



## COMMUNITY INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMME

Oasis was established by Community Intercultural Programme in order to deliver a projects that improve integration and promote inclusive opportunities for BME Children & Youth. Oasis delivers 3 specific programmes, which are supported by 4 staff members and 20 volunteers, mostly from a BME background.



Oasis delivers two international afterschool clubs provided on a weekly basis for children in the Portadown and the Brownlow area of Central Craigavon. 200 primary school children from 10 different nationalities are registered in the activities designed to create new friendships, raises their self esteem, develops their language skills and integrates them into the local community. Building on this network, Oasis delivers an International summer scheme. This year the scheme entitled 'Out of this world' will bring 200 children and 50 BME youth volunteers together in an action packed week at St John the Baptist Primary School in Portadown between 27-31<sup>st</sup> July.



Oasis Youth is a core element of the project delivery and engages 200 young people from a variety of BME backgrounds. Not only have the young people from the project been involved with joint projects with other local clubs, many have become peer mentors by proactively advocating collaboration with indigenous clubs across the religious/sectarian/political divides.

Oasis delivers a Drop In provision each Tuesday evening, from which young people are recruited into a range of projects such as, Sport, Media, Dance, Music and the Oasis Youth Forum. Some young people who joined us with minimal English skills, poor confidence and a lack of belonging have completed programmes which have included live performances on stage in front of 400 people, writing and recording their own songs on CD, addressing political groupings at the Northern Ireland Assembly and achieving accreditation in various fields.

Over the summer Oasis youth will join with local young people at a Summer Camp involving youth from different Portadown youth clubs. An additional project will involve young people from three backgrounds, CRN, PUL & BME in a summer long intervention programme. Another group will travel to London to link with a youth club in East London delivering similar work.



Young people aged 11-18, from a BME background are significantly more likely to underachieve at school and are at an increased likelihood of falling into unemployment, through lack of knowledge in career and educational routes, language difficulties and a change in educational systems at crucial junctures.

The Oasis Step-Up programme addresses these difficulties by delivering support to young people to develop both soft and hard skills, through one-2-one mentoring, personal development and volunteering opportunities. Oasis staff provides additional education support sessions at two local secondary schools benefiting 100 teenagers.

In 2014-15, 80 young people provided over 2500 hours of voluntary service to programmes. The participants have become more interdependent and empowered to provide support to other vulnerable young people. Young people have achieved qualifications in various fields, led sporting and charitable events, fed the homeless, created forums that represent their communities and become advocates for change in our local society.

Oasis has benefited a total of 700 BME children and young people from 19 different nationalities and has helped address isolation and promoted positive integration.

The Oasis Programme is delivered at

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