

Together: Building a United Community

Camps Programme Evaluation
Report

2017 - 2018

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1. Background

- 1.1 The T:BUC Strategy is the Northern Ireland Executive's framework for the development and improvement of good relations within Northern Ireland. The strategy has four key priorities, designed to be inclusive of all ages, cultures, faiths and traditions. These are:

- a. Our Children and Young People
- b. Our Shared Community
- c. Our Safe Community
- d. Our Cultural Expression

The delivery of Good Relations programmes and the impact on young people is highlighted within the Priorities for Youth Policy document which states:

“Increased participation of young people will help them to build positive relationships with those from different backgrounds and to dispel negative perceptions and images about those who are different from them... Every opportunity should be given to young people to participate in all aspects of the youth service and in a range of different ways... [and] the CRED policy must be reflected in youth service provision” (PfY 4.17, 4.18 & 4.8.5, pp.23 & 20).

The impact of the Camps Programme in developing positive relationships with those from different backgrounds is assessed within the programme evaluations and moderation visits carried out.

The T:BUC Camps Programme links to a range of current youth policy and legislation including; The Regional Youth Development Plan: The Regional Assessment of Need; The Equality and Inclusion Strategy and Model for Effective Practice.

The T:BUC Camps' Programme is a headline action within the “Our Children and Young People” priority.

- 1.2 The essential elements of a Camps' Programme are:

- + a focus on young people between the ages of 11 and 19 years old.
- + offer age appropriate activities planned to best meet the needs of the young people.
- + provide experiences and activities relating to Good Relations
- + have a cross community basis, and as far as possible contain a 50/50 split of Catholic/Nationalist/Republican (CNR) and Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist (PUL) participants. There is a 20% variance allowed in relation to the participant community background ratios.

- ✚ Young people from Ethnic Minority backgrounds can participate within Camps, however, the majority of participants must come from the two main communities within Northern Ireland.

- 1.3 Over the past three years the Camps' Programme (formerly Summer Camps Programme) has seen a growth in participants, and delivery of more effective good relations programming.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 In May 2017 The Executive Office released £1.49m of funding for the delivery of the TBUC Camps' Programme, with the primary aim of "building positive relationships among young people across all parts of our community". The Programme is funded through The Executive Office and administered by the Education Authority Youth Service.
- 2.2 The fund was allocated through an assessment process, according to set criteria. The result was that 136 applications were assessed, with 123 finally offered funding.
- 2.3 In the end 115 Camps received formal letters of offer after 8 early withdrawals. Of these 113 successfully completed the delivery of all aspects of the programme.
- 2.4 This report is based on completed evaluation returns from 90 of the programmes that received funding which represents a sample return of 80%.
- 2.5 A variety of methods were used to deliver the three Camp elements of Pre-Camp; Camp and Post-Camp. Many groups chose a residential based Camp, offering the young people opportunities to engage in a number of outdoor and group work activities over three to seven nights away from their own communities. Other groups preferred to facilitate the programme on a day by day basis using trips; visits and in-centre activities.
- 2.6 All camps delivered Good Relations throughout their programmes which took the form of workshops; arts and crafts; outdoor learning; drama; dance and digital technologies, impacting upon the young people's learning and understanding of other cultures, identities and traditions.
- 2.7 Programmes were moderated by EA officers throughout the period of delivery, during the Camp and Post-Camp phases of the programmes. Camps provided an evaluation of both their programme and financial return to EA for vouching (80% return detailed above ref; 2.4).

- 2.8 This report is a summary of the evaluations, providing both an overview and then recommendations. The information provided will link to the Programme outcomes and outputs. This will be used to assist in framing the Camp's Programme for the following year.
- 2.9 As in previous years, the report will highlight the performance of the programme against the three domains of the Report Card: -
- ✚ How much did we do?
 - ✚ How well did we do it?
 - ✚ Is anyone better off?

