



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Evaluation Report

The Big Deal Small Grants Programme Evaluation Report

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The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Chapter One CONTEXT

This chapter establishes the place of The Big Deal Small Grants Programme within The Big Deal Programme and outlines its operational aims and objectives.

1.1 The Big Deal

The Big Deal began as a £4 million programme resourced through the Big Lottery Fund under its Northern Ireland Young People's Fund. This fund seeks to promote the involvement of children and young people in decision-making about issues which may be of particular concern to their age group.

1.1.1 The Big Deal is a youth sector partnership initiative involving:

- Youthnet (award partner and manager of the Small Grants Programme)
- PlayBoard (delivery partner Play Quest programme)
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum (delivery partner programmes for young people) supported by the Education and Library Boards
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland (strategy and co-ordination partner)

1.1.2 The aim of the wider Programme is to encourage children and young people to become involved in participatory activities which enhance their personal and social development; to develop the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices about their lives; to demonstrate their positive contribution to family and community life.

1.1.3 Working across three flexible age bands, 0 -10, 11 -16, 17 - 25, The Big Deal has a number of elements which are designed to bring about the greater participation of children and young people in decision making.

These include:

- The Small Grants Programme
- The Children and Young People's Forum
- A Policy and Research Initiative
- A series of participation initiatives and
- Play Quest

1.2 The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

1.2.1 The Big Deal Small Grants Programme was designed to complement and underpin the development of the wider initiative and was intended to support children and young people to:

- Play an active role in the design, delivery and management of their own project
- Learn and practise new skills and examine relevant issues
- Gain a better understanding of their own and other communities
- Participate in the allocation of resources
- Demonstrate their contribution to active communities

1.2.2 The Big Deal Small Grants Programme's operational objectives, drawn from the original funding application, can be summarised as:

'To deliver a small grants programme, complementary to the age-specific strategies, aimed at children and young people in the following settings:

- **Individuals**
- **Groups involved in youth work, childcare / playwork and community settings**
- **Groups involved in institutions including schools and statutory care provision'**

The programme would be a rolling programme over three years.

1.2.3 Young people as Decision Makers

A key element of the programme would be that decisions about who should be funded would all be made by children and young people. These panels of young people would be from a range of backgrounds and geographical areas in NI and, as far as possible, be representative of the wider community in terms of gender, ethnicity, community background and disability.

1.2.4 Young people as Project Organisers.

Eligible to apply for funding were:

- Individuals or informal groups of children and young people aged 0 - 25
- An informal group could be a friendship group or a group who share a common interest. They could also be members of a club or centre.
- An individual could apply for a grant of £500
- An informal group could apply for a grant between £500 and £2,500.

1.2.5 Project Outcomes

The Big Deal wanted to fund projects that help make a difference in children and young people's own lives and the lives of others in their peer group, family, youth group, school, community or area.

Outcomes were to be:

Increased Participation

Improved health and wellbeing

And/or

Increased achievement and learning

It could also be about

Wider family and community support for children and young people

1.2.6 Project Themes

There were three themes and projects had to focus on at least one of them.

These were:

- 1. Impact of conflict and tackling sectarianism;**
- 2. Transition from infancy to adulthood**
- 3. Additional needs of vulnerable socially excluded and disaffected children and young people**



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme was launched in September 2006 with the goal of distributing £1,000,000 over 3 years.



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Chapter Two EVALUATING THE BIG DEAL SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

2.1 Context

The programme has now been running for more than 3 years, with an extension of its original deadline from September 2009 to September 2010 when it was found to be ahead of its target spend with higher take up than anticipated. It is now appropriate to evaluate its effectiveness to date, in order to inform decisions about how The Big Lottery should allocate resources to support children and young people in Northern Ireland in the future.

2.2 Terms of Reference and Methodology

This study was commissioned to evaluate the overall impact and effectiveness of The Big Deal Small Grants Programme as measured against its agreed objectives.

Core elements are:

OUTPUTS

To look at the geographic and demographic spread of the programme, measuring the success of grant distribution against programme targets

To look at the success of the programme in ensuring that projects achieved the intended Participation Outcome and matched the intended Themes.

To examine the appropriateness and effectiveness of assessment methods and criteria and the management and reporting structures for the programme.

LEGACY

To measure its impacts on young people:

Its effectiveness in supporting children and young people who applied for grants to:

- Play an active role in the design, delivery and management of their own project
- Learn and practise new skills and examine relevant issues
- Gain a better understanding of their own and other communities

Its effectiveness in supporting children and young people who served on the decision making Panels to:

- Participate in the allocation of resources
- Learn and practise new skills and examine relevant issues
- Gain a better understanding of their own and other communities
- Demonstrate their contribution to active communities

To identify any additional or unintended outcomes

- Impact on Youth Work in Northern Ireland

To make recommendations for future developments.

Methodology

This entailed a Review of all appropriate documentation, Consultation with key informants, Observation and Participation at Panel meetings and events, and Visits to projects.

SEE APPENDIX I for list of individuals interviewed



Chapter Three PROJECT OPERATION

This chapter describes the operation of the scheme – launching and promoting it, establishing its management processes, recruiting, training and supporting Panel Members, processing applications, management of risk and celebrating achievement. Statistics are included detailing spend, reach and number of projects.

3.1 Promotion of the Grant Scheme

The fund opened for applications in August 2006 with the official launch taking place in September.

Information about the programme was widely circulated to Youth and Community Organisations across Northern Ireland. There was a high profile Launch and 'Unveiling of the Website' with Colin Murray on 6th September 2006. The Big Deal Team also embarked on a sequence of information initiatives and road shows to explain the new fund, to illustrate and animate the Themes and desired Outcomes and to describe the types of projects that could be eligible.

3.2 Setting up the Operational Process and Systems

3.2.1 Learning from previous experience

Parallel to the promoting and marketing this new fund, Big Deal workers established the criteria for applicants and parameters for selection. They drew on the learning from a pilot scheme, **Go For It!**, which Youthnet had operated in 1999 – 2000.

Key learning points included :-

The importance of **flexibility** at each stage – (and this included a willingness to operate at evenings and weekends as that is when young people are available).

The need for the application and reporting process to be **simple and straightforward**.

The need for the process and timeframe to be as **efficient and short** as possible.

The need for **training and ongoing support** for the Decision Making group.

The need to have **youth-friendly workers** at every level within The Big Deal – assessors / admin / management – to make the experience as accessible and as positive as possible for the young applicants.

The importance of enlisting the **support of a Youth Worker** for each applicant group and giving them a clear role in the process.

The need to build in **safeguards** so young people were more likely to succeed.

The importance of giving the young people as much responsibility as legally possible for the **actual management of the money**.

And finally – to **trust and respect** young people – believing them capable of great competence, creativity and achievement.

3.2.2 Setting up the Infra-structure

Enlisting Assessors and setting up the Assessment Process

A bank of assessors was appointed. All assessments were to be done over the phone. A short Assessment form was devised and honed over time to make it as informative but minimal as possible.

Methods for Recording and Monitoring

Big Deal staff devised monitoring forms and methods that would elicit the maximum of information with a minimum of bureaucracy.



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3.3 Management of Risk

All grant giving involves Risk. In order to minimise this in a scheme which is aimed at people with no experience of project management or of budget management, several safeguards were built in.

3.3.1 There was a **2 stage process** for applying where all applications came to the Project Officer as an Outline Proposal before the applicant completed a Full Application Form. This gave the Officer an opportunity to identify applications that were ineligible or not thought through and to advise the young applicant on what they would need to do to meet the criteria and to make their application more likely to succeed.

3.3.2 Host Organisation, Project Sponsor and a Referee

Every group or individual applying needed to be linked to a Host Organisation. This could be a Youth Club, a Sporting organisation, a school, etc. This organisation was responsible for receiving the money and helping the project organiser(s) to oversee its management, for ensuring Child Protection issues (Safeguarding Children) were in place and for arranging that all project activities were covered by insurance.

The Project Sponsor – usually a member of the Host Organisation – took on a mentoring, support and advice role for the young people in the delivery of the project.

The Referee would analyse what they thought the benefits of the project would be and would flag up any concerns there might be, in order that further support should be built in.

3.4 The Decision Making Panels

3.4.1 Recruitment

In the summer of 2006, applications were invited for children and young people aged from 7 – 25 to form a **Children and Young People's Forum (CYPF)**. The Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) played the lead role in establishing and supporting this group.

This Forum met for the first time in October 2006 and proceeded to meet every 6 weeks. Many of its members came from existing Youth Clubs from both the voluntary and the statutory sector. The goal was that young people would influence decisions in all aspects of The Big Deal – looking at Participation initiatives, Play Quest and advising on Policy as well as forming the Decision Making Panels for the Grants Programme.

3.4.2 Training

Most of the newly recruited Forum members were keen to become involved in the Grant making Panels. The CYPF Officer and Big Deal staff delivered training for these Panels and established a culture of Inclusion and Participation. There would be no hierarchy – the voice of an 8 year old was valued as much as a 21 year old.

3.4.3 Development of the Panels

At first Panels met once a month but, gradually, it became two meetings a month, with each meeting dealing with 9 to 11 applications.

Recruitment was ongoing, with Participation Workers across the five Boards encouraging young people to get involved. The CYPF Officer created a training pack and ran confidence building sessions. The style of the training and the format for decision making meetings evolved over the 3 years.

By 2009, there were nine locations for Panel meetings as well as **Belfast City** -

West: Park, Belleek, Omagh, Strabane;

North East: Macosquin;

South: Crossmaglen, Newry;

South East: Colin, Glenavy, Lisburn.

3.5 Milestone - Celebrating Achievements

In April 2008 a Celebration Event was run in order to showcase a sample of the projects that had been funded to date. Caitriona Ruane, Minister of Education was the special guest.

3.5.1 The core aims of the event were:

Publicity / Promotion for The Big Deal

- To inform Youth Services what had actually happened through this Fund.
- To raise the profile of the fund and give publicity to the high quality work funded.
- To publicise positive messages about young people and what they can achieve.

Messages to decision makers and funders

- To impress decision makers and influence them to consider more direct funding to young people and to consider involving young people more in decision making.
- To demonstrate the contribution young people can make to society – i.e. recognising them as civic activists.

Celebration / for the young people –both grantees and Panel members

- To recognise what they had achieved and give them a platform to tell others.
- For them to find out what other groups had done.

3.5.2 Programme and Contributors

The programme for the evening included a wide range of demonstrations and performances from groups and one individual who had been funded through the Grants programme.

SEE APPENDIX II for List of Participants and Contributors.

3.6 Extension of The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

The original time frame was to run for 3 years from September 2006 until September 2009, with the target of spending £1,000, 000 on 453 projects. By 2009 it was clear that the full £1m would be spent before the end of September.

In the summer of 2009, extra money became available and The Big Lottery allocated a further £500,000 to Youthnet to extend spending to the end of September 2010.

3.7 Statistics – as at September 2010

The first awards were made in March 2007 so:

**Year 1 runs from March to December 2007,
Year 2 Jan – Dec 2008
Year 3 Jan – Dec 2009
Year 4 Jan – Sep 2010**

Number of Panel meetings:

Year 1 = 15 Year 2 = 23 Year 3 = 24 Year 4 = 18 Total = 80

Locations for Panel meetings

Belfast City

West: Park, Belleek, Omagh, Strabane;

North East: Macosquin;

South: Crossmaglen, Newry;

South East: Colin, Glenavy, Lisburn.



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Figures at September 2010

Total apps	Awarded	Rejected	Withdrawn
1140	723	187	230

Rejected at selection level =

Year 1 = 5 Year 2 = 10 Year 3 = 2 Year 4 = 3 Total = 20

TARGETS

The target for Individual grants was originally 94 over the 3 years. This target was renegotiated in 2008 when it became clear that take up was very low and the target was subsumed into total number of projects.

	Target No of projects	No of projects ACTUAL	Target £ distributed	£ distributed ACTUAL
Year 1	125	108	£267,997	£234,836
Year 2	168	208	£373,800	£461,022
Year 3	160	238	£358,203	£523,398
Year 4	0	169	£492,080	£280,744
Total	453	723 projects funded 7 Individual awards 716 Group awards	£1,478,743	£1,492,080 awarded in grants

The targets for no. of groups funded and spend for Year 1 was not met. However, by the end of Year 2, the target for the first 2 years was exceeded and at the end of Year 3 the programme had funded over 100 more projects than it originally aimed to and had distributed £219,256 of extra money.

The Average Group award was £2,075

SEE APPENDIX VIII for breakdown by age, gender, geography and ethnicity.

3.7.2 No. of applications V No. of successful projects

Of the **1140** Outline Proposal Forms, a number never progressed past the first stage of the two stage process. Some were rejected because they were totally ineligible, perhaps because of age group, or nature of the request (e.g. outside the geographical jurisdiction) some because they were in effect adult-lead or because the project had already taken place. Of the 230 applicants who voluntarily withdrew from the process, many did so following stage one. Applicants withdrew for a variety of reasons, due to personal circumstances, project technicalities or lost momentum between application stages. Others withdrew their application at Outline Proposal stage, coming back with a reworked project after advice from the Project Officer. Of the applications which did then proceed to complete a full application form, Panels rejected a total of 20 and awarded grants to **723**.

3.7.3 Group applications V Individual applications

It was soon apparent that the overwhelming proportion of applications was from groups of young people rather than individuals.

During the 4 years only seven Individual Grants were actually awarded.

These included funding for a young man to gain swimming and football coaching qualifications in order that he could coach young people in the Special Olympics, an award for a young woman with a deaf father to raise awareness about issues facing deaf people and support for a young woman to research the needs of young people in her isolated rural community (Attical).

Possible reasons for this low number of applications are considered later.

Chapter Four FINDINGS

This chapter looks at the effectiveness of the programme in meeting its declared objectives, its impacts and lasting legacy. It considers the impacts for the young people who applied for funding and for the young people responsible for the distribution of the funding. It also considers the impact this programme has had on youth workers and youth work and looks at the programme's role in delivering the Department of Education's Strategic Objectives.

