential coaches over the course of a weekend, teaching them new skills and imparting valuable knowledge in how to engage people to become more active within the park using Parkour techniques. Our team of Parkour enthusiasts are currently building on their practice and knowledge and are working on developing a pilot programme which will be delivered within the park.

Monthly Family Cycle Event

The monthly cycle happens on the last Sunday of each month and encourages families to come together and use the various routes through the park. The aim here is to promote the park as a Shared space for all.

and community workers providing them with everything they need to use Ultimate Frisbee in the park with the people they work with.

History Event

Our aim is to build better relationships with local residents here in St Columb's Park. We have hosted an afternoon tea and talk for local residents, where they heard a fascinating talk from local historian Ken McCormac. We are making plans for an exciting Christmas event which will bring together families, young people and older people to socialise and share in our festive celebrations.

Park Youth

Our Youth Forum is now meeting regularly. 'Park Youth' will complete identity training, explore the role of young people in society and identify ways in which they can contribute in a positive way to St Columb's Park.



540 event hours - 300 people attending event



IgnYte is a Personal Youth Development Programme designed for 16-25 year olds in Derry/Londonderry. It is a partnership between St. Columb's Park House and the Churches Trust and is funded by the International Fund for Ireland and managed by the Rural Development Council. It seeks to address three main areas:

1. **Skills and employability**
2. **Good relations**
3. **Personal development**

The programme uses a person-centred and holistic approach to identify and meet needs of participants, including but not limited to:

1. **Work/education/training - particularly the provision of at least 2 qualifications**
2. **Health and wellbeing (physical and mental)**
3. **Structure in the form of regular sessions (both in groups and in an individual setting) that include a healthy meal**
4. **Coming into contact with different types of people and of thinking.**

.....

IgnYte offers three groupwork sessions per week with additional individual sessions and mentoring provided monthly or as needed. Participants meet for lunch on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and participate in training or other activities afterwards.

The programme is open to anyone aged 16-25 who is interested in considering a new direction in life

What our participants say

"It's good to meet new people and learn new things like First Aid. Tai Chi is pretty good because it really mellows you out. And it's brilliant to get experience welding."

"Meeting new people and learning about diversity has been good. Seeing life from different perspectives has been useful, especially the conflict resolution session where we got to learn about how other people think and why they do things"

Jamie first came into contact with IgnYte through his supported accommodation. IgnYte provided him with training, mentoring, and support, and access to a taster course in outdoor activities. He was supported to apply for a trainee position at the Share Centre and six weeks into his placement said:

"Before I came down, I was worried about moving away from everyone else. I was worried about being stuck and not knowing anyone, but everyone's been 100%. I was also worried I wouldn't like it and I'd end up back in supported accommodation or back

on the dole. I'm not going back to that craic again – it's just depressing."

Reflecting on a session he assisted with, he said: *"I know there were a few who didn't like the water and I was able to persuade them to participate. A fella was scared of jumping in and I was able to tell him how I used to be scared and that he would regret it if he didn't do it."*

"I know I'm welcome because its friendly and I can be me at IgnYte."

"Weaving willow is like a stress ball. If I'd have known I could have done it before I'd have done it a long time ago. I thought wreathes weren't even proper branches but you can just make them up easily. It would be cool to take it up in your spare time."

"Mountain biking is good because we have to think ahead. It's nice to do something physical and the problem solving element is good too. I don't feel like I need a smoke now."





National Citizen Service

NCS is a once in a lifetime opportunity for 15-17 year olds to build skills for employment such as resilience, confidence and leadership; build trust between people of different backgrounds; and create stronger communities where giving back is a way of life. There are around 300,000 graduates of the programme in the UK, 2000 of which are from Northern Ireland.

St Columb's Park House is responsible for the oversight and delivery of three teams of young people every summer and two in the autumn. The teams are based in Derry/Londonderry and Coleraine but also engage young people from surrounding areas such as Donegal, Dungiven, Maghera, Garvagh, Ballymoney, and beyond. This summer saw 44 participants complete the programme with a further 3 taking on volunteer roles. In the autumn programme, 32 participated with another 3 volunteers. With 82 young people engaging in NCS this year, we have the potential of creating fantastic opportunities for

peacebuilding and social cohesion.

During the Social Action Phase of the programme, young people are supported to develop creative and innovative solutions to some challenging community issues. This is a young person led approach to active citizenship and has, in the past few years of NCS, seen fantastic ideas from groups; exploring issues like Equality, Fairtrade, Homelessness, Mental Health, the Environment, and Social Cohesion. After completing the initial programme, participants become NCS graduates, with access to a wide range of opportunities and support to continue making their mark in their communities. For example, two summer graduates were accepted onto the NCS NI Regional Youth Board, where they have the opportunity to shape the programme in the coming year. Other graduates have gone on to volunteer with the programme, create a continually improving system.

NCS nurtures young people's capacity for courage, creativity and compassion.



“NCS has allowed me the opportunity to take on more responsibility and to have a say in how the program was run. For example, I was given the opportunity to organise my own mental health workshop as part of the skills days and to get different organisations involved with our social action project.

The activity which I enjoyed the most would undoubtedly be the sailing during our residential. It was something that I had never done prior to NCS and the activity itself allowed us to work together as a team and be responsible for each others safety.

However, what I would say is the best part of NCS would have to be the people. No planned activity could possibly beat the conversations I've had, the bonds I've formed and the memories I've created with everyone in the team.”