3. Criteria for Funding

- 3.1 The TEO made available a sum of £1.459M for EA Youth Service to deliver the Camps programme. The funding is allocated using an application process, which was launched on the 9th January 2018 and concluded on the 23rd February 2018.
- 3.2 Support was provided to those wishing to apply through a series of workshops delivered by EA Officers and Funding Fairs co-ordinated by TEO supported by an EA Officer.
- 3.3 All applicants were aware, that to successfully access funding for the Camp Programme, they must demonstrate that the following criteria had been met:
- ✚ Organisations must be formally constituted and have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association
 - ✚ Organisations must operate on a "not for profit" basis
 - ✚ Organisations must have both Public and employers Liability Insurance
 - ✚ Organisations must be able to provide the relevant required documentation as highlighted with section 4 of the Camps Programme guidance notes
 - ✚ Programmes must take place between April 2017 and February 2018
 - ✚ Programmes must run on a cross community basis which meets the required variance
 - ✚ Programmes engage the target age range of 11 – 19 year olds living within Northern Ireland
 - ✚ Programmes must take place in Northern Ireland; Great Britain and Ireland
 - ✚ Programmes must offer a range of age appropriate activity
 - ✚ Programmes must have the minimum delivery hours for each Camp phase Pre-Camp 10 hrs – Camp 15 hrs – Post-Camp 10 hrs
 - ✚ Programmes must have the minimum number of young people participating for the funding band applied for. Band 1 20-39 participants; Band 2 40-59 participants and Band 3 60+ young people

These criteria were used to determine whether the applicant could access funding, and a robust assessment process was established to verify this.

4. Assessment Process

4.1 The assessment process is comprised of the following elements:

- ✚ Receipt of the completed application within the timeframe
- ✚ Independent assessment panels
- ✚ The Multi-Agency Assessment Board (MAAB)
- ✚ Re-submission opportunities for failed applicants to reapply and be re-assessed.

4.2 The Independent panels were convened with representation from local Councils; Good Relations Officers; Executive Office staff and EA Officers.

Number of times the panel was convened: 2

Number of applications assessed: 136

Number of applications re-assessed: 22

Number of applications re-assessed a second time: 9

4.3 The panel used an agreed assessment scoring matrix against which the Camps' Programme applications were assessed. In the interests of transparency and fairness, EA representatives did not assess applications from EA controlled groups where they had a direct role in the management, or had assisted in the completion of an application.

4.4 Each application was scrutinised and scored against the matrix.

4.5 Applications were then prioritised by final score, and forwarded to The Executive Office before being brought to a Multi-Agency Assessment Board (MAAB) meeting for final consideration.

Number of times the MAAB was convened: 3

Number of applications forwarded: 136

Number of applications successfully allocated funding: 115

5. Performance Against the Three Domains of the OBA Report Card

5.1 The methodology used to measure the performance and impact of the programme is framed within the six set Camps Programme Outcomes, which are aligned to the four key priorities outlined within the T:BUC Strategy.

Table 2.1 below highlights the Outcomes; Outputs and Good Relations Indicators for the Camps Programme.

T:BUC PRIORITY	T:BUC CAMP OUTCOMES	PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS (GOOD RELATIONS)
Our Children & Young People: Improving attitudes & building a community where young people can play a full and active role in building good relations.	1.1 Positive attitudinal change towards people from different backgrounds.	a. % who feel more favourable towards people from Protestant/Catholic/minority ethnic communities
	1.2 Sustained contact & friendships developed between young people from different backgrounds.	a. % who made new friends with people from a different religious background or ethnic group during(from) project b. % who feel they will stay in contact with new friends they have made after the project ends
Our Shared Community: A community where division doesn't restrict life opportunities & all areas are open and accessible to everyone.	2.1 Young people are more positive about shared activities (e.g. education, leisure).	a. % who had fun. b. % who benefitted from the camp experience gaining skills, confidence, etc c. % who joined new (shared) groups and/or activities
	2.2 Better recognition of the role young people play in peace building.	a. % who felt able to talk openly with others about their sense of identity, culture and aspirations b. % feel they would like to be more involved in peace building activities with young people from other backgrounds
Our Safe Community: A community where everyone feels safe to move around & not inhibited by fears.	3.1 Young people feel that a safe environment has been created, in which facilities are shared and which enables them to share experiences and learning.	a. % who felt that all phases of the camp experience were safe and that young people were supported to share and learn b. % who feel safer attending camp events, activities or facilities in areas associated with another culture or religious tradition
Our Cultural Expression: A community which promotes mutual respect and understanding. Diversity is perceived as a strength & cultural expression is positively celebrated and non-threatening.	4.1 Young people have a better understanding and respect for cultural differences.	a. % who think that the culture and traditions of Protestant/Catholic and minority ethnic communities add to the richness and diversity of NI. b. % who feel they have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds

(Table 2.1)

- 5.2 The OBA Report Card illustrates three domains and highlights a quantitative measure for the Camps Programme.