4.1 Meeting the Programme's Targets

Effectiveness of grant distribution against programme targets – geographic and demographic

At first the bulk of applications were from Greater Belfast and Derry City. By the third year applications had been received from every Education and Library Board and every Council area.

Applications came consistently from an almost equal distribution of male led, female led and mixed groups, with slightly more females than males.

At October 2010, final returns had been received from **519** of the **723** awarded projects, so it is only possible to accurately analyse the make up and gender of those.

Of the 23,129 participants in those **519** projects there was a total of **10,890** males and **12,239** females.

From the same returns it emerged that the two main traditions were also fairly evenly represented, with **13,088** participants declaring themselves from a Catholic background, 9,278 declaring themselves from a Protestant background and 763 as other.

This discrepancy is much less than the findings of several other funders, where the Protestant community is often under-represented in many rounds of applications.

4.2 Assessment Methods and Criteria

4.2.1 Assessment Criteria, Assessment Process and Decision Making.

The assessment process was honed and proportionate, producing a minimal report that was as clear and concise as possible

4.2.2 Turnaround Timeframe

The timeframe for the process was kept as short as possible. Applications could proceed from Outline Proposal to Panel decision-making meeting in **4 weeks**. This swift time frame was an important feature of the scheme.

4.2.3 Reporting structures / monitoring process

The monitoring forms and methods had been designed to elicit the maximum of information with the minimum of bureaucracy. Training provided at the outset was successful in ensuring that all project organisers knew what records to keep and how to track their spend.



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4.2.4 Management structures for applications - including management of risk

The roles of the Host Organisation, Project Sponsor and Referee proved essential as background support and guidance for the applicants.

4.2.5 Management of disappointment / reducing the risk of 'failing'

The two stage application process meant that all projects moving on to the Assessment stage had already been processed for meeting the criteria and being eligible. This created an opportunity for advice and project development and, therefore, reduced the number of rejections at the Panel stage. In fact only 20 were actually rejected by Panels during the four years although many others had conditions laid down for them or had their grant total adjusted.

4.3 Impacts for Applicants – The Legacy of the Programme

Effectiveness in supporting children and young people who applied for grants to:

- **Play an active role in the design, delivery and management of their own project - the Participation Outcome**
- **Learn and practise new skills and examine relevant issues**
- **Gain a better understanding of their own and other communities**
- **Gain a Sense of Achievement and Increased Confidence**

4.3.1 Playing an active role in the design, delivery and management of their own project –Participation

NB There are three age categories **0 – 10**, **11 – 16** and **17 – 25**.

Category One – the 0 to 10's

For the younger under 10's, the definition of 'active role in design, delivery and management' was very flexible. However, even at an early age, applicants were expected to have an active engagement with the process at a level which is substantially different from a funding process carried out by an adult on behalf of, for example, a playgroup or a primary school class. Even 3 and 4 year olds had the process explained to them, had a proactive role in discussing the project they would like to make happen, chose equipment from catalogues or through visits to other similar projects, often drawing pictures of what they would like. If the project was successful they were then kept informed about decisions by The Big Deal and about money arriving and being spent.

Applications from this age group included requests for new outdoor equipment, gymnastics activities in their play facility, landscaping of their garden area, a buddy system to ease the transition from playgroup to Primary 1, ride on tractors and a pirate ship.

This level of involvement increased as applicants got older where 7, 8, 9 and 10 year olds formed committees, had meetings to plan, presented to school assemblies or to the rest of their After Schools Group, ran surveys and researched on the net what they needed to make their project work. They had a hands-on role at all stages. One or two representatives of each group spoke to an assessor on the phone to describe their proposal and they were supported to take on roles in the operation of the project when funding was agreed. They were kept involved in the spending of the money and then participated in the reporting process, filling in forms which described what they had got out of the experience.

Applications from this age group included new layouts for playground games, afterschool Friendship clubs, art projects and outward bound activities, a P7 Year Book, a Diary with drawings and wise sayings, a peer mentoring project to sort out playground disputes and a landscaped garden with sculptures.

Categories Two and Three – 11 to 16's and 17 to 25's

The 11 -16s and the 17 -25's were expected to take even more responsibility for the designing and delivery of their projects. The level of support offered by their Host and Sponsor varied from project to project, from a guiding / leading involvement to a background watchful eye, but the core ethos to this whole programme – as emphasised by the process itself and all Big Deal workers – was an expectation that young people would have ownership, do the work and gain the satisfaction.

Feedback from assessors and from final Evaluation Forms confirmed that this did happen. The young people planned, managed and completed the projects themselves.

Projects included bands, dramas, residentials, circus workshops, organising a large scale music event for their peers, a community clean up and summer activities project, cross community sporting activities, films, talent competitions and much more.

SEE APPENDIX VI For examples of projects run by all ages

4.3.2 Learning and practising new skills and examining relevant issues

Because the process outlined above did take place, and the young people did plan and run their own projects, they gained a whole range of new skills in **planning, administration, budgeting and project management**.

Some also improved skills such as **literacy, numeracy and IT skills** through the process of writing the application, keeping track of the budget and completing the evaluation report.

In addition, in many cases, there were specific skills particular to their project such as **music technology, circus, sports, cookery, diary design and editing, community development, peer mentoring, performance, gardening, film making, etc.**

Their **Personal Development** was enhanced. In many of the projects the young people specifically focused on their own and the group's personal development, where they wanted to move towards an increased ability to take leadership roles in their youth club or to become more responsible citizens. For example, there were Residentials / outward bound weekends which were about bonding as a team and increasing young people's confidence so they could play a more active role in their youth club.

The Big Deal defined Personal Development under a number of headings.

Leadership

Communication

Co-operation

Personal Responsibility

Organising

Problem solving

In the Final Report Form they asked the young people to rate themselves on each of these headings. They found that **all respondents** considered that they had increased their skills in at least one of these areas.

4.3.3 Examination of relevant issues / Gaining a better understanding of their own and other communities

There were *issue based projects* – for example Drug and Alcohol Awareness projects such as 'Know the Score' in West Belfast where local young women decided they wanted to learn about the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse and how to avoid getting involved in anti social behaviour.



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There were courses designed to support *young people to keep out of trouble*. e.g. 'The Drama in our Lives' was a project where a group of girls from Gobnascale (Derry) sought to do role plays about how they could deal with potentially corrupting situations, like being offered drugs or being enticed to break the law .

Other projects directly focused on *community relations* or *anti racism* and activities such as football or basketball were used as a platform for young people to examine their own prejudices and attitudes. In other projects the vehicle was drama or music making and young people from different backgrounds worked together to break down barriers and achieve common goals.

Some of the projects were explicitly about *doing something for others*. Young people involved with 'Streetreach' in Dungannon ran projects over 2 successive summers where they organised community activities and garden cleanups for old and young in disadvantaged housing estates.

On completion of their project all project organisers filled in an 'End of Project Report' form which asked – '*As a result of taking part on this project are you more willing or better able to get involved in a similar project either in your local community or beyond?*'

Almost every single respondent has answered YES to this question.

4.3.1 Sense of Achievement and Increased Confidence

Sense of achievement

EVERY SINGLE young person interviewed, reported on by Youth Workers or referred to by workers in the process, experienced a huge '*sense of achievement*'.

The fact that they had applied to a funding body, had gone through the process and the paperwork, been interviewed by a stranger and then been successfully awarded up to £2,500 was a real achievement, before they even started to deliver the project.

Their standing in their youth club, school and community was enhanced. They were acclaimed by their peers. Some were mentioned in their school assembly, others were announced in their Youth Club. Many reported this with pride saying that they had never achieved anything before. A Derry Youth Worker described how one of the applicant group in his project got two merits in his school. Previously this young person had been seen at school as a low achiever and '*a bit of a waste of space*'. Playing a lead role in a Big Deal awarded project, ('Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Board Game') brought him a recognition and respect that has transformed his school career prospects. The worker says '*It has really raised his self worth*'.

The successful delivery of their project further enhanced the young people's sense of achievement – where they discovered themselves capable of making something happen for themselves. An East Belfast Youth Worker confirmed that the process is '*Invaluable – for them to feel they did it themselves. The praise they get for it. They all feel they can take on anything now!*'

Many of the young project organisers echo this – they describe the problems they encountered, and setbacks they overcame and say '*I wasn't sure I would be able to make it all work but now I know I can do anything*'. Applicant, (age 23) - 'Youth in Community (YIC) Speak Out' project which looked at Suicide Awareness, Disability Awareness, Drugs & Alcohol and Sexual Health.

Confidence

There were some projects that were specifically designed to increase confidence and self esteem.

For some this was for a particular goal; e.g. 'Self to Beauty Dream' was a project where a group of girls on an EOTAS programme had a weekend of pampering and discussions to increase their confidence and improve their self image so that they could cope better with interviews and life choices in the future.

For others it was to enable the young people to be recognised for their abilities and achievements – such as the 'East Belfast Awards Ceremony' project or 'Upper Springfield's Got Talent'.

However, even when 'Increasing Confidence' was not a declared goal, out of the sense of achievement of taking control and making their vision a reality, these young people have all increased their confidence and enhanced their self image. And it is well understood that confidence and positive self esteem are the basis for all healthy and mature functioning and for the making of self assured, empathetic citizens, good employees and a creative workforce.

4.3.2 Ongoing Impacts for applicants

For some applicants the successful completion of their Big Deal project inspired them to develop a further project and to apply for a second, or even third, grant.

For others, one project was enough to inspire them to become more active in their club and/or to set themselves higher ambitions than before, but they have done this without seeking further funding.

For example, young people with disabilities in the 174 Trust applied for funding to create their own newsletter in October 2007 – '174 Trust Newsletter'. They have since produced three more editions. They write the articles themselves and have a strong sense of ownership of the newsletter.

Former applicants are also in a position now to inspire and help others. One young applicant / project organiser when asked if he would recommend the programme to others, replied, *"Oh I already have! And what was really good was that I was able to sit down with him and advise him what to ask for and to help him fill in his application form."*

4.4 Impacts for Panel Members

Effectiveness in supporting children and young people who served on the decision making Panels to:

- Participate in the allocation of resources
- Learn and practise new skills
- Gain a better understanding of their own and other communities
- Demonstrate their contribution to active communities

Over the period September 2006 to September 2010

128 young people aged between seven and twenty five participated in 80 Panel meetings and made decisions about 723 Applications.



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4.4.1 Participating in the allocation of resources

The young people who served as Panel members made real decisions. They always had three options – they could decide to fund, to reject or to defer for further information.

There were always adults in attendance at meetings – The Big Deal Project Officer, the CYPF Officer, assessors – but they had no vote.

*At first many of the young people found this hard to believe. As a Dungiven teenager said 'How could we get **free money!** And why would we be allowed to give it away?! **We couldn't believe it.**' However, they rose to this task and served as thoughtful, responsible Panel members. Training by NIYF helped them develop their analytical skills and to work on their communication and negotiation skills. They chaired their own meetings, learned how to work as a team, how to put their own points clearly and to listen to each other. Because they were the same age as applicants, they could understand the appropriateness or viability of particular proposals.*

4.4.2 Learning and practising new skills

Skills developed as part of this process include **literacy, numeracy, social skills, communication, listening, analysis** and **negotiating**. The young people learned how to read applications, scrutinise budgets, analyse factors for and against giving a grant, to debate and discuss this in a constructive way in a group and to reach a consensus conclusion.

The skills they developed in this situation will serve them well in other areas – education, employability, social situations and future careers.

If looked at from a Youth Work perspective The Big Deal Panel experience has been a text book, worked example of 'Effective Practice' as described in the **Youth Service's Youth Work Model for Effective Practice**

The central target for youth work in Northern Ireland is:
Personal and Social Development

The Youth Service breaks this down into the core themes of:
Preparing Young People for Participation
Testing Values and Belief
Promotion of Acceptance and Understanding

As detailed above and below, being a Panel member with The Big Deal has successfully met all those goals as they actively participated, had their values and beliefs challenged and tested, and increased their own understanding, empathy and tolerance.

4.4.3 Examining relevant issues/Gaining a better understanding of their own and other communities

'This was more than just a formal grant giving process. This was a live situation where participants were exposed to new worlds and had to examine their own values and beliefs.'
CYPF worker

Because recruitment took place all over Northern Ireland and was ongoing, every Panel had a spectrum of experience and perspective. There were young people from a range of backgrounds – geographical, from different traditions, rural/ urban and from all three age bands (0 -10, 11 – 16 and 17 – 25). This meant everyone had something to contribute but also a lot to learn. Many commented on learning about the lives of children and young people from different backgrounds than their own. For some it was a shock to find out what other teenagers had to contend with – anti social behaviour and the prevalence of drink and drugs in their area – and this gave them a different insight into wider issues facing young people growing up in Northern Ireland.

Sitting on these Panels has given the young people a unique opportunity to broaden their experience and understanding of the world, to develop their skills in empathy and to review their values and beliefs.

4.4.4 Demonstrate their contribution to active communities

The **128 Panel members** who have worked with, and for, The Big Deal, have made decisions about **723 applications** and allocated **£1,492,080** of public money. They have allowed over **36,000 young people** to pursue their dream and to run their own projects.

This active citizenship has equipped them with a range of skills and also a value base, to enable them to contribute constructively to their communities in the future.

Some of the Panel members have themselves gone on already to be direct and active contributors to their community. One young woman who chaired Panels for over a year, has gone on to complete Youth Worker training and is now a full time Youth Worker. She describes the experience. – ‘It was a big boost for me. Sitting on those Panels was a great experience. I learned that young people really do want to make a difference which was a surprise to me. I learned about decision making and empathy for others. I learned about fundraising – how to develop an idea into a project. It has given me the confidence to speak out.’

4.5 Additional / Unintended Outcomes: Impacts on Youth Workers and Youth Work

4.5.1 New and Enhanced Activities

All the youth workers, community workers and teachers interviewed, talked about how The Big Deal experience had contributed to the development of the youth work in their project.

The Big Deal has provided a new tool for youth workers in their repertoire of youth work approaches. They have a “carrot” to inspire and engage, a resource which sets their young people up to succeed and access to the funds to make something new happen. Over the three years more and more youth workers and teachers have seized this opportunity, some supporting multiple groups to apply for funding.