Zac (Autumn 2017)

“I think it's important for everyone to take care of their local environment and community to make it a better place, and I want to be able to have a positive impact on the world around me. Through NCS I can do that while having fun with friends. I enjoyed hanging out on the residential because it was nice to relax and just get to know everyone, and playing different games was great craic!”

Alicia (Autumn 2017)

“NCS made me realise how much good can be done in local communities with just an idea and people who are willing and ready to make a difference. Although you may be in aching pain

or sick of calling the same office five times a day until someone takes your call, you do it anyway – because it's your social action plan; your chance to make a difference. And that means something. NCS is without a doubt one of the best things I have ever been a part of.”

Callum (Summer 2017)

“NCS has had a hugely positive, life changing effect on my daughter. She has developed new skills, lifelong friends, confidence, and a very deep understanding and acceptance of all communities.”

Parent of autumn 2017 participant

“NCS was the best weekend of my son's life. He grew and matured and got a sense of the wonder of life and it's possibilities.”

Parent of autumn 2017 participant

“The world is far from perfect but it's up to us to change it.” **Autumn 2017 participant**

“The NCS team were deliberately given free-reign to develop their project as they saw fit and this resulted in wide-spread engagement and a genuine willingness on the part of every young person to get involved on the day and make every aspect of the project a success. It was refreshing to see such a committed and motivated group of young people and The Cornfield Project praise all those present and the wider NCS team for all their valued input.” **Brendan Patterson, Project Manager - Focus on Family, Coleraine**





Unity Project.

Unity is a peer leadership training programme that empowers people to challenge sectarianism/bullying/harassment and lead the way in creating a culture of compassion and active citizenship in schools and communities. This programme is a partnership between Holywell, St Columbs Park House, PSNI and Steve Wessler.

Steve Wessler has been working in Derry-Londonderry and internationally for the past 10 years on a number of projects to reduce conflict and the risk of violence. This work has involved communities, schools, government officials and the PSNI.

Originally developed in 1999, Unity seeks to harness the power of peer influence in reducing

levels of bias incidents including bullying and hate speech in schools and communities.

Unity empowers students to resist pressures to accept, comply with and demonstrate discriminatory attitudes and to support victims. Unity assists students to understand cultural difference and the role of values, beliefs, and customs.

The Unity curriculum uses a series of narrative based modules, delivered by trained facilitators, to introduce the concepts of difference and the impacts of bias based on difference before giving students the opportunity to practice strategies for reducing bias incidents in their schools for the short and longer term.

The Unity curriculum also seeks to build a



Consensus Based Decision Making

CBDM is not new and has been used by indigenous communities for hundreds of years to make good decisions that take all perspectives into consideration. This project is a partnership with Rubicon, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and seeks to use this tool to constructively address divisive issues and help decision making processes in councils and communities.

“Consensual Decision Making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with”.

The Modified Borda Count is used when dialogue fails and it is a preference voting procedure with a range of options that people can vote on from their most preferred option to their least

preferred option. This voting method is not commonly used and the most well-known version of this is the Eurovision Song Contest. The benefits are many and generally this process can build trust and confidence in decision making. It works well for decisions that are potentially divisive as the process sidelines the divisive options and veers towards options that have traction across the divide.

Training workshops raised awareness of this tool with a diverse range of groups including councils, PCSP, environmental campaigners, community groups and good relations practitioners. The tool was also piloted and used with the Rathlin islanders to name the new ferry ‘Spirit of Rathlin’. It was adopted by Causeway Coast and Glens Council to prioritise capital projects and recently was used to identify areas for development between two interface areas.



Coming Soon



Disc Golf Course

As part of our Peace in the Park Programme we plan to install Northern Ireland's first Disc Golf Course.

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf. Instead of a ball and clubs, however, players use a flying disc or Frisbee. The sport was formalized in the 1970's and shares with "ball golf" the object of completing each hole in the fewest strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws). A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target which is the "hole". The hole is called a Pole Hole which is

an elevated metal basket.

Disc golf shares the same joys and frustrations of traditional golf, whether it's sinking a long putt or hitting a tree halfway down the fairway. There are a few differences, though. Disc golf rarely requires a greens fee, you probably won't need to rent a cart, and you never get stuck with a bad "tee time." It is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, male and female, regardless of economic status.

Tribute to Glen Barr

Glen Barr is well renowned for his role in establishing the International Peace School and bringing the community together around the shared experience and loss during World War 1. Glen was also a key founding member of St. Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust and we would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to his vision and leadership in the establishment of St. Columb's Park House as a Peace Centre.

25 years ago St. Columb's Park House was an old derelict building in the middle of the park. It had a long colourful history up to that point, having been a country house retreat for several aristocratic families from the late 1700s, used by the military during the war and as a nurses home in the 70's and 80's.

Glen had an idea, a really good idea. What about developing this derelict building into a space for peace and reconciliation? A safe space where people from all walks of life could stay, get to know each other and most importantly challenge the stereotypes and narratives that had festered during the troubles. Glen could see the common humanity and common suffering that transcended religious and cultural differences and wanted to use this beautiful building as a place where people could be restored, find hope and cultivate a shared future.



Glenny sadly passed away in October 2017.


Partners and Funders





St. Columb's Park House

THE HEART IN THE PARK



St. Columb's Park House
4 Limavady Road
Waterside
Derry / Londonderry
BT47 6JY

Tel: +44 (0)28 7134 3080

 /stcolumbsparkhouse

www.stcolumbsparkhouse.org