Table 2.2 illustrates the OBA Report Card for the 2017/18 Programme. This shows the number of young people initially engaged in the programme and those who completed the programme, based on the evaluations returned.

- 5.3 Young people participating in a Camps' Programme complete a baseline questionnaire at the start. This is followed up at the end of the Programme, providing a measure of progress with regard to issues such as:

- ✚ The positive changes in the participants towards others of a different background
- ✚ Development of mutual understanding
- ✚ Friendships established
- ✚ Enjoyment of their Programme.

The results of these baselines provide the basis for the programme evaluations, which in turn inform the Report Card.

Table 2.2

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No. participants - 3243 ✓ No. of camps - 113 ✓ No. of pre camp hours delivered – 1599 hrs ✓ No. of camp hours delivered – 3996 hrs ✓ No of post camp hours delivered – 2231 hrs ✓ No. of participants from Protestant communities - 1476 ✓ No. of participants from Catholic communities - 1640 ✓ No. of participants from minority ethnic/ other communities - 127 ✓ No. participants with a disability - 303 ✓ No. participants not involved in youth club/community group before – 574 ✓ No. participants excluded from school – 68 ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ % young people who completed the project – 96% ✓ % of young people who enjoyed the project – 99% ✓ % made new friends with people from different religious tradition/background at camp – 90% ✓ % of young people who felt the camp environment was open and inclusive – 93% ✓ % of young people who felt the camp environment enabled sharing of experiences skills and facilities – 93% ✓ % felt that their cultural background was respected by others at camp – 93%

Is anyone better off? (number)	Is anyone better off? (percentage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No. of participants with a positive attitudinal change towards people from Protestant communities – 2432 ✓ No. of participants with a positive attitudinal change towards people from Catholic communities – 2400 ✓ No. of participants with a positive attitudinal change towards people from minority ethnic communities - 2303 ✓ No. of participants who made new friends from a different religious tradition/background – 2919 ✓ No. of participants who are more positive about taking part in shared groups and/or activities with other young people from a different religious tradition/background. – 2497 ✓ No. of participants who feel more able to talk openly with others about their sense of identity, culture and aspirations – 2140 ✓ No. of participants who have an increased willingness to be more involved in peace building activities with young people from other backgrounds – 2789 ✓ No. of participants who feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with another culture or religious tradition – 2757 ✓ No. of participants who think that the culture and traditions of Protestant communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 2789 ✓ No. of participants who think that the culture and traditions of Catholic communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 2821 ✓ No. of participants who think that the culture and traditions of minority ethnic/ other communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 2789 ✓ No. of participants who have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds – 2854 ✓ No. of participants who plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends – 2789 ✓ No. of participants who feel a personal benefit from the experience (e.g. confidence, skills, participation) 3081 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ % with a positive attitudinal change people towards from Protestant communities – 75% ✓ % with a positive attitudinal change towards people from Catholic communities – 74% ✓ % with a positive attitudinal change towards people from minority ethnic/ other communities – 71% ✓ % who made new friends from a different religious tradition/background – 90% ✓ % who are more positive about taking part in shared groups and/or activities with other young people from a different religious tradition/background – 77% ✓ % who feel more able to talk openly with others about their sense of identity, culture and aspirations – 66% ✓ % who have an increased willingness to be more involved in peace building activities with young people from other backgrounds – 86% ✓ % feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with another culture or religious tradition – 85% ✓ % of participants who think that the culture and traditions of Protestant communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 86% ✓ % who think that the culture and traditions of Catholic communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 87% ✓ % who think that the culture and traditions of minority ethnic/ other communities add to the richness and diversity of NI – 86% ✓ % who have a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds – 88% ✓ % who plan to stay in contact with friends made at camp after the project ends – 86% ✓ % of participants who feel a personal benefit from the experience (e.g. confidence, skills, participation) – 95%