Some youth workers / teachers encouraged the original group to develop their project and go back for another Big Deal grant. (*‘The Technical Side of Circus’ and ‘Circus of the North’. The same group developed their tutoring and organising skills, then applied again to run a series of workshops*)

Some supported a different group in their club, organisation or school to devise their own – unique – project with the original group as role models. (*Movilla High School supported different groups of pupils to apply for projects as diverse as DJing, creating a mosaic in a Community Garden, developing a greenhouse and turning a spare classroom into a sanctuary and supportive respite space for pupils who were under stress.*)

4.5.2 LEGACY within Youth Work

Transformation of expectations - A revolution in the perception of young people

One particularly powerful effect of this programme has been to illustrate beyond dispute what young people are capable of. The range of project ideas and the skills, stamina, creativity and maturity with which they have been achieved, has been a tangible and measurable testimony to the capacity of Northern Ireland’s youth and it has been a revelation to those who had underestimated them.

When the fund first opened, youth workers were slow to encourage their young people to apply, this was partly because they thought it was ‘too good to be true’ but also, in some cases, it was



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because they had limited confidence that their young people would be capable of taking on such responsibility. Four years on, the climate is radically changed. Young people have now earned new respect and trust.

The Big Deal has redefined the pattern / template for standard youth work.

In the old template the process was often - Youth Worker 'consults' youth group, arrives at consensus about what they would like to do, fundraises for it, sets it up and then sees if they actually do engage in the activity.

The Big Deal subverts that dynamic. Here the group is deciding what they want to do and the onus is on them to make it happen and make it work.

Even some quite low capacity groups, with the right background guidance and encouragement, proved they could make their own project happen – with all the attendant sense of achievement, kudos in the community, enhanced self esteem, skills building and inspiration for the future that this brings.

4.6 Impact in Communities

This re-framing of attitudes to young people has also operated in the communities where the young people live.

Young people are routinely demonised by society. Surveys have shown that 80% of all media coverage of young people is negative*. **SEE APPENDIX III for Headliners research.**

Communities misunderstand, mistrust and fear groups of young people without necessarily being given a cause. The Big Deal programme has thoroughly challenged and disproved these negative stereotypes and, where communities have been aware of the projects in their midst, they have been very proud of their young people.

The Big Deal has sought to publicise its young people's achievements as widely as possible and should continue to do so.

4.7 Match with the Department of Education's Education Service Vision

"To ensure that every learner fulfils his or her full potential at each stage of development"

The Department of Education has spelled out its strategic priorities and desired strategic outcomes for the Education Sector, which includes Youth Work.

Desired Strategic Outcomes include:

- **Motivated young people who enjoy and are engaged in learning, encouraged and supported by their parents or carers.**
- **All young people having access to an Education and Youth curriculum in settings that meet their individual learning needs.**
- **Young people with the self esteem to be confident, happy and ambitious and contribute positively to their local community and wider society.**
- **Young people who are creative and have developed, to their full potential, the skills, attitudes and expectations needed to live, work, learn and play in a global society.**

- **Young people educated in a safe and caring environment where they are respected and receive the support they need. (DE Strategy 2006-2008)**

An analysis of the impacts of participating in The Big Deal Small Grants programme for both Project Organisers and Panel Members, as detailed above, demonstrates that the programme's outcomes resonate with these goals.

'Motivated young people.....engaged in learning.....' The projects all entailed learning and all built in support, and, because, the ideas came from the young people themselves, participants were highly motivated. In some cases, a Big Deal project engaged and motivated young people in a way that nothing else had. For example, teachers working with some of the most disaffected pupils in a school encouraged them to apply to The Big Deal. The idea the pupils came up with was 'The Girls Happiness Project'. This resulted in a girl who had been suspended seven times and was at risk of permanent exclusion, re engaging with school and is now seeing a career path for herself. Another worked through serious anger and self destructive issues. With the support of their teachers she, and other pupils, are now motivated learners.

'All young people having access to an Education and Youth curriculum.....' In Youth Clubs, throughout Northern Ireland, young people have influenced the curriculum of their own clubs to deliver training on issues they are interested in - such as Drug and Alcohol awareness, Sexual Health or Money Management. Others have sought Leader and Groupwork and Leader training or wanted to develop their understanding of Active Citizenship, Cross Cultural issues or Anti Racism. The Big Deal has been a vehicle where they have identified their own learning needs and had a say in how those could be met. Schools too have used the opportunity to give pupils a voice – such as 'Student Voice' in the Girls Model where older pupils got involved in peer support for younger girls.

'Young people with the self esteem tocontribute positively' Young people who have run Big Deal projects have enhanced their confidence and self esteem. They talk with real pride about what they have achieved and many say they feel they could 'do anything now' and are ambitious to get involved with further projects and/or develop their skills further. For example, young people who have served on committees or been part of Playground Management in Primary Schools are keen to contribute actively as they move to Secondary school.

Also, many projects were specifically about contributing to their local community – such as 'Street Reach' which ran activities in local disadvantaged communities over two consecutive summers, or 'Upper Springfield's Got Talent' – which sought to celebrate and inspire local young people to develop a positive self image. In these, and countless others, the young people have positioned themselves as 'part of the solution, not the 'problem'

Young people who are creative..... to live, work, learn and play in a global society.

The creativity of the young people who engaged with The Big Deal was inspiring and encouraging when they are looked at as citizens of the future. There were many arts projects - music, drama, dance, film making. There were also creative approaches to issues such as the 'Drug and Alcohol Board Game' or the 'Youth Information Kiosk' or the DVD about coping with bereavement, 'Ask the Experts'.

Participating young people developed their potential in many arenas, became more mature through the level of responsibility they took on and widened their perception and understanding of the world. They are better equipped for adulthood with a healthy self confidence and self esteem.

Young people educated in a safe and caring environment where they are respected and receive the support they need.

In all the settings – schools, youth clubs, community groups, sports organisations – the core to involvement with The Big Deal, the underpinning basis for engagement, was respect for the young people. The young applicants were treated as people who could be trusted, who were capable of taking on responsibility and who were going to be able to make the venture a success. Alongside this



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was a solid infra structure of support, (guidance, advice, problem solving, resources, information) to ensure that they did indeed succeed.

Motivated young people, learning, developing self esteem, contributing positively to their local community and wider society, being creative, developing to their full potential, skills, attitudes and expectations needed in wider society, being respected and receiving support.

This describes the results of taking part in The Big Deal Small Grants Programme.

4.8 The Role of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) has played a role in monitoring and evaluating The Big Deal, including the Small Grants Programme element. ETI retains Observer status on the Steering Group of The Big Deal Programme, enabling it to comment directly on policy development and to contribute to discussions relating to overall programme management. In addition, a team of three ETI inspectors is responsible for providing the Steering Group and the Youth Service Liaison Forum (YSLF) with regular (quarterly) evaluation reports and a final evaluation on the overall Big Deal programme.

The Inspection Process

The inspection process began in September 2006, with a series of meetings between key staff and members of the inspection team and quarterly reports were submitted subsequently with the first full length report in June 2007.

These reports were largely positive, with praise for The Big Deal under the headings of Achievement and Standards, Quality of Provision and Leadership and Management. There were helpful recommendations in the early days on Management, Communication, Self Evaluation and Marketing.

It should be noted that much of the focus of ETI quarterly reports has been on The Big Deal Programme as a whole, with only occasional specific comments on the Small Grants Programme.

In April 2009 there were some particular recommendations

1. Small Grants panels and training to continue in each of the 5 areas.
2. Increase Geographical spread of Small Grants Programme.
3. Increase number of grants processed per panel meeting.
4. Improve representation of under 10s and over 17s.

Of these, Nos 1 and 2 continued to be ongoing goals of the programme.

No 4 – widening the age range of Panels was an aspiration of The Big Deal and CYPF team, until the last panel meeting in September 2010.

Recommendation 3 – *‘to increase the number of grants processed per meeting’* is unlikely to be achieved as there is a sound youth work principle involved in making the meetings as Youth-centred as possible and this militates against making them any longer or more pressured.

In September 2009, ETI made recommendations about providing an Exit Strategy for Big Deal participants. It also suggested that, in order that the positive learning experiences be taken forward by other youth and education providers, more could be done by the [Big Deal] staff to ensure that the skills learned during the participative processes were developed further with schools and potential employers.

Whilst acknowledging that this could maximise the benefits of engagement with The Big Deal for Panel members and grant recipients, these suggestions were deemed, at Management level, to be impracticable and inappropriate within existing resources.

There are therefore no plans to liaise further with host schools or youth clubs after the completion of a Small Grant project.

Other key recommendations, however, are being pursued, such as:

'Identification and dissemination of the outcomes of the various programmes to leave a lasting legacy beyond The Big Deal';

and

'Developing the processes of Self Evaluation'

Actions associated with these recommendations include the commissioning of independent evaluation reports for each delivery element of The Big Deal to identify specific performance issues across the programme.

In addition, a comprehensive cross-programme impact study has been commissioned which is intended to capture the key areas of learning and overall effectiveness of The Big Deal and its underpinning principles.

A series of training resources for individuals and organisations which work with young people has been developed and their dissemination forms a central plank of The Big Deal exit strategy.

This should help to ensure that learning is widely shared, disseminated and embedded.





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Chapter Five ANALYSIS

This chapter examines why this programme worked so well and examines and analyses what the factors were which contributed to this success.

5.1 A Genuine Understanding of the Concept ‘Youth Participation’.

Participation has been a ‘buzz word’ for more than 20 years and there are many examples of organisations declaring a commitment to ‘Youth Participation’ and trying to involve young people on their committees or setting up a Youth Forum whom they can consult. While some are a positive experience for the young people involved, and some have a reasonable lifespan, there are more that turn out to be nominal and tokenistic and a negative experience for the young person involved.

Similarly there have been attempts in the past by organisations to give money directly to young people’s projects. One notable scheme by a national charity lost a great deal of money as most of the projects failed to take place and the funding was never recovered.

What made The Big Deal different was that it was genuinely committed to real participation and its Grants Programme has created a worked example which demonstrates how to inspire and support that genuine involvement and ownership. It provides a wide range of innovative participation strategies that can be duplicated by other organisations seeking to engage effectively and substantially with young people.

A Youth Worker, who supported young people throughout East Belfast to carry out a total of six Big Deal funded projects, defined Participation: *‘Participation only works if it is voluntary. It also must involve real responsibility. The reason it works is the motivation. It is worthwhile, it is not tokenistic. Adults are not dictating.’*

5.2 Trust plus Support and Appropriate Safeguards

The fundamental reason this worked was the underpinning faith in children and young people’s capabilities, a conviction that they would be able to do it – whether it was to run a project or to make decisions on a Panel. The overarching philosophy of the programme and everyone involved was a substantial respect for young people and a confidence in their abilities. The conviction was that if young people are given real responsibility, they will prove to be responsible. If they are trusted they will be trustworthy.

However, it is crucial that this trust is accompanied by structures that make success achievable.

The Big Deal built in appropriate support, safeguards, training and processes, in order to protect the young people and to enable them to succeed. Safeguards included Hosts, Sponsors, training, achievable administration and supportive Big Deal and Youth Forum workers as detailed below in 5.3.

One applicant (18 years at time of project) described applying for funding and running a project as a *‘new and weird experience because I had never had that amount of responsibility before. Up till then I would have shied away from responsibility’*. He says *‘It really helped that I knew [Host & Sponsor] were there if I needed them. It was a safety net. They didn’t even have to do anything, it was the fact that you knew they were there.’* He concluded *‘It was all grand. It was refreshing to take on a challenge and very empowering. Basically it made you feel a lot more responsible that they were entrusting you with quite a large sum of money. I liked that. My experience of The Big Deal was really good. Long may it continue!’*



5.3 Youth Centred Process

5.3.1 Safeguards - Appropriate Risk Management was built in:

The 2 stage application process and development support from The Big Deal Project Officer.

Clear roles for Host and Sponsor organisations.

Hands on role by The Big Deal Project Worker and the CYPF worker – support at meetings and available for support and advice in between.

5.3.2 Training and support for projects

All successful applicants were invited to come to a session on how to run and monitor projects, how to track the money, what records to keep, etc.

5.3.3 Training and support for Panel members

Training was provided for all Panel members and ongoing support was given by the CYPF Worker

5.3.4 Feedback from stake holders about these support structures

Two stage system / development support from The Big Deal Project Officer - *'Excellent, very helpful.'* *'Niamh is brilliant! Good at explaining and really patient.'* *'It was great – she always had time for you and explained everything really clearly.'*

Applicants

Application forms – Expression of Interest + Full Application Form *'Fine. Straightforward enough.'* *'Grand.'*

Applicants

Telephone Interview – *'Daunting but necessary.'* *'The thought of having to speak to a stranger on the phone is very, very frightening for a teenager but it is extremely empowering for them when they have done it. Just make sure assessors know how difficult that can be for some applicants and help make it as positive an experience as possible.'*

Youth Worker

'The idea of the phone assessment was really scary but afterwards I didn't know why I was so worried.'

Applicant

Training for successful applicants on the financial management and paperwork required.-

'Very useful, clear and reassuring.' *'Written instructions – good resource to refer back to.'*

Applicants

End of project report form – *'Fine. It looks long but actually it all makes sense – and teenagers are used to filling in things on line anyway so they have no trouble with it.'*

Youth worker

5.4 Important Logistics - The Unique style of Panel Meetings.

5.4.1 Meetings were specially designed to be as youth friendly as possible with games, snacks and bowling or some other social activity afterwards.

By the end of September 2010, there were nine locations for Panel meetings as well as

Belfast City

West: Park, Belleek, Omagh, Strabane;

North East: Macosquin;

South: Crossmaglen, Newry;

South East: Colin, Glenavy, Lisburn.



