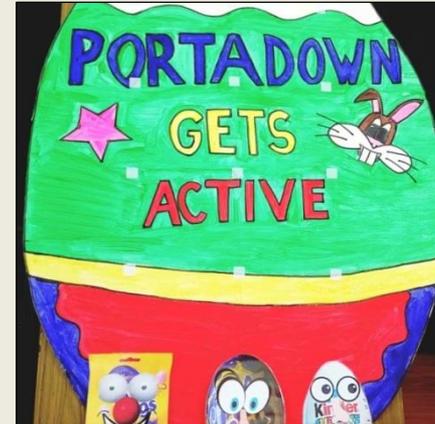


Background

Portadown Gets Active is a partnership approach to address the growing concern of holiday hunger amongst children during school holidays. The aim of the programme is to support families (primarily those with children who are in receipt of free school meals) overcome difficulties faced during school closure times.

The first Portadown Gets Active programme took place in August 2017 in Presentation Primary School where 60 children and 21 Peer Mentors participated in a programme over 6 days. Activities included attainment of OCN Accreditations in Healthy Living for the children and Peer Mentoring for the young people. Participants also learnt first aid skills, enjoyed physical activity and team building activities, as well as cookery/healthy eating sessions and breakfast & lunch.

The programme has continued over Halloween and Christmas breaks and recommenced again at St John the Baptist College, Portadown from 5-6th April, again with Oasis Youth as lead community partner in partnership with a range of organisations and services to provide a healthy and fun way to support families who experience particular challenges during school holidays.



How much did we do?

- A total of 71 children and 43 peer mentors participated in the programme
- 14 children participated via referrals through the Family Support Hub
- 142 breakfast and lunches each were provided during both days
- Each child participated in 3 x 45 minute sessions on sport, baking and edible garden, as well as 2 x 90 minute sessions on Go Fly Your Kite Workshop and a Talent Show.
- 258 volunteering hours were given by peer mentors (based on 6 hours per day for 43 peer mentors)

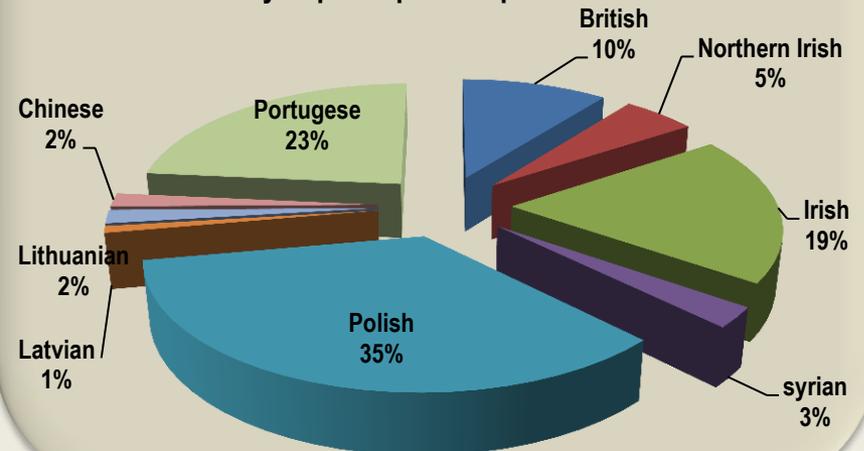


How well did we do it?



- Partnership of 9 organisations/agencies working together to support families in the Portadown, Craigavon, Lurgan and Banbridge areas
- Participating children identified themselves to 9 different nationalities
- 52 participating children identified as coming from a BME background

Nationality of participants & peer mentors on PGA



Is anyone better off?



- 91% of participating children stated they enjoyed the breakfast provided
- 82% of respondents stated they enjoyed lunch
- 90% of respondents stated they enjoyed the Go Fly Your Kite session
- 87% stated they enjoyed the Talent Show
- When asked which session they liked the best, 51% stated they loved them all (sports, baking and edible garden)
- 100% of peer mentors agreed they felt valued as a volunteer
- 25 peer mentors stated they hope to volunteer in the summer PGA
- 20 peer mentors stated they were interested in participating in the OCN Level 1 in Youth Work Practice

What they said...

“(My daughter) had an amazing time and is already buzzing for summer scheme now”

“Portadown Gets Active is a fantastic programme. Well done”

“What an amazing organisation. Great facilities”.

Parents of participants

“I loved the Talent Show because I saw people’s talent. The leaders were nice”

“How to be healthy and eat vegetables and fruits (thank you v much)”

“I learnt that compost is food waste”.

Participants

“I had lots of fun and will be back volunteering as soon as I can, thanks so much”

“Every volunteer gets to interact with the kids and I’ve gotten so much out of it”

“We are treated as equals and not seen as young ones with all the responsibility given to us and trust put on us by the older leaders”.

Peer Mentors