5.4 How much did we do?

A total of 123 potential Camp programmes were given Letters of Offer with 115 camps accepting the funding. There were a further 2 late withdrawals leaving the final count of Camps delivered at 113. There was an 80% return on Programme evaluations, 90 Camps out of the 113 delivered, at the time of writing the report. 4241 young people commenced the programme (based on 113 camp projections) with 3243 highlighted within the evaluations as completing their programmes (of the 90 returns). The CNR / PUL ratios were within the 20% variance with 1476 PUL (47%) and 1640 CNR (53%) participants. A further 127 young people from minority ethnic communities also participated within programmes.

Many of the groups delivering camp programmes were successful in engaging young people who were not connected to any other youth provision with 574 new participants. There were also 303 young people with disabilities and 68 young people who were excluded from school that participated within a Camp.

Throughout all camps a total of 7752 programme hours were delivered this equates to 323 full days of programmes. Understandably, most of the programme hours were delivered during the Camp phase with this aspect returning 3996 hrs. Pre-Camp had the least hours with 1599 and Post-Camp delivered 2231 hours.

5.5 How well did we do it?

A total of 96% of participants completed camp programmes. The actual completion number was 3243 young people based on the 90 camps that returned evaluations. This demonstrates an excellent completion rate.

The camp moderations highlighted positive engagement by participants through observations and discussions with the young people during moderation visits. Young people were generally keen to comment on what they had and had not enjoyed. When asked, 99% indicated they had enjoyed their programme. This equates to 3211 out of 3243 young people expressing enjoyment of their Camp.

A key target of the T:BUC strategy is the development of sustained friendships.

90% of the participants stated that they had made new friends with someone from a different cultural background to them.

86% of young people highlighted that they would keep in touch after the programme had ended.

The area of programme legacy is important in supporting the creation of an inclusive shared community. The camps programme offers participants the opportunity to meet and share joint spaces which are inclusive of all.

93% of young people agreed that their camp programme was open and inclusive.

93% of participants indicated that the camp environment enabled the sharing of experiences; skills and facilities.

Camp staff dealt with issues of identity by challenging attitudes, personal values & beliefs and stereotypes. 93% of the young people participating in the camps programmes felt that their cultural background was respected. This assists in achieving an inclusive society by breaking down barriers and overcoming fears and prejudices.

5.6 Is anyone better off?

The evaluation results illustrate significant numbers of young people are better off from engaging in a T:BUC camps programme.

Positive attitudinal change towards people from different backgrounds is a key camp outcome.

75% of participants reported that they had a positive attitudinal change towards people from the Protestant community.

74% indicated they had a positive attitudinal change towards people from the Catholic community after participating in a camp programme.

Throughout the three camp phases the activities and workshops are designed to offer participants opportunities to share in joint experiences which in turn aid in the development of new friendships.

77% of the young people illustrated that they are more positive about taking part in shared groups and or activities with people from a different background.

90% of the young people indicated that they had made new friends from a different religious tradition/background during their Programme.

86% of the young people stated that they planned to stay in contact with their new friends after the Programme ended.

T:BUC Camps create a safe and inclusive environment in which the young people who are participating can discuss a range of issues and topics which impact them. The young people also have opportunities to discuss identity; culture and aspirations.

66% of the participants in the 2017/18 programme felt more open to discuss these issues with others. The impact of the Camps programme, the issues discussed and the activities undertaken have motivated many of the young people to progress on to other programmes.

86% of the evaluation respondents indicated an increased willingness to be more involved in peace building activities with others from a different cultural background.

Cultural traditions within Northern Ireland have historically been the cause of many debates and in some instances have led to conflict.

A significant number of participants in the 2017/18 Camps Programme felt that cultural traditions added richness to the diversity within Northern Ireland, between 86% and 87% felt that the two main cultural traditions added to the richness and diversity in Northern Ireland..