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- 5.4.2** The role of the Children and Young People's Forum (CYPF) worker was crucial here, developing and maintaining relationships with the young people, organising their transport, and generally creating and driving an ethos of committed engagement. This required persistence, patience, positive spirit, a sense of humour and sophisticated youth work skills.
- 5.4.3** Each meeting was structured but flexible, chaired by one of the young people, with adults in support roles such as presenting assessments or providing individual support to particular children. The atmosphere was youth centred, respectful and never patronising. Paperwork was kept to a minimum; all assessments were presented clearly and concisely.
- 5.4.4** Timing was kept to a maximum of 2 hours. Sometimes it was tempting to push the group to keep going when the agenda was not quite finished and there were still some assessments to be considered. However it was considered essential to be realistic about the young people's attention span and energies, so this cut off deadline was adhered to at all times.

This all paid off as the young people reported 'enjoying' the meetings and not finding them too long. One reported 'I thought it would be boring but it really wasn't!'

5.5 Individual Applications

Originally it was expected that about one in six applications would be from individuals. It became very clear early on that this was not the case and in fact there were only six individual awards throughout the 3 years of the programme. Possible reasons for this are examined below.

5.5.1 Too high a minimum

In some cases the block to applying was that £500 was too much. There were enquiries from individuals who wanted between £100 and £300, perhaps for a camera to carry out a project, or a musical instrument. The issue of having a £500 minimum was an obstacle to these.

5.5.2 Potential individual applicants absorbed into group applications

Another factor was that when youth workers were looking at the scheme and encouraging their members to apply, they seldom found that one individual would benefit more on their own. They would incorporate their aspirations into a group application which raised the grant ceiling to £2,500. Then the individual's vision would be achieved within the larger project.

5.5.3 Disproportionate scale of admin required

While not an obstacle to applications coming in in the first place, from an administrative point of view, a groundswell of individual applications would have caused major challenges to The Big Deal because the assessment process for £500 was as detailed as for a £2,500 application.



Chapter Six CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter comments on the effectiveness of small grants programme, sums up the legacy and makes recommendations for the way forward.

6.1 Small Amounts of Money ⇔ Big Impact

Over the duration of the programme, ideas of innovation and diversity came from groups of children as young as three.

The sorts of things young people wanted to do ranged from creating a school yearbook for Primary 7 pupils to staging a musical of Footloose. From a mosaic in a community garden to a DVD on the experience of bereavement by a group of teenagers who had lost loved ones. Young people set up courses for themselves on Money Management, Sexual Health, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Suicide and Self Harm. They created cross community football leagues, multi ethnic basketball leagues, did inter generational learning about the history of their area, went on outdoor pursuits weekends and residential on team building. They did environmental projects, arts projects, dance projects and Monkeynastix.

Young people made documentaries about their areas to highlight lack of provision, Primary school children organised themselves into a Peer mentoring unit in to sort out playground disputes themselves. Applications came from young people with disabilities, young people in care, playgroups, girls attending EOTAS programmes.

One group of 16 and 17 year olds on the Glen Road, Belfast, in an area rife for underage teenage drinking, approached their youth workers about opening the Youth Club as a drink free zone from 9.00pm to 1.00am at weekends. They persuaded the youth workers to work those extra hours, devised a system so parents could verify that their children were safely in the club, and sourced money for programming of discos and DVD's. All that was missing was a safe way for the young people to get home at 1.00am. They approached The Big Deal and were awarded £1,000 for taxis for a 9 month period so their 'Midnight League' project could take place.

The most striking fact – and one of the few things these very different types of projects had in common - was that a small amount of money made an enormous difference.

No project was awarded more than £2,500.

Many operated for less than that – the average was £2,075

6.2. The Effectiveness of Small Grants Programmes

Back in 1998 and 1999 Youthnet, then an Intermediary Funding Body distributing Peace I money, identified through Small Grants programmes, S.T.O.P. (Short Term Opportunities Programme) and the **Go For It!** programme, the potential of small amounts of money to make a disproportionate amount of difference. The Big Deal Programme has illustrated this again.

It would be interesting to compare the investment value and social impact of £150 000 given to an adult-led organisation to that of a similar donation distributed across sixty Big Deal Projects.



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6.3 Legacy

This programme has demonstrated what small amounts of money in a well administered scheme can do to impact on young people and the youth and education sector.

It has proved what young people can do when they get the right opportunity, framework and support.

It has caused a revolution in adult expectations of young people.

6.4 Recommendations

It is essential to **continue or replicate** this programme in order to build on the impetus it has created.

It is important to **raise the profile** of the programme throughout the youth sector but also the wider population, publicising young people's successes in order to influence the expectations of youth workers, teachers, parents and society.

As one senior Youth Professional said, *'I wish I had invented it. It is truly brilliant!'*

'It is a shining light. I love promoting it.' - Youth Participation Worker

'This project totally turned these young people round. For the first time ever they hold their heads up high!' - Teacher

'The difference it makes is massive! We can't do without it in Youth Work.' - Youth Worker

(SEE APPENDIX IX for Internal recommendations)



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With very grateful thanks to the following for their time, knowledge, enthusiasm & insights

Youthnet

Director
Strategic Funding Manager
Former Programme Manager
Project Officer
Administrative Officer

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Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Children & Young People's Forum Worker
Former CYPF worker
Participation Worker

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Applicants / Project organisers

Jacob Anderson
Carleton Rodgers
Eamonn Maguire
Patrick Bradley
Rosemary Trainor
Michael Wallsea
Sarah Needham & Chloe Parkash
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Carolyn, Naomi, Kevin, Andrew,
Gemma & Jessica

The Technical Side of Circus
Run!
Youth in Community Speak Out
Hands that Talk
Attical Research Project
Movilla High School Greenhouse Project
Movilla High School Girls Happiness Club
Movilla High School Vanilla Manilla

Children and Youth Participation Forum

Panel Members

Rosemary Trainor
Patrick Bradley
Austyn Finnegan
Mark McCormick
Beth McGivern
Danielle Murray
Victoria Smith
Olivia Connolly

Panel Chair (was also an applicant)
(was also an applicant)
Tammie Dobbin
Maria Tomaszko
Niamh Hawkins
James Connell
Gavin Stevenson

Project Sponsors / Hosts

Scott Boyd

Brendan Wilkinson

Linda Duffy
Carol Halferty

Bronagh Wright
& Susan Austin

East Belfast Awards Ceremony + 5 other
projects
Pennyburn Youth Club, Derry - Drug and
Alcohol Board Game
174 Trust, Youth News
The Cool Club, Craigavon + 2 more
applications
Movilla High School – multiple projects

Assessors

Fiona Boyle
Elaine Rowan

Appendix II Performances / Inputs for Celebration Event April 2008

- 1 **Banded Together** – Band performance
- 2 **The Shanghai Experience** – Una McGarry, to speak and show power point
- 3 **Get Aware** – Alcohol Awareness Project, drama about growing up in Andersonstown
- 4 **Student Voice** – 2 young women from Girls Model speak about project on learning
- 5 **Our Right to Participate** – dance routine by young woman with Down's Syndrome
- 6 **The Technical Side of Circus** – Circus performance
- 7 **Hightown to Lowtown** – acoustic band including film clip
- 8 **Finale** – **Express Yourself**, Footloose dance

Displays

Circus of the North

Drug and Alcohol Awareness Board Game

GY Graffiti

174 Trust Newsletters

Community and Involvement (Movilla High School)

Youth Information Kiosk

Ask the Experts

The Cool Club

Student Voice (Girls Model)

Walkabout / performance

Demonstration

Board display with graffiti

Display

Photos and demonstration of mosaic making

Laptop presentation

DVD

DVD

Photo display





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Appendix III Young People and the Media

In 2009, youth-led media charity **Headliners UK** carried out a national piece of research on young people's portrayal in the media.

Members from all Headliners locations, including Belfast and Derry, got involved in analysing press coverage of 16 national and local newspapers over 2 weeks and then they did a survey of nearly 1400 adults and young people asking them the questions prepared in the conference workshops.

This research showed the shocking extent to which both young people and adults thought young people are unfairly portrayed and stereotyped by the media.

The key findings of the research were:

- Few voices of young people were contained in stories written about them
- Very young children are being increasingly criminalised and demonised and their behaviour judged against adult standards
- Children and young people's behaviour is constantly highlighted monitored and criticised and yet they are not given the right of reply

The survey of 1362 young people and adults by Headliners young people found:

- 79% of adults said that their experience of young people was better than they saw of the media
- Half said their views of young people were influenced negatively by the media
- 87% said they felt the media had a responsibility to carry positive stories of young people
- 77% of young people said they were stereotyped
- A quarter of young people said they felt worse about themselves because of media coverage

Previous research by Headliners - 2008

Research was carried out over a 2 week period at the end of 2008. 11 national and 5 local newspapers were scanned to identify any stories about young people. Of the 655 stories about young people found – 323 (49%) identified young people as victims, 70 (10.7%) were demonised as thugs, 47 (7.2%) as obsessed with image or about suicide and (10%) were seen as cute accessories. There were hardly **any** voices of young people in any of the stories.

As a result of these findings Headliners (UK) is calling for a nationwide campaign to promote young people's views and voices in the media.

The **Ask Us campaign** aims to combat the negative stereotyping of young people in the media and society by ensuring journalists ask young people for their views and comments on stories that affect them.

The key aims of the Ask Us campaign are:

- To re-balance the negative perceptions of young people by promoting the inclusion of the real, authentic views of young people in stories that affect them
- To form a network of youth organisations to work with the media to support media access to young people's comments
- For young people and adults to be more vocal about the poor representation of young people in the media





Appendix IV

Sample of an Actual Monitoring Form Completed by Young People

Project Ref No 1326 'I Can'
Young people from Keady, 2008

What did you do during the Big Deal funded project? Who did what?

We all got to do something. Some people were on the committee. I was doing this with Liam and Bronagh was helped by Catherine. Another 6 took to do with the Raffle. Gerard phoned the ferry people to find out about how much it might be to get across to England. Karen wrote all of our meetings down and kept the recordings....minutes. Francie made tea!! Silvestras did games with us each week. I suppose you could say that Catherine and Bronagh were the leaders, but Susan was always there to keep us right. Everybody had something to do even if it was making tea for we were glad of it. Someone else always tidied up afterwards. Every little helps.

How did you and your group make decisions?

Susan was there to help us when we had things to do as we went along. She only ever made suggestions she never told us what we had to do. If we asked for help she would give it. An example of a decision was should we fly or should we take the ferry. It would have worked out more if we had flown but it would have been quicker. Some people did not have passports so we just decided to go by boat.

Who supported you to carry out your project?

Susan Best our youth worker helped us. She allowed us to use the office for our meetings. We used her phone and computer and she made suggestions to help us. She didn't do stuff for us but showed or told us how to go about it. We kept the records and she kept copies. She paid the bills as and when they came in but she let us see what she was doing.

What did others say about your project?

I know my mates saw me in a different light. I know that another of the boys behaviour changed big time and my wee brother who has a slight learning difficulty did stuff that I never thought he could do. He did everything that the rest of us did. Susan included our visit in a presentation to a competition and the changes that it had made in us and we won. Susan said that we just gelled over the week. Everyone has made friends.

What was the best thing for you and your group about being part of this project?

Just feeling really good about myself. I used to be part of a group of boys that had a really bad reputation and we used to be stopped by the police. But now I don't hang about with them. I hang about with my new friends. It is just as well as 2 of the old gang are on bail and nobody likes them. This group does good things in the town. When we came back we helped Susan put on a Festival day an it was great bringing in the paper as a helper. We also have done a Christmas thing and the council said that it was great. It made me feel good about myself.

What did you least enjoy or find difficult? How did you try to sort this out?

I was not looking forward to doing this report as I am not a very good writer. I would find that difficult. I asked Liam to help me as he can work computers.

Re increasing your participation as a decision maker – what were two things that helped you do this?

Knowing that Susan was always there in the background and watching what we were doing. She didn't do things for us, just told us how to do it and made us do it ourselves.

Knowing that we all usually agreed. We talked about things and if we all agreed we did it. That way no one was to blame if things went wrong.



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As a result of taking part in this project are you better at.....

Communication

Co-operation

Personal Responsibility

Organising

Leadership

Problem solving

Select as many as apply, then tell us more about one of them

Personal Responsibility. In the middle of the application my mum fell sick. I knew that I would have to be up at the hospital and would not be able to complete all the things that I was supposed to for the application and the interview. I let Susan know and she contacted you and got Liam in to take my place. The grant money might not have come through if I hadn't done this.

We have already done stuff. When we got back from Kendal we helped run a Festival/Fun day in the town. It was a great success and we made £1500 towards a Youth Bank so we can help smaller youth organisations with their programmes and funding. We also did a light/Christmas celebration in the town. We had about 300 people there. We were not expecting that many. The council people were very pleased and have promised us more money next year. It was a great success. We had complained about Armagh City having everything and we have nothing. We got extra lights and had a night where we had carol singers, music and dancing with both Ulster Scots and Irish Dancers. Santa came in a limo. We had mulled wine and mince pies for the adults and sweets for the kids. We are already thinking about how we can improve for next year.

Appendix V

Case History: Panel Member

Patrick is from Dungiven. His father is deaf and he was involved in a group called Hands that Talk – a support group for young people with hearing impairments and their families. In 2006, when he was 16, they told him that The Big Deal was setting up a children and young people's Forum and encouraged him to put his name forward. He did so and his trip to his first meeting at the NIYF was also his first ever trip to Belfast! He had had his School Formal the night before and had got to bed at 6.00a.m., now he was on the 8.00am bus into the unknown. The NIYF worker met him at the bus station and he found he loved it all.

When the Small Grants programme was first described he says *'No one could understand it. How could we get free money! and why would we be allowed to give it away?! We couldn't believe it. But then I saw some applications and I could see what the benefits could be.'* He describes the decision making about applications as *'really daunting at first' as there was so much to take in but he says 'I learned what to look out for, I would look at the budget first and would see if it was value for money. And I would look at the back story and do analysis about what good the project would do.'* Patrick also realised that he had had a very sheltered upbringing and now considers that he was very naïve. Reading applications from different communities he says *'opened my eyes to what some young people have to cope with.'*

Patrick is very sure that participating in the Children and Young People's Forum has had a significant impact on his life. *'It definitely brought on my confidence.'* He has taken on a Leadership role in Hands that Talk, he has developed skills in Teamwork Facilitation and Mentoring. And now he is second year at Queens University studying Computer Science. He says that it is because of The Big Deal that he is there at all. *'Back then I really hadn't decided about Uni and if I did go I thought I would just go to Derry and live at home. It was because of being on the Forum that I really came out of my shell and had the confidence to apply to Queens.'*

The only thing Patrick would have changed was that he would have liked more information about the projects after they were funded. He attended the Celebration Event in 2008 and thought it was *'Excellent!'* He loved seeing the bands, the performance groups, the pictures of projects, and enjoyed seeing where the money had gone. He would like there to be more showcases like this as he says *'We read the applications. We said Yes or No but we didn't know what happened next. It made me feel really good to feel I was part of making those projects happen.'*

Appendix VI

Sample of Funded Projects (taken from Press Releases)

Ardoyne Young Women's Drama group received **£2,250** towards a workshop trip to London for three of its senior members.

Natasha Gearon (16) was one of the trio and for her it was an experience she'll never forget.

"It was the first time I'd been to London and it was amazing. We took part in workshops organised by a community group in Hackney which gave us the chance to work with other young people from a range of backgrounds – including people from Jamaica and from the Irish travelling community," she said.

"From that I learned that although people slag off others just because they're different, that really we're all the same. The experience was a real eye-opener for me."

But it wasn't all work and the party also managed to fit in a trip to see the musical *Grease* in the West End.

"Our group has put on two productions in the past when we've worked with Prime Cut productions and a community group from the New Lodge, but this year I think we'd like to have a go at a musical, now that we've seen Grease," said Natasha, a retail student who has been with the group five years.

"For me the group has kept me off the street and given me something to do. It's helped me build confidence and self esteem and I'd like to carry on with my drama in some form."

"Yes my stomach is in knots before we actually go on stage but that's the best part of it!"

A group of girls from **Movilla High School in Newtownards** received **£2,500** to make their school environment friendlier – as well as more environmentally friendly.

"We have an old greenhouse at Movilla which hasn't been used for about 10 years. The Department of Education wasn't going to repair it because it was no longer relevant to the curriculum but when I approached the girls about what we should do, they decided to put it to good use," explained teacher **Bronagh Wright**.

"They wanted to improve their school environment and also make the school more environmentally friendly."

The result is a thriving project which involves the girls raising money themselves towards renovating the greenhouse, as well as forging partnerships with the local community.

Ultimately they hope to be able to grow flowers from seed and make window boxes which they can then sell and plough the profits back into the greenhouse.

"Those involved in this project would be young people facing various challenges in their own lives but this has really caught their imagination. Even since September I can see such a change in their confidence levels – even their attendance at school is up," said Bronagh.

"The young people are gaining great experience on many levels – they've written to local businesses asking for support – and the community has responded very positively."

"They've even written to Jamie Oliver to see if they get him involved in some way – even by just coming over and cooking a meal at the school!"

A group of young people from **West Belfast** received **£2430** towards a festival for their local community **Upper Springfield's Got Talent** – and its success has gone beyond all expectations.

*"I work as a volunteer with the Training for Life programme at the **Upper Springfield Development Trust** and a group of us from that decided we wanted to do something positive for the area," explained **Áine Cahill**, who is 19-years-old.*

The community festival idea, though, quickly grew into probably the biggest X-Factor style talent contest the area has ever seen – and the final took place on March 14 2009

"This event has been the talk of the place. It's just unbelievable how people have really got into it. We had 500 applicants at 15 auditions and we've managed to whittle that down to the semi-finalists," said Aine.

"Our judges for the final are Gerard McCarthy from Hollyoaks, The singer Brian Kennedy and Cool FM's Gareth Stewart. The finalists have also been allocated mentors to work with – just like the X-Factor.

"The talent has been amazing – everything from comedians and singers to jugglers and dancers.

"But it's been a great personal experience for us too as organisers. You really get to develop your social skills as we've had to work with schools and youth organisations throughout the community to get the word out there and make sure all the young people in the area knew about it."

Local youth worker **Phil Glennon** said they were overwhelmed by local support.

"It's been fantastic. The whole thing has just exploded! And we made sure everyone in the area knew about it. We even had detached youth workers getting the message out to some of the most marginalised young people in our area so there's been a real sense of inclusion for all."

A group of young people based at **Lisburn's YMCA** received **£2,300** towards their **I Am Me** project looking at identity.

*"This project is the culmination of two years' work," explained **Kevin Quigley**, a senior youth worker with the YMCA.*

"A group of Chinese women had been using one of our rooms for their meetings and that's how the contact was initially made. Their children starting coming to the centre too and we slowly got to know the families.

"However, it's taken until now for the parents to have the confidence and trust to let their children get involved in this project which involves not just Chinese young people but also teenagers from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds from Lisburn.

"Chinese parents, although they want their children to settle well here, are also anxious that they understand and appreciate their roots, heritage and cultural backgrounds.

"This project allows all the young people to look at their lives, what makes them who they are and how that differs from their parents' experiences – it's an intergenerational project in that sense.

"However, we have also explored areas like racism and sectarianism – it's really interesting to see their reactions. These issues don't seem to phase our young people. They're more interested in looking at each other as young people and defining themselves in terms of fashion and music and the things they have in common rather than the differences."

The project culminated in a presentation by young people for their parents portraying their lives today in Northern Ireland.



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The **Divis Designers** project in west Belfast received **£2,500** towards a young men and violence programme delivered through Youth Action.

Twelve teenagers took part in the project organised through workshops and sessions delivered around the themes of violence, masculinity and citizenship.

“We’re working with the young men coming out of a conflict situation, supporting them as they learn what their identity really means in this new setting,” said youth worker **Peter Wray**.

“These young people come from houses where their fathers or older siblings were maybe involved in violence and that’s how they then grow up and how they identify their masculinity, in defending their communities.

“There are still many mixed messages out there about what it means to be a man and this project is about helping them break that stereotype and explore their own perceptions about violence.”

The project culminated in a graffiti art project alongside art workshop Blaze FX which helped the teenagers design and create their own mural to reflect their lives.

Young people from the **Down Arts Forum** in **Downpatrick** received **£2,500** towards their **Art on the Shutters project**.

The money will be used towards a fact-finding trip to London and Brighton which the young artists hope will inspire them with their latest community art scheme.

Peter Surginor (20), the young person’s representative on the forum explained: *“The forum already has a community art project called Art on the Railings where every month a mural at the St Patrick centre in the town is changed.*

“One of the forum members came up with the idea to extend this to shop shutters and so we have made an arrangement with two businesses to do just this.

“The idea is that the art work on the shutters will in some way reflect the nature of the business. For example, one of the businesses is a flower shop so we’re planning to recreate a depiction of Van Gogh’s Sunflowers.”

Those taking part will range in age from 16 to their early 20s and are completing BTec courses in art and design.

However, while the project will benefit these young people in the first instance, it has a broader impact too.

“By creating this sort of community street art we hope to give ownership of these public spaces back to the people and help reduce graffiti,” added Peter.

“The trip will allow our members to visit the National Gallery in London and also sample street art in Brighton.

The **East 14** project in **east Belfast’s Short Strand** area is receiving **£2,400** to run a course making young women aware of sexual health and personal safety issues.

“We have a cross community group of about 14 teenage girls from the area who we identified through our outreach work with the local youth club,” explained youth worker **Seanna O’Hara**.

“The girls actually carried out research and found that young women were at greater risk now than in previous years and came up with the idea of the project themselves.

“It’s about empowering young women and educating them so they know how to protect themselves.

“Among the issues we’re looking at is self-defence and we have a female instructor for that. We’re also looking at sexual health and we’ve explored that through art.

“From what they’ve been discussing they feel that perhaps they weren’t up to speed on some areas of keeping themselves safe and felt that perhaps they could have been given more information at school, for instance, rather than having to wait until they were 14 and learning it through a youth club.’

St Joseph’s Primary School Crossgar received **£2,500** towards its **Outdoor Activities** programme to equip its playground with exciting new toys.

“The pupils have their own School Council with representatives from each year group and it canvassed the pupils to find out what improvements they’d like to see in their school,” explained teacher Brenda Forster.

“They already had some outdoor equipment but this funding has enabled them to buy new toys which they really enjoy using.”

Brenda said equipment like this complemented the revised curriculum as it helped children in a range of areas from gross motor skills through team work to even counting skills.

Katy Maguire and her cousin **Sean Murphy**, both in P7, are the secretary and chairman respectively of the School Council and now help supervise younger children playing with the toys.

“I couldn’t even tell you which one is my favourite – I love them all,” said Sean, while Katy is partial to a lunchtime game of the giant outdoor Connect 4 game they now have.

“The Big Deal has been great. It’s important to have funding like this because not all schools can afford to give their pupils these sorts of opportunities otherwise,” she added.

Larne Young Arts Co-Operative received **£2,500** towards its **Secret Lives** project offering young people the chance to try dance, drama, comic book art and animation.

Seventeen-year-old **Carnlough student Laura O’Hare** explained: *“This project is all about giving young people the chance to find their hidden talents; that’s why we called it Secret Lives.*

“I’ve been associated with the Co-Operative since it formed a couple of years ago out of the former Youth Council in the area and I haven’t looked back since. It means so much to me.

“I enjoy the fact that although we have someone we can turn to for expertise, other than that it’s very much down to the young people to organise events and drive things forward.

“Secret Lives is aiming at the 14 to 18 age group although the Co-Operative is for young people aged 11 to 25. This programme will give them the chance to try things and perhaps find hidden skills they always had but just never realised. It’s about exploring our secret side.

“The project has been great for me. It’s actually helped me decide that I’d like to go into youth work as a career – something I’d never even considered before.”

Pauline Matthew from Voluntary Arts Ireland said the young people of the Co-Operative were very capable.

“This project gives young people the chance for sustainable engagement with the arts, especially in rural areas – it’s about giving them opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have,” she said.



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“My role is purely as facilitator as we have already provided training for them so they’re able to organise events themselves and keep in touch with each other between meetings. At the minute we’re based mostly at the Northern Regional College in Larne.”

Greenisland and Knockagh Youth Centre received **£2400** towards a project to help break down the age barriers in the area.

Stephen Monkman (14) from **Greenisland** is a member of the youth club and believes the project is having a positive effect on relationships between older and younger people locally.

“We realised there was a problem last year when some members of the youth club made flower tubs and took them to older people living in the Greenisland estate. Some of the older people were so suspicious they wouldn’t take the flowers off them. It happened to friends of mine,” he said.

This funding has been used to develop an intergenerational project enabling older people to come and meet with the teenagers at the club, exchanging memories and ideas.

“What sticks with me is that the older people say they were just like us when they were our age. That’s hard to believe!” said Stephen.

“It’s interesting to hear what life was like back then and to find out about the area too.”

Youth worker **Maggi Watson** from **Greenisland** says the project is slowly helping to change perceptions.

“The young people meet for an hour a week with older people in the youth club and chat about experiences. Then they make them tea and biscuits!” she said.

“Initially it was hard to get older people involved but we have more coming along each week – it’s about breaking down barriers and perceptions and building trust.

“Ultimately we’d like to produce a booklet on our findings.”

The **Riding for the Disabled** received **£2,500** for its **Improving Lives** project for young volunteers, people like **Sonya McAleer** from **Omagh**.

“My mum and dad never thought they’d see me volunteering – I was feeling quite unsettled and even thinking about moving away,” she explained.

“However, a friend of mine was involved as a volunteer with the RDA and she got me started. My mum Irene had volunteered too when I was young and I used to jump ponies so I knew all about the organisation – I just hadn’t had much to do with it.

“Now, as far as I’m concerned, the RDA is for life. It has been absolutely fantastic because I get so much out of it. It’s great to see our clients enjoy themselves but chiefly I look after the other young volunteers and it’s great, fantastic to see what they’re capable of and their dedication.

“This money will be used towards training for our volunteers and equipment too as our riding centre is used now six days a week so that means a lot of wear and tear.

“We have about 180 clients and a waiting list and last year we had about 50 young volunteers though I think even more want to come along this term.

“The training is vital as this is specialised work – in fact we have a lot of people taking part as an element of their Prince’s Award or Duke of Edinburgh scheme. But the training is expensive and intense so when we get

a volunteer on board we want to look after them so we don't lose them after maybe just a year.

"I'm only 25 but these other young people are like my children and I enjoy really looking after them!"

"The RDA has given me so much – I've even been able to take a qualification through it which is equivalent to another A-level and that looked really good on my cv when I went for a new job a few months ago."