The recognition of other cultural traditions within Northern Ireland was illustrated by 86% who felt that the culture and traditions of ethnic minority and other groups added a richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.

88% of the evaluation respondents also indicated that they had a better understanding of other cultural traditions and backgrounds.

Young people that participated in a Camps programme have generally benefited from their experience in a range of different ways.

95% of the 2017/18 Programme participants indicated that they had benefited personally from the experience and had gained in areas such as confidence; developed new skills and have greater awareness of other cultural traditions.

6. Good Relations

- 6.1 There are set criteria for groups applying for and completing Camp Programmes in the delivery of “Significant Good Relations” throughout all Camp phases. This element of the process is assessed initially at the application stage, where applications deemed as weak in Good Relations at this stage are required to amend their programme through a resubmission of their full application or programme elements.
- 6.2 Groups requested to resubmit their applications are offered support from an EA Youth Service staff member. The Senior Youth Worker II’s for the T:BUC Camps Programme have offered support to 85 groups over the past year to submit and or resubmit applications and programmes to reflect significant good relations throughout their programmes. This process has increased the quality of good relations illustrated in programmes and delivered during all Camp phases.
- 6.3 EA Senior Youth Worker II’s have supported groups to deliver Good Relations sessions within their programmes. This has been facilitated by means of co-delivery or full delivery of sessions; this was dependant on the individual group staff capacity and confidence to deliver this work. This method has proven very beneficial in building capacity to deliver their programmes, and this has been tested via the moderation process and the increased quality in evaluation returns. This critical support work needs to continue as there are still a number of groups that require assistance in this area.
- 6.4 The development of a TBUC Good Relations resource pack has been welcomed by groups delivering Camps Programmes. The pack has five sections:
 -  Introduction to the TBUC Camps Programme; Outcomes and Baselining
 -  Pre Camp phase
 -  Camp phase
 -  Post Camp phase
 -  Monitoring and Evaluation




Senior Youth Workers have delivered a number of training sessions in Belfast, Derry, Newtownards and Armagh demonstrating how to use the pack through interactive sessions with staff delivering Camps programmes. The satisfaction rates returned were universally high across all training opportunities.

- 6.5 The moderation visit process altered slightly for the 2017/18 Camps programme in that no visits were carried out during the Pre Camp stage of the programme. This focus of visits by EA Staff was on Good Relations programme elements. The moderation visits highlighted that the majority of groups were delivering Good Relations workshops and that the quality ranged from good or very good. The reports also show the positive engagement of the young people participating, and the activities they enjoyed which included Good Relations workshops. A comment made in a moderation report illustrates the impact of the Camps Programme and clearly demonstrates the achievement of the core outcomes.

“Good Relations has been at the heart of all stages of this programme which has meant meaningful relationships have been developed. This has had a very positive impact on the young people’s attitude towards others from different Communities”.

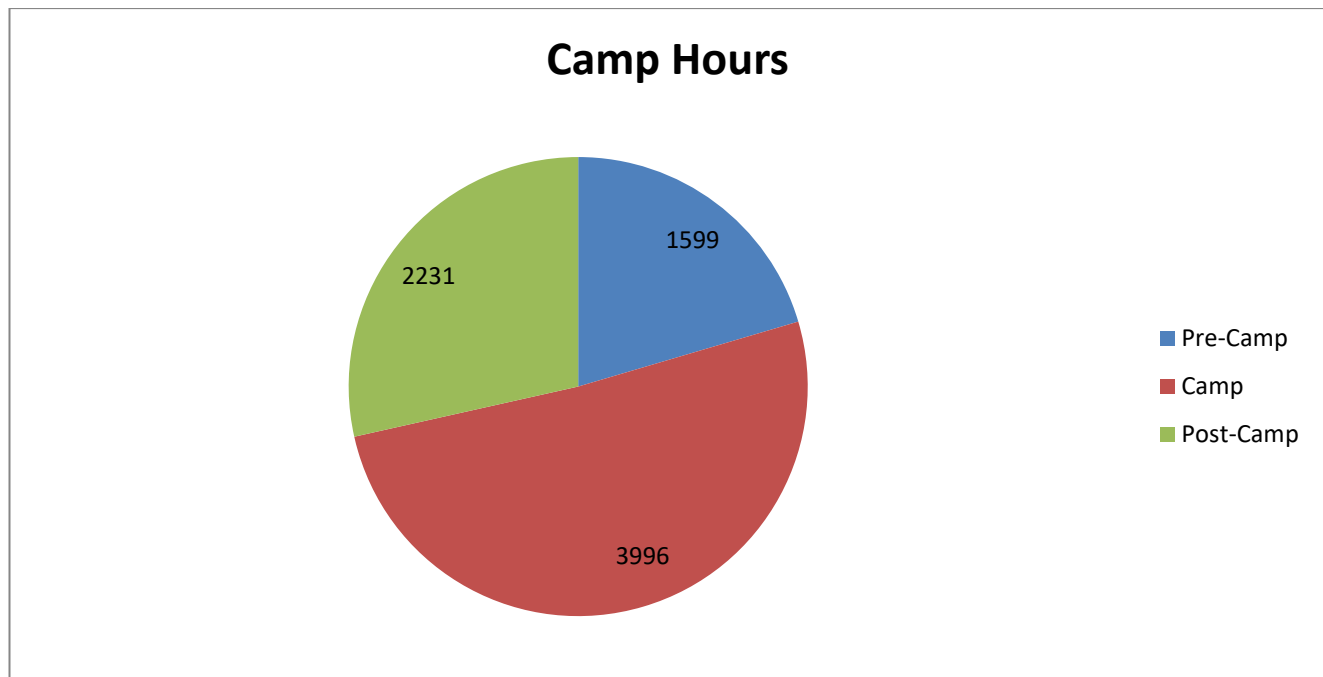
- 6.6 The Young people participating in Camps Programmes have engaged in a variety of activities and events which gave them the opportunity to develop relationships; develop new skills; gain new experiences and learning.

Participants commented on their Camp experience during the moderation visits and in their evaluation returns. It was expected the young people would highlight the “fun elements” such as residential work and activities. Young people have indicated that in addition they enjoyed the Good Relations workshops and in many instances have changed their thoughts and opinions in regards to others of a different background. There are many comments highlighted within reports that illustrate this including:-

-  *“I can’t believe I have friends who are Catholics / Protestants”*
-  *“This has changed my life”*
-  *“We don’t want to leave each other, we are like family”*

7. Key Outputs

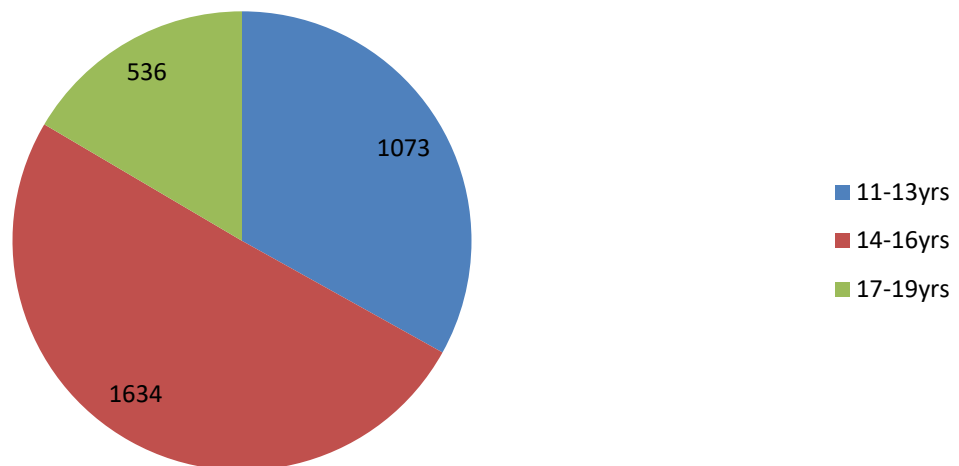
- 7.1 All Camps Programmes were delivered between April 2017 and February 2018 using the three phase model of Pre-Camp; Camp and Post Camp. The hours of delivery illustrated in chart 1.1 highlights the extent of the work.