Austyn Finnegan, 17, one of The Big Deal Children and Young People's Forum grant panel members, said: *"The best thing about The Big Deal projects is that young people show the initiative, interest and enthusiasm to plan their own project and apply for the money to carry it out. This is a new way of young people getting money from the Big Lottery Fund and it's an exciting way for young people to have responsibility and make good use of it."*

The Big Deal Project Officer, Niamh O'Carolan, said: *"On the face of it £500 to £2,500 doesn't sound like a huge amount of money but we know from previous experience that small grants like these going to directly to young people will make a big difference. The big bonus is that once children and young people become engaged in activities like these they tend to stay interested and get involved more in what's going on around them in their local communities and beyond."*



Appendix VII

Panel Membership

Belfast	42 YP Aged 7 – 21 yrs
North East Macosquin	11 YP Aged 13 - 17 yrs
West Omagh Belleek Lettershandoney & Park Strabane	12 YP Aged 16 - 18 yrs; 15 YP Aged 12 - 18 yrs; 1 YP Aged 18 yrs + 10 YP 13 - 17/18, 8 YP Aged 13 - 15 yrs
South East Glenavy & Colin Youth Development Centre	16 YP Aged 12 - 17 yrs
Southern area Crossmaglen	12 YP Aged 13 - 17/18 yrs and 1 21 yrs
Total 128	



Appendix VIII

Projects and Beneficiaries by age category

	No. of Projects	No. of beneficiaries
0 – 10 year olds	202	10,645
11–16 yr olds	386	9,088
17 -25 yr olds	135	3,318
+ 26 yr olds	-	1,420
Totals	723	24,471

Actual breakdown by gender, background, geographic location, etc is only available for the 272 projects which had completed their Final Report forms by December 2009

Breakdown of beneficiaries by gender, background, ethnicity, etc.				
Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Other
11,495	12,976	14,080	9,607	784
Disabled	Carers	LGBT	Rural	New Comms
1,163	1,598	138	8,798	
White	Chinese	Ir Traveller	Indian	Pakistani
23,658	160	55	123	38
Bangladeshi	BI Carribean	Black African	Black other	Mixed ethnic
0	22	27	30	161
Other ethnic	610	Total number of beneficiaries		24,471

Applications received by geographic location

Small Grants Programme Year 1 March – December 2007					
Geographical spread of grants					
Antrim	3	Coleraine	1	Lisburn	4
Ards	3	Cookstown	1	Magherafelt	2
Armagh	3	Craigavon	3	Moyle	1
Ballymena	1	Derry	7	Newry & Mourne	6
Ballymoney	2	Down	3	Newtownabbey	3
Banbridge	0	Dungannon	1	North Down	2
Belfast	32	Fermanagh	1	Omagh	4
Carrickfergus	2	Larne	0	Strabane	2
Castlereagh	0	Limavady	2	Regional	11

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Small Grants Programme Year 2 Jan – Dec 2008

Geographical spread of grants

Antrim	3	Coleraine	6	Lisburn	4
Ards	8	Cookstown	3	Magherafelt	14
Armagh	9	Craigavon	5	Moyle	2
Ballymena	1	Derry	18	Newry & Mourne	8
Ballymoney	4	Down	3	Newtownabbey	1
Banbridge	2	Dungannon	8	North Down	0
Belfast	69	Fermanagh	9	Omagh	4
Carrickfergus	4	Larne	0	Strabane	4
Castlereagh	1	Limavady	1	Regional	7

Small Grants Programme Year 3 Jan – Dec 2009

Geographical spread of grants

Antrim	2	Coleraine	6	Lisburn	3
Ards	1	Cookstown	3	Magherafelt	1
Armagh	10	Craigavon	6	Moyle	0
Ballymena	2	Derry	30	Newry & Mourne	3
Ballymoney	5	Down	15	Newtownabbey	9
Banbridge	3	Dungannon	8	North Down	0
Belfast	87	Fermanagh	9	Omagh	9
Carrickfergus	0	Larne	1	Strabane	3
Castlereagh	1	Limavady	1	Regional	0

Small Grants Programme Year 4 Jan – Sep 2010

Geographical spread of grants

Antrim	0	Coleraine	15	Lisburn	18
Ards	5	Cookstown	1	Magherafelt	6
Armagh	0	Craigavon	25	Moyle	4
Ballymena	5	Derry	22	Newry & Mourne	21
Ballymoney	2	Down	0	Newtownabbey	5
Banbridge	4	Dungannon	5	North Down	0
Belfast	44	Fermanagh	7	Omagh	2
Carrickfergus	6	Larne	1	Strabane	0
Castlereagh	5	Limavady	4	Regional	0

Appendix IX

Internal Recommendations

If the Fund is extended or replicated, these are some suggestions to make it even better:

More opportunities should be taken to raise the profile of the Programme and to inform youth workers, teachers and the general public about what young people can do.

Recommendation

*Create an **Annual Celebration Event** to showcase successful projects and to publicise young peoples' creativity, resourcefulness, capability, imagination and contribution to society.*

Panel members would like to know more about the projects for which they have agreed funding.

Recommendation

Examples of outputs – DVD's, books produced, photographs, etc – should be brought along to Panel meetings at regular intervals to illustrate the work the Panels have funded.

Participation Workers and Youth Workers are also keen to have more information about what happened next and would like more feedback about Panel decisions and about funded projects. They are also interested in hearing about innovative ideas that groups have come up with as they could use these to inspire other groups.

Recommendation

Set up a mechanism to keep these workers better informed.

Individual Awards had a limited take up.

Recommendation

Revisit the concept of Individual Awards - reduce the minimum amount to £100 and make the assessment process in-house, coming to the Panel for approval.

Certificates mean a great deal to young people.

Recommendation

Produce a Big Deal Certificate – or similar award. Consult with Panel members about what format would be most valued.

Project Themes

As well as the overarching Outcome of **Participation** and the goals of **Improved health and wellbeing** and/or **Increased achievement and learning** there were three themes and projects had to focus on at least one of them.

These were:

1. **Impact of conflict and tackling sectarianism;**
2. **Transition from infancy to adulthood**
3. **Additional needs of vulnerable socially excluded and disaffected children and young people**

In practice all of the projects addressed at least one, and sometimes all three of these. However, as there were no questions about these in the final monitoring processes it is impossible to give accurate statistics on what impact was made under these headings. It could be argued, though, that **ALL** projects involved an element of *Transition from infancy to adulthood* as the project was such a Personal Development journey for the applicants.

Recommendation

It would be useful to revisit the Programmes themes and then make them part of the information capture at the end of the projects.



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Appendix X

Projects funded

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Beachfest 07	Coleraine	2500
Young Men's Health - Boys to Men	Antrim	2200
Young reps	More Than 1 DCA	2436
Express Yourself	Ballymoney	2200
Midnight League Project	Belfast	1000
Off the Streets Football	Strabane	2365
Chill Out	Coleraine	2500
Girl Power (Safe to go out)	Strabane	2337
Phoenix Project	Belfast	2500
Teens Fishing Club	Belfast	1770
Dangers of Alcohol Documentary	Belfast	2500
Save It	Belfast	2450
174 Trust Youth News	Belfast	1970
Young Women's Group	Belfast	2500
Helping Youth "get together"	Belfast	1723
Brookdale's Busy Bees	Derry District Council	2500
Friendship through Art	Magherafelt	1514
Cornshells - Timeout	Derry District Council	2500
FC Belfast Sports Initiative	Belfast	2500
Millennium Volunteers Residential	Belfast	2435
The Pink Ladies	Ballymena	2380
Youth Outreach Drama Project	Belfast	2500
Look, Learn, Laugh and Love	NI Wide	2120
Super Saturdays	Ards	2450
Monkeynastics	Magherafelt	1096
Celebrating Difference Together	Newry & Mourne	2500
Down and Connor Youth Forum	More Than 1 DCA	2500
Healthy Options	Derry District Council	2500
Joining All Communities	Down	2470
GY Graffiti	Belfast	2500

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Drug and Alcohol Education Board Game	Derry District Council	2500
Outdoor Pursuits Activities	Limavady	500
Strangford Parent & Toddler Group	Down	750
GY Residential	Belfast	2141
Team Building and Activities for Youth Committee	Belfast	2500
Playground Improvement Programme	Lisburn	2400
Kidz Mania	Derry District Council	2400
Club na Nog/Canoeing	Derry District Council	1500
Saturday Club	Omagh	1045
Clarawood Youth Club Duke of Ed Group (The Comanches)	Belfast	2400
OTSG Summer Scheme 2007	Omagh	2390
Inner East Young Women's Group	Belfast	2500
Roseville Rascals	Belfast	2140
Playtime is your time!	Carrickfergus	1875
Travel and Accommodation Support for Armagh Summer School	Armagh	2500
Expedition - Lake District	Armagh	2500
Concerts in the Community	Carrickfergus	1600
The Cool Club	Craigavon	2427
Student Voice	Belfast	2300
Brownie Camp	Armagh	855
Drumellan Children & Young People's Centre - Summer Scheme	Craigavon	2500
Portglenone Youth Initiative	Ballymena	2200
RPM (Real Project Management)	Lisburn	2500
Life Skills Programme	Belfast	1830
Cunningham's Lane Sports Programme	Dungannon	2450
Learning Outdoors	Belfast	2487
Short Strand Young Women's Project	Belfast	2000
SMK Play Council Project	Down	2500
The History of Bagpipes	Armagh	2500
Catapult	Derry District Council	1658
Get Aware' Project	Belfast	1665
Holy Family Youth Centre Youth Forum	Belfast	2500



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Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Old Warren Pink Ladies	Lisburn	2500
Tar Anall Volunteer Programme	Belfast	2475
Outdoor Educational Play Equipment	Newry & Mourne	2390
Toome Wans - Community Art Project	Antrim	2500
Health Action Project	Craigavon	2200
Armagh - Lithuanian Youth Activities Group	Armagh	2500
Youth Together	Coleraine	2500
Reclaiming the Loney	Belfast	2500
I Can' Outward Bound Course	Fermanagh	2500
Atticall Youth Research Project	Newry & Mourne	500
"Our Right to Participate"	Omagh	2470
C.H.A.T	Belfast	1200
Circus of the North - Training for Trainers	Belfast	2500
Ballymurphy and Shankill Cross Community Initiative	Belfast	2500
Our House	North Down	2400
Banded Together	Derry District Council	2410
St Andrews Boys Club	Belfast	2363
Activity Weekend for Youth Club Members	Moyle	2500
A multi-cultural project	Belfast	2330
Youth Information Kiosk	Newtownabbey	2500
The Shanghai Experience	Belfast	500
Exploring Cultures	Belfast	2500
Teenagae Drop in (T.D.I)	Coleraine	2500
Learning through Play Project	Omagh	2500
Helping Me to Help You	Ards	2500
A Christmas Cracker	Belfast	2500
From Hightown to Lowtown	Newtownabbey	1500
Physical Movement and Dance 12 week programme	Cookstown	1304
The Technical side of Circus Project	More Than 1 DCA	2360
Ask the Experts Childhood Bereavement DVD Project	NI Wide	2500
Poleglass Community Fishing Group	Lisburn	1624
Ladies Football Team	Belfast	1800

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Storysack Initiative	Limavady	2400
Two Cities Skate Jam	Belfast	2425
Christmas Formal	NI Wide	1740
Newry Celtic Bhoys Youth Development Group	Newry & Mourne	2500
Your Life, Your Choice	Lisburn	2500
Healthy Rainbows and Animals	North Down	686
Chill Zone	Coleraine	2258
The Northern Ireland Youth Assembly	NI Wide	2500
Open Your Mind	Newry & Mourne	2500
Saturday Club	Newry & Mourne	1500
Belfast/Newcastle Cultural Exchange Project	Belfast	2500
Community Basketball Project	Newtownabbey	1950
Youth in Action	Belfast	2430
Cairn Lodge Amateur Boxing Club	Belfast	2500
Music Workshop	Ards	2063
Kicks	Ards	2500
DJ Skills	Belfast	2500
FC Belfast United Sports Cross Community Project	Belfast	2500
Outward Bound Adventure and Challenge	Ballymoney	2500
Circus of the North	Belfast	2500
Football for School	Derry District Council	500
Sound & Lighting Group	Newry & Mourne	2471
Camp 2008	Newry & Mourne	1700
Fermanagh Lakers Coaching Project	Fermanagh	2380
Down Vikings Basketball Club Coaches Project	Down	1879
Armagh BC Youth Project for Coach Training	Armagh	2500
Young Women's Programme	Belfast	2000
News for You Newsletter	Derry District Council	2500
T.A.G The Art of Graffiti	Ards	1540
The role of young people in the wider community	Newry & Mourne	2500
St Therese Senior Youth Club	Banbridge	2441
Out and About Sexual Health Resource Pack	Belfast	2500

The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Community and Involvement	Ards	840
Girls on the Move	Belfast	2500
Catholic Guides of Ireland - Members Council	NI Wide	2500
Ballykinlar Kids	Down	2500
Company Production of 'Joyriders'	More Than 1 DCA	2500
Multi Ethnic Young People's Newsletter	Belfast	2500
Fun Learning for Life - Laying the Best Foundations	Dungannon	2230
The Kids	Magherafelt	2500
The Lads	Magherafelt	2500
Playground Games	Belfast	2494
Boys 'R' Us	Belfast	2500
Music Development	Belfast	2350
Hurling Development	Belfast	2200
Website Design and Development	Belfast	1300
The Revels Project	Magherafelt	2500
CPSC (Castlewellan Primary School Committee)	Down	2500
"Lets all Play"	Derry District Council	2045
3 Parts Asian Arts with a hint of Irish	Belfast	2240
Hopscotch	Magherafelt	1092
Newbridge Predators	Belfast	2500
Dance Group	Belfast	1499
LSR Youth Points	Belfast	2130
Polish Saturday School - Armagh	Armagh	2500
Youth Panel - Musical Project	Belfast	2500
St Patrick's Day Parade Float	Newry & Mourne	2140
Ballysally Film Project	Coleraine	2500
Playground Markings	Fermanagh	2500
FUNDamentals for Kids in Glenullin Community	Coleraine	2500
The Teenage Project	Magherafelt	2500
An Out of Doors Activity Holiday	Banbridge	2500
Inter-act	Omagh	2500
Dance Club	Derry District Council	2450

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Safety First	Belfast	2070
Children exploring and caring for the natural Environment	Fermanagh	1000
Seasaw Playgroup - Expanding Awareness	Moyle	2350
Woodstock Youth Advisory Group	Belfast	2150
The Living Room Project	Omagh	2120
Multi-cultural Dancing on Parents Night	Down	2170
Gatekeepers	Dungannon	2500
Sportshall Athletics Festival	Derry District Council	2480
NTS Youth Forum	Strabane	2500
East Bank Youth Support Programme	Derry District Council	2500
Under 16 Football Tournament	Strabane	2300
Fishing Club	Lisburn	2310
Youth Matters Forum	Lisburn	2500
East Belfast Cross Community Schools Project	Belfast	1230
Stage 1 Canoeing Programme	Derry District Council	2067
Sing Songs	Fermanagh	500
Play Time	Dungannon	2400
Having a Laugh Building a Raft	Magherafelt	2500
Grabbed	Ballymena	2500
Shared Experience	Dungannon	2250
Dungiven Comhaltas Youth Initiative	Derry District Council	2500
Class Sports Day	Magherafelt	2159
Lincoln Courts Summer Scheme	Derry District Council	2500
Clonard Community Safety Project	Belfast	2150
Scar-erry Exchange	Derry District Council	2500
Spring Soccer Fun (Chimney Corner U11)	Antrim	1558
Dance, Prance, Chilli	Lisburn	2235
Visual Noise 08	Carrickfergus	1930
Guide/Ranger Pack Holiday (Castlewellan Castle) & T.O.E Camp	Belfast	1444
Cygnets Fun Day & Brigins Pack Holiday (Castlewellan Castle)	Belfast	2115
The 'I Can' Project	Armagh	2500
Summer Scheme Big Junior Dealers	Derry District Council	2500