(Chart 1.1)

- 7.2 The gender split of males and female participating in Camps is well balanced with 1516 male and 1727 female participants. There were several single gender groups that engaged in the 2017/18 programme. All male groups in the main, were sports group's e.g. football teams and all female groups were specialist projects being delivered by youth groups or Woman's Centre's.
- 7.3 Groups delivering Camps worked across a range of ages. (Chart 1.2). The three age bands show the 14-16 age group as being the majority group for this year's programme with almost 50% of the participants. Through discussions, several of the groups commented that some of their junior leaders / peer mentors were past camp participants. This process allows the young people to share their experiences and develop new skills around leadership.

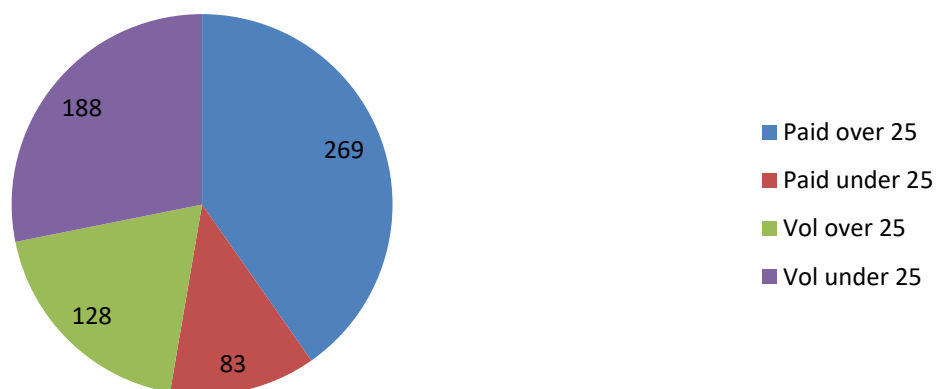
Age Ranges



(Chart 1.2)

- 7.4 The level of staffing required to deliver programmes, varies depending on the size and make-up of the group. Many of the groups do not ask for payment for their staff, and others ran on a voluntary basis. Chart 1.3 illustrates the number of paid staff and volunteers who are aged under or over 25 years old. 47% of the overall staffing for the Camp Programmes was made up of volunteers.

Staffing



(Chart 1.3)

- 7.5 The dispersion of camps throughout Northern Ireland has ensured that all 11 Council Areas have had Camp Programmes. There is however room for development in the two Council areas of Mid and East Antrim, and Fermanagh and Omagh, where participant numbers are quite low. Below is a list of the Local Council districts electoral areas and the number of participants that took part from each.

District Electoral Areas

Council Area	Antrim and Newtownabbey										
District Electoral Area	Airport	Antrim	Ballyclare	Dunsilly	Glengormley Urban	Macedon	Three Mile Water				Total:
Number of young people	15	29	5	0	79	57	0				185
Council Area	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon										
District Electoral Area	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Cusher	Lagan River	Lurgan	Portadown				Total:
Number of young people	55	162	85	63	33	87	105				590
Council Area	Belfast										
District Electoral Area	Balmoral	Blackmountain	Botanic	Castle	Collin	Court	Lisnasharragh	Oldpark	Ormiston	Titanic	Total:
Number of young people	49	224	230	122	91	0	8	271	16	238	1249
Council Area	Causeway Coast and Glens										
District Electoral Area	Ballymoney	Bann	Benbradagh	Causeway	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens				Total:
Number of young people	18	23	164	49	0	65	0				319
Council Area	Derry and Strabane										
District Electoral Area	Ballyarnett	Derg	Faughan	Foyle side	Sperrin	The Moor	Waterside				Total:
Number of young people	91	38	0	0	58	0	7				194
Council Area	Fermanagh and Omagh										
District Electoral Area	Enniskillen	Erne East	Erne North	Erne West	Mid Tryone	Omagh	West Tyrone				Total:
Number of young people	24	11	7	0	5	5	0				52