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
The 'I Can' Project	Armagh	2500
Summer Community Fun Day	Belfast	2245
Include Art	Ards	1320
Activation	Belfast	2500
Mac-os-quin Teens	Coleraine	2489
The Poly-tunnel and Wormey Re-cycle project	Cookstown	2457
New Day	Ards	2500
Transformers	Ards	2200
Tackling Anti Social Behaviour through the medium of Murals	Belfast	1740
Playhouse Activity Centre Celebration	Coleraine	1790
Rural Summer Scheme	Omagh	1487
Juvenile Competitions	Belfast	2050
Youth Project	Limavady	2490
Legends and landscape	Fermanagh	2500
Outward Bound Expedition to Aberdoverly Wales	Strabane	2500
Finding Happy-ness Girls Club	Ards	1546
Boxing Tournament	Belfast	2500
Girlguiding Armagh Residential Camp	Armagh	2500
Causeway Young Carers	Magherafelt	1985
Vibe FM Community Radio	Fermanagh	2500
Forfey Music and Arts Festival	NI Wide	2500
Young Peoples Local History Project	Belfast	2372
Community Garden - Suicide Awareness environmental project	Belfast	2500
Community Recognition Awards Cermony	Belfast	2450
All Round Kids	Magherafelt	2500
Girls R Us	Belfast	2500
Young Mothers Group	Belfast	2500
Mill Kids Get Sporty	Ballymoney	2170
Juvenile Girls Soccer Competition	Belfast	2500
Strathfoyle Girls	Derry District Council	1445
Expressive Dance	Coleraine	600
Young Peoples Sports Activities	Lisburn	2500

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Ask the Experts II	NI Wide	2500
East Belfast Cross Community Sports Programme	Belfast	2500
Expanding Cultural Awareness and Respecting Differences	Fermanagh	993
Cregagh Youth Centre - Summer Scheme 2008	Castlereagh	2500
CKS Youth Committee Family Fun Day	Omagh	2250
Tomorrow's Leaders Today	Belfast	2173
Football, Coaching, healthy Living	Belfast	2500
Summer Alternatives	Belfast	2400
Fun activities for everyone, in the sun	Antrim	2242
Armagh Old Boys Silvery Band 8th Annual Summer School	Armagh	2500
Lunchtime Club	Belfast	2500
Time for Change Project	Carrickfergus	1627
Sound Beginnings	Belfast	2310
Streetreach Dungannon	Dungannon	2500
Young Travellers Peoples Summer Scheme 2008	Craigavon	2260
Youth Forum - Short Strand	Belfast	2500
Ashton Afterschools Club	Belfast	2270
hope4kids	Carrickfergus	970
Miss Debating Project	Craigavon	2051
Outdoor Adventure Teambuilding Weekend	Antrim	2500
Dual-Identity	Belfast	1431
Ballymena, Antrim and Cookstown Young Carers Project	More Than 1 DCA	2320
Young Animators Project	Magherafelt	2400
RVN	Belfast	2500
Sirocco Youth FC Cross Community Football Festival	Belfast	2140
Summer Activities for Drumellan Children & Young Peoples Centre	Craigavon	2500
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Venture to Scotland	More Than 1 DCA	1500
All Sorts	Ballymoney	2500
Say Cheese	Craigavon	2500
20th Anniversary Celebration CD	Newry & Mourne	2500
Ormeau Road Belfast Youth Forum	Belfast	2350
The Rosario Youth Community Project	Belfast	2500



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Get Heard Get Scene	Moyle	2466
Coaching	Dungannon	2500
Lithuanian Saturday School	Armagh	2500
Our Special Spot	Cookstown	865
Willow Wildlife Garden and Adventure Playground	Fermanagh	2500
Team Challenge for All - Making it happen	Ballymoney	2500
Youth Health and Well Being	Belfast	2400
Coach Education for Young People	Belfast	2500
Under 19 Basketball Team	Strabane	2239
Play Time at the Birches	Craigavon	2500
Festival of Basketball	Magherafelt	2500
Fun for All	Magherafelt	2480
Dunalong Youth Connect	Strabane	1585
Our Garden and Quiet Area	Craigavon	1657
A Boat Trip Combining Cross Community Girls Guides and Scouts	Belfast	2500
Outdoor Play	Dungannon	2500
Schools Sports Leadership Programme	Belfast	2500
The Starting Out Project	Dungannon	2500
HHYH (Harpurs Hill Young Hikers)	Coleraine	2423
Regeneration of Pond Area	Omagh	2500
Out & About Newry	Newry & Mourne	2500
Fit for Youth	Derry District Council	2500
Hoops for Kids	Belfast	2229
The B.E.S.T Project	Craigavon	2500
Solway Stars	Belfast	2500
Learning ecosystem at Coagh Primary School	Cookstown	2500
Blackie River Afterschools Project	Belfast	2337
Playtime at Donaghey	Dungannon	2500
Polish Saturday School - Armagh	Armagh	2500
Atticall Project	Newry & Mourne	2500
Sporting Certs	Newry & Mourne	500
Millennium Volunteers	Belfast	1920

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Playing Together	Belfast	2500
East Belfast Formal and Awards Ceremony	Belfast	2500
Motivational Diary for 2009	Fermanagh	2400
St Andrews Boys Club	Belfast	2500
Do it today and not tomorrow	Newry & Mourne	2000
Outward Bound Adventure and Challenge	Ballymoney	2500
Night-O	More Than 1 DCA	2500
Learning about our natural environment	Belfast	2500
Sharing Sensory Garden	Coleraine	2500
Our Sensory Garden	Ards	2500
Magherafelt Titans Senior Basketball Club	Magherafelt	2500
BBQ Oiche Shamhna (Halloween BBQ)	Belfast	1300
Whitecity After School Multi-Sports Club	Belfast	1910
Outter Limits	Derry District Council	2200
Toddlers go Strictly Dancing	Belfast	2055
Funky Monkeys	Derry District Council	2120
RCJ 3	Derry District Council	1810
Fit for Life	Belfast	2500
Christmas in the Well	Newtownabbey	2390
Time Out	Derry District Council	2086
Christmas Winter Wonderland	Derry District Council	2500
Generations	Carrickfergus	2400
Green Art	Ards	2500
The Aspergers Ball	More Than 1 DCA	1430
Dance Academy	Belfast	2400
Mac Robert Exchange	Belfast	2500
Upper Springfields Got Talent	Belfast	2430
Lisburn YMCA Senior Youth Club Preparatory Divisions Project	Lisburn	2200
I am Me	Lisburn	2300
Holy Family Members Committee	Belfast	2500
Playground Enhancement	Belfast	2300
Our Hole	Derry District Council	2500



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Walkway Ravers English Exchange	Belfast	2500
Ashfield Cope Programme 2008	Belfast	2500
Fun House	Belfast	2500
St Brigids Youth Project	Belfast	1300
Saturday Kids Club	Derry District Council	2500
Girls aim High	Ballymoney	2037
Belfast All Stars Cheerleading Project	Belfast	2450
Live to Dance	Belfast	2300
Creative arts and crafts Project	Derry District Council	870
Young Triangle Voice	Coleraine	2500
The Bridge Girls Group	Belfast	2484
Asist Suicide Intervention	Belfast	1832
St Brigids Young Leaders	Belfast	2300
Art at Ogras	Cookstown	1300
FC Belfast United Cross Community Sports Programme	Belfast	2500
Newtownabbey Strikers Women's Football Development Academy	Newtownabbey	2500
Youth in Community Project - Speak Out	Moyle	2484
Shadows Dance Group	Belfast	2090
Activity Weekend at Share Holiday Village	Moyle	2500
The Ashgrove Garden	Newtownabbey	2000
Mariners Bored.com	Newry & Mourne	2500
Time-Out Nature Watch	Derry District Council	1790
KYC The Musical	Down	2450
Ballycraigy Board	Antrim	1668
Secret Lives	Larne	2500
Newbridge Camogie Club	Magherafelt	1084
Craigbane Youth Band - Lethal Year 2009	Derry District Council	2100
Fierce, Friendly and Fast Animals	Coleraine	1600
Eurodance International	Belfast	2500
Bellaghy Primary School Hockey Club	Magherafelt	2500
Positive Young Leaders	Derry District Council	2500
Junior Leadership Training and Development	Lisburn	2164

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Out and About Year 11 PE Group	Newtownabbey	2500
Indoor2Outdoor	Down	2500
Twinbrook Youth Council	Lisburn	2500
Working for Others Musical Summer Scheme 2009	Belfast	1530
Glenullin/Garvagh Kids Fun the next step	Coleraine	2485
Enhancement of Outdoor Play Area	Castlereagh	2500
NIYF Executive Media Training	Belfast	2500
Oakwood Sensory Garden	Belfast	2175
Limfast - Cultures in Sport	Limavady	2500
Respecting me Respecting You	Omagh	2500
Jordanstown Scouts Canoe Project	Newtownabbey	2478
1st Banbridge "B" Pack (Brownies)	Banbridge	2048
An Munia Tober Youth Forum	Belfast	2500
Eotas "Hired or Fired" Project	Coleraine	2371
Happy Playtime here we come	Newry & Mourne	2500
First Aid Training	Belfast	1365
Physical and Emotional Wellbeing	Dungannon	1564
St Matthews Girls Grassroots and Junior Football Project	Belfast	2486
St Matthews Under 16 Football Project	Belfast	1976
Summer Camp 2009	Belfast	2049
Our First taste of Responsibility	Belfast	2500
The Big Move	Fermanagh	2393
Strength2Strength Programme Outdoor Challenge	Derry District Council	2440
East 14	Belfast	2400
Trip to Glasgow South Belfast Eagles Cheerleading	Belfast	2413
Outdoor Activities	Down	2500
Learmount Youth Tell the Truth	Derry District Council	2406
Space Project	Belfast	2491
Divis Designers	Belfast	2500
The Mural Project	Derry District Council	2100
Cheerleading	Belfast	2500
Trip to W5 to Complete Brownie Science Investigator Badge	Banbridge	701



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
The Red Room Project	Belfast	2500
Linfield FC Scotland Tour 2009	Belfast	2500
Upper Springfield Youth Assembly	Belfast	2490
Artillery Young Parents "Can't Cook Won't Cook"	Belfast	2490
Fun Learning for Life	Cookstown	2500
CGI Lagan Area Camp 2009	Lisburn	2500
Know the Score	Belfast	2500
Girls Personal Development Project	Derry District Council	1790
The Play's The Thing	Lisburn	2500
The Great Outdoor Personal Challenge Camp	Banbridge	1350
Teconnaught Community Day	Down	1200
Summer Camp 2009 - Armoys GB	Ballymoney	1908
Summer Scheme July/August 2009	Belfast	2500
Cool Club	Craigavon	2093
Rainbow Summer Scheme	Craigavon	1705
Green Elves Playgroup - Fun for Us - Fun in the Future	Omagh	2494
Belfast United Junior Team Development Programme	Belfast	2500
Outdoor Education Programme	Belfast	2500
Tackling Conflict in the Playground - Year 5	Banbridge	2500
Learning Outdoors at Clea Primary School	Armagh	2500
Summer Scheme	Fermanagh	2010
The Boys and Girls Club House	Newtownabbey	2500
Primary School Sports Hall Athletics Festival	Derry District Council	1529
Fitness Fun for Everyone	Belfast	2500
Glasswater Gardening Gnomes	Down	2500
Down Youth Awards	Down	2175
Art on the Shutters	Down	2500
Expedition - Lake District Hike	Armagh	2500
Outstanding in our field - reclaim to grow	Newry & Mourne	2450
St Olivers Primary School	Newry & Mourne	2489
Newtownhamilton Youth Group	Newry & Mourne	1625
21st Anniversary Guide Camp	Newtownabbey	1702

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Creation of a sensory fruit and vegetable garden	Newry & Mourne	2495
Motivational Diary 2	Fermanagh	2500
Playing for the Future	Craigavon	2380
Express Yourself	Belfast	1670
RDA Improving Lives	Omagh	2500
The Real Deal	Derry District Council	1516
Bringing Volunteering Back	Newry & Mourne	2500
Boxing Competition Exhibition	Newtownabbey	2350
Leadership, Adventure and Development Project	Armagh	2500
Summer Scheme	Fermanagh	1318
Carrick Hill Youth Development	Belfast	2460
Improving Skills	Dungannon	2400
Soccer Skills Week	Castlereagh	1700
Our Space	Armagh	2470
Cross Channel Trip	Strabane	2440
Defying Gravity	Lisburn	2500
Iarscoil Ui Neill Afterschool Club	Cookstown	2500
Play for all Seasons	Newtownabbey	2500
Drumrawn Parent & Toddler Group	Omagh	1650
Developing Skills through Gaelic Games	Magherafelt	1655
Caw Senior Summer Project	Derry District Council	2500
BRICS - Building Relationships in a Contested Society	Craigavon	2000
Scar-erry Stage 2	Derry District Council	2500
Buffer Zone	Ballymoney	2500
The Drama in our Lives	Derry District Council	1228
Branial Young Men's Football Club	Castlereagh	1510
Kids Stop (Afterschool Club)	Dungannon	2500
The Kids don't Stand a Chance	Belfast	2500
Streetwork Dungannon	Dungannon	2500
Friends P7 Year Book	Lisburn	500
Coaching Education Programme	Belfast	2448
Presidents Award	Belfast	2500



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Ashton Afterschools Club	Belfast	2495
Enda's Summer Scheme	Newtownabbey	2500
Taughy Teens	Belfast	2500
Bringing Indoors Outdoors and Outdoors Indoors	Fermanagh	1943
Activity Days for Young People in Care	Belfast	2500
Celebrating our 10th Birthday	Newry & Mourne	1229
The Next Step - Young Men's Group	Belfast	2500
Foyle Ladies Community Active Lifestyles Project	Derry District Council	2491
Ardoyne Young Women's Community Theatre and Drama Project	Belfast	2250
Visit to Belfast Zoo	Magherafelt	686
Summer Fun through Cultural Play	Lisburn	2500
Come Out and Play	Lisburn	2450
Youth Forum Team Building	Belfast	2500
Connect: Youth to Hard Issues	Belfast	2500
We're Not as Green as we're Cabbaged looking	Belfast	2350
Kidszone Afterschool - Summer Scheme	Newry & Mourne	1460
Green Fingers	Dungannon	1494
Radio Project - Implementing a School Radio Programme	Belfast	2500
Holistic Wellbeing Project	Belfast	1755
YFC County Show Project	Fermanagh	1750
Happy Playtime	Craigavon	2473
Destined Youth Project	Derry District Council	2480
Get On!	Craigavon	2500
Young Parents Summer Programme	Craigavon	2500
Newry Youth Forum	Newry & Mourne	2500
Taughmonagh Youth Forum	Belfast	2500
Scotch Street Drop in Centre	Craigavon	2500
Cabin Club Summer Programme	Armagh	2500
Friends of Careers N kids Multi Cultural Event	Belfast	2377
Fresh Air Project	Craigavon	2500
Self Esteem to Beauty Dream	Ballymena	2340
Young Women's Group	Belfast	1800

Evaluation Report

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Across the Boards	Belfast	2500
VOYPIC Mentoring Project	Derry District Council	1358
Domestic Violence/NICRAS	Belfast	2500
Fun in the Summer Months in Drumellan	Craigavon	2500
Rathcoole Equality in Football	Newtownabbey	2500
Transitions Project	Dungannon	2000
Dance Steps	Belfast	2500
East Belfast Halloween Awards Ball	Belfast	2500
North Star Basketball Club	Derry District Council	2500
Girlguiding South Down Centenary Launch Party	Down	2500
Knockagh Dance School	Carrickfergus	1890
Child Aid	Derry District Council	2500
Under the Sea with the preschoolers	Coleraine	2500
Carrick Youth Council Group Development	Newtownabbey	2500
Inside Out	Belfast	2500
Aggies Drama	Belfast	2251
CARR Youth Drop-in	Belfast	2000
Summe Rock School	Coleraine	2500
Celebrating 25 years of Holy Family Parent & Toddler Group	Belfast	2500
Learning Outdoors At Gilford Primary	Craigavon	2484
Sound Factory	Antrim	2250
Windmill Woodland Class	Dungannon	500
Learning Outdoors	Craigavon	2121
Company Youth Theatre 20th Birthday Production	Belfast	2500
Let us Entertain you!!	Fermanagh	2255
The Best Drugs and Alcohol DVD	Belfast	2500
Prepared for Pressure	Ballymoney	1830
Only Girls Allowed - Club	Belfast	874
LORAG Dance Group	Belfast	2310
Cultural Photography	Limavady	1265
Kilrea Afterschools - Gardening Project	Coleraine	2000
Craft and Create Club	Ballymena	1200



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Visual Noise 09	Carrickfergus	2200
Little Wombles Lets Play	Magherafelt	1365
Rostrevor Kids	Newry & Mourne	2465
Meadow Bridge PS Science Fair	Lisburn	1750
Killean Natural Play Area	Newry & Mourne	2500
Kick Start	Belfast	2500
Drumquin Youth Club	Omagh	2500
Greencastle Youth Centre	Omagh	2500
Hospital Road Youth Club	Omagh	2500
Developing an Outdoor Playarea	Fermanagh	2500
My City/Our City	Derry District Council	2200
Fermanagh Brownies 'Take Over' Devenish Island	Fermanagh	1900
Link Centre Young Women's Development Programme	Belfast	2500
Our Vision & Consultation	Derry District Council	2500
Staying Together	Limavady	2500
Just Dance	Down	2420
Playing for the Future	Craigavon	2465
The Troubles	Coleraine	1600
Peer Mediation	Coleraine	1700
IFA Level 1 Coaching Award	Belfast	2500
Volunteer Planning Residential	Belfast	2498
Healthy Living	Belfast	2500
The Bhoys	Newry & Mourne	2500
Colin Fun Day	Lisburn	2500
Supporting Young People through Transition	Lisburn	2046
Cul Kids Club	Ballymoney	2500
Camp Cook	Newtownards	1540
Outward Bound Adventure and Challenge	Ballymoney	2500
Rainbow Teens	Craigavon	1710
Search Weekene (Residential)	Belfast	2500
Champions Group Residential	Belfast	2020
We need stuff	Derry District Council	2494

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
St James Fishing Group	Belfast	2500
St James Young Womens Group	Belfast	2500
Crusaders Newtownabbey Strikers League Participation	Newtownabbey	2000
Denmark Street and 174 Club Cross Community Programme	Belfast	2342
Lunchtime Club II	Belfast	2500
Trinity Theatre Arts	Belfast	2500
Team Build for Europe	Belfast	1350
Culture and Conflict	Derry District Council	500
Striving 4 Success	Coleraine	2350
The Young Journalists	Craigavon	1300
MACS Advisory Group DVD Project	Belfast	2140
The Bio Dome/Polly Tunnel at Roscor	Fermanagh	2470
Play for Me - Play for You	Omagh	2500
Promoting Health at St Michaels	Craigavon	2000
Mountpottinger Afterschools Club	Belfast	2500
West Belfast District Girl Guide Residential to Colomendy	More Than 1 DCA	2500
Community Relations Democracy Project	Belfast	2500
Bushmills Primary School Playground Refurbishment	Moyle	2500
Christmas in Belfast	Belfast	2150
Our Sensory Room	Cookstown	1138
Caw Senior Members Committee	Derry District Council	2500
Sail Away From It All	Derry District Council	2500
Out and About	Belfast	2500
Tonnta Radio	Down	1823
Preston Easter Football Club	Banbridge	2500
S.Y.C.H (Strathfoyle Youth Club Hero's)	Derry District Council	2424
Vanilla Movilla	Newtownards	1680
Her Doos	Belfast	1500
Pony Games "Thrills and Spills"	Antrim	2350
Miss En Scene	Down	2500
SYC	Derry District Council	1653
The Stage Door Project	Banbridge	2000

The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Youth Club Activity Weekend	Ballymoney	2500
Youth Division Project	Belfast	2500
Loggerheads	Derry District Council	2448
Gang Culture Group	Belfast	2500
Outdoor Play	Coleraine	2455
Youth to Adult Development (St Mary's Y.D.A)	Derry District Council	2260
East Belfast/East London Young Mens Project	Belfast	2500
Nursery Grounds Development	Newry & Mourne	2380
Fermanagh East Youth Forum - Roas Safety Campaign	Fermanagh	1820
Life Skills	Carrickfergus	1115
Maing a Music CD	Derry District Council	2500
Chaat Masala	Belfast	1810
HUBB Youth Project	Belfast	2500
VOYPIC Mentoring Project	Derry District Council	2101
Team Building at the Share Centre	Fermanagh	798
Longstone Youth Group	Newry & Mourne	2500
Arts & Crafts Materials	Fermanagh	1363
Disability Culture - Celebration	Belfast	2500
Longstone Peer Mediation Programme	Ballymena	2000
Re-Seisiun	Armagh	2500
The Presidents Award Expedition	Belfast	1548
Lets Get Publicity and get it right!	Magherafelt	2000
Magherafelt Youth Awards	Magherafelt	2000
DJ Skills Coaching	Newtownards	2185
Vincent's Adventure	Belfast	2500
OMG (Our Mountnorris Group)	Armagh	2400
Motion Dance Show	Lisburn	2500
Linfield Youth Academy England Tour 2010	Belfast	2500
The Saturday Shakeup Team	Newry & Mourne	2268
Oriel Activity Group	Larne	1180
Ogras Luraigh	Magherafelt	2245
Enhancing Pupils Health/Well being through environment	Down	2500

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Encouragement to Participate in Club Events	Fermanagh	2480
St Michaels Community Playground	Newry & Mourne	2295
Retention 2010	Belfast	2150
Understanding Today's Castles Today	Lisburn	1860
Conflict Resolution	Lisburn	2500
Torrent Tots Play and Stay	Dungannon	1700
TIC Project Transitions in Conflict	Craigavon	2492
Toys for the Children	Craigavon	1158
XL Citizenship Residential	Strabane	1739
Improving Arts in Our Community	Derry District Council	2500
RNIB	Belfast	2040
Summer Rock School 2010	Coleraine	2500
Guides Century Challenge	Belfast	2135
Fun Learning for Life	Dungannon	2500
The H Word	Carrickfergus	2300
Destined - Trojans Project	Derry District Council	2500
Willowbank Youth Club and Meath Youth Federation	Belfast	1107
Records of Achievement Presentation Awards Ceremony	Castlereagh	1490
Magnet Fitness 2010	Newry & Mourne	2323
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award	Fermanagh	2500
Techie School	Belfast	2500
Sensory Garden	Castlereagh	2500
Aileens Squad	Ballymena	2302
Children for Peace in Ireland	Belfast	2078
Lads Looking Forward	Ballymena	2500
All for One and One for All	Belfast	2480
Holy Trinity Youth Club Talent Show	Belfast	1900
The Enhancement of Creativity in the Outdoor Play Area	Castlereagh	2350
Fearless Dance Troop	Belfast	2500
Backbeat	Belfast	2500
Share Respite Event	Newry & Mourne	2500
Healthy Eating and Cookery Skills	Belfast	2176



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Derry City Youth	Derry District Council	2500
Solway Summer	Belfast	2500
Ashton Afterschools	Belfast	2493
Camp and Play for Young Women	Lisburn	595
Womens Health and Well Being Residential	Belfast	1500
Darkley Outdoor Project	Armagh	2500
Visual Noise 2010	Carrickfergus	2500
Summer Link	Belfast	2450
Gort na Mona Historical Society	Belfast	2390
First Kicks	Derry District Council	2485
Teens & 20s Prom	Craigavon	2050
Athletics Festival	Derry District Council	2210
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expedition	Craigavon	1750
East and West Belfast Cross Community Project 2010	Belfast	2500
We are Bored	Derry District Council	2500
Rural Foyle Youth Forum	Derry District Council	2260
Reaching Out	Craigavon	1610
St James Allotment Garden	Newtownabbey	2500
Residential Adventure Holiday	Belfast	2062
Little Stars Gymnastics	Derry District Council	2196
Dance Project	Belfast	2000
Promoting Healthy Lifestyle	Banbridge	2000
Duke of Edinburgh Expedition - Gold Level	Omagh	2435
Project Xcell	Carrickfergus	2127
Fermanagh Fleadh 2010	Fermanagh	1800
Windmill Woodland Class	Dungannon	2009
Spectrum 3	Ballymena	1920
Talk Early Talk Often	Derry District Council	1905
Fashion Show	Derry District Council	2200
HTT Kids Club - Moving On	Derry District Council	2500
Youth Involvement Programme	Craigavon	2500
Boxercise	Belfast	1660

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
Fruits of De-Vine	Belfast	2000
Residential Teambuilding Weekend	Derry District Council	2500
B Surf	Ards	1320
North Coast Autism NI Youth Group	Coleraine	2500
"Reality Check" Comic	Derry District Council	2500
Cool Club	Craigavon	2432
Craic in the Cricky	Belfast	2500
Scotch Street Senior Youth Club	Craigavon	1730
Warrenpoint Youth Club Summer Scheme	Newry & Mourne	2495
Youth Project	Belfast	2500
2 Year Old Programme	Craigavon	1850
Preventing Suicide in Young People	Belfast	2280
Live & Loud	Newry & Mourne	1150
The Sharing Garden	Coleraine	2500
Birches Youth Club	Craigavon	1535
Improving Maghera Youth Club	Dungannon	2500
Anti Suicide Awareness	Derry District Council	2250
Bishop Street Youth Club Fishing Group	Derry District Council	2500
Wizard of oz at Christmas	Down	2450
Into the Future	Coleraine	1065
Training for Transformation	Belfast	2500
Eastbank Youth Support	Derry District Council	2494
Promote a Healthy, Positive Self Image and Build Self Confidence	Derry District Council	780
A Place to Play for All Seasons	Newtownabbey	2500
Pantomime and Transport	Belfast	1310
Drama Project	More Than 1 DCA	2500
Them and Us	Belfast	1500
Me in Mind	Dungannon	2500
I Just Want to Dance DJ	Belfast	2288
Hairspray	Newtownards	2500
Save Our Summer	Derry District Council	2423
Summer Club	Limavady	1835



The Big Deal Small Grants Programme

Project Name	District Council Area	Initial Award Value
The Childrens Garden	Omagh	2465
Deanbys Owen River Cottage	Belfast	2096
St Bronaghs Cross Border Tournament	Down	1600
Service User Forum	Craigavon	2164
Newtownhamiltons Young Mens Health Group	Newry & Mourne	1811
RVRA Summer Scheme	Limavady	1300
Meabh ONeills Fundamentals	Newry & Mourne	2484
Outdoor Pursuits	Moyle	2310
Recruitment Sundays	Belfast	1080
Young Mothers Evaluation Residential	Belfast	2095
Fit for Life	Lisburn	1500
LA Youth Revamp Project	Armagh	2200
WAVE Young Mens Group	Belfast	2200
Keeping Active through Healthy Alternatives	Belfast	2496
Wolfe Tones Senior Youth Club	Craigavon	2500
Drumellan Kidz Zone	Craigavon	2000
In Circus We Trust	Lisburn	2342
A Journey Through Our School	Lisburn	1270
Craft Class	Coleraine	2400
Street Play	Derry District Council	1742
Youth of Today to Leaders of Tomorrow	Belfast	2500



Youthnet 
network for the
voluntary youth sector

Youthnet

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