Council Area	Lisburn and Castlereagh										
District Electoral Area	Castlereagh East	Castlereagh South	Downshire East	Downshire West	Killultagh	Lisburn North	Lisburn South				Total:
Number of young people	1	87	16	0	40	0	0				144
Council Area	Mid and East Antrim										
District Electoral Area	Ballymena	Bannside	Braid	Carrick Castle	Coast Road	Knockagh	Larne Lough				Total:
Number of young people	0	0	0	14	1	0	0				15
Council Area	Mid Ulster										
District Electoral Area	Carntogher	Clogher Valley	Cookstown	Dungannon	Magherafelt	Moyola	Torrent				Total:
Number of young people	19	20	43	17	0	0	0				99
Council Area	Newry Mourne and Down										
District Electoral Area	Crotlieve	Downpatrick	Newry	Rowallane	Slieve Croob	Slieve Gullion	The Mournes				Total:
Number of young people	38	66	0	74	14	0	14				206
Council Area	North Down and Ards										
District Electoral Area	Ards Peninsula	Bangor Central	Bangor East and Donaghadee	Bangor West	Comber	Holywood and Clandeboye	Newtownards				Total:
Number of young people	24	54	0	0	18	18	6				120

8. Lessons Learned

- 8.1 The Camps Programmes delivered within 2017 / 18 offered a good variety of age appropriate activities which engaged participants in positive developmental experiences.
- 8.2 The Good Relations workshops delivered, were mainly of a good to very good standard. The young people engaging in programmes commented that they had enjoyed participating in the workshops and had gained new learning and understanding of other cultural backgrounds.
- 8.3 The young people participating in the programmes gained an insight into the positive impact young people can make within their own communities. Many of the participants stated they are willing to engage in further Good Relations programmes as a result of their TBUC Camps experience.
- 8.4 The participation levels of young people during their programmes were high. Observations during moderation visits indicated good levels of engagement in workshops; activities and young people having fun.
- 8.5 The programme was successful in achieving the set outcomes and scored well in the OBA Report Card. Most of the key identified points within the Report Card recorded over 70% of participants being better off with over 95% of young people indicating they have benefited from the programme and 99% saying they enjoyed their programmes.
- 8.6 The development of new friendships during Programmes has been a success. This highlights the impact of the camps in developing safe environments in which participant can share experiences and develop mutual understanding and respect.
- 8.7 The development of friendships is linked to a shift in attitudinal change towards others from a different cultural / religious background. The Camp Programmes process enables this to occur in a structured manner introducing young people to the concept of shared experiences and identity.
- 8.8 The training and support offered by the Senior Youth Workers to groups for completion of applications; development of programmes; co-delivery of workshops and Good Relations training has proved very beneficial. The staff that have been supported, and/or engaged in training, have commented on how this has been invaluable in their development and the development of their programmes. This support has also been evident in the increased quality of the programmes illustrated and facilitated by supported groups.

- 8.9 Whilst the return rate of evaluation reports was relatively high, there is still room for improvement. Many of the returns were inconsistent, with some information missing or incorrect.

9. Gaps in Provision

- 9.1 Generally there was good coverage across the entire country in the Camps programme. However in the two Council Areas of Mid and East Antrim and Fermanagh and Omagh there is room for further development.
- 9.2 Steps that were taken to build in Good Relations support were beneficial to programme delivery.
- 9.3 Whilst there were 113 programmes completed, there is a need to increase the number of applications received and maximise the use of the available budget. This would also promote a more competitive assessment process.

10. Recommendations for the Future

- 10.1 A review of the application form is required to ensure that develops in a more user friendly way, but still meets the information assessment requirements of the programme.
- 10.2 Support for the development of Good Relations aspects of the programme should continue to be provided. This should focus on the key three phase structure of the process and use as its basis the Good Relations Resource pack that is currently in the final phase of development.
- 10.3 More work needs to be done in enhancing the timely return of evaluations and the consistency of the information provided. EA should consider how this can be best achieved. Any review will involve a more robust return date and follow up work where information provided does not meet the required standard. A target of 95% should be set for the return of evaluations.
- 10.4 Further work is required in the promotion of the programme. This should specifically focus on the underrepresented areas highlighted and may involve the specific targeting of sectors and/or organisations.