



Strabane- Melvin Youth/Castledearg Youth Forum

YOUNG people from Strabane and Castledearg gathered on Tuesday evening to take the first step towards becoming qualified sports coaches.

Around 20 youngsters between the ages of 14-25 gathered to be put through their paces by Grassroots Soccer Coach Kevin Doherty.

The project is the first in a series of sports programme being rolled across the District and is being delivered free of charge as part of the Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008-2010.

Speaking ahead of the first coaching session, Cross Border Sports Coordinator with the Donegal Sports Partnership Michael Black explained:

“Community Relations through Sport proposes to address social exclusion, racism and sectarianism through the medium of sport, physical activity and education. The project is funded by the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership. The Small Grants Scheme, supported by the European Union European Regional Development Fund, is the first in a series of elements of the Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008-2010 that will be rolled out over the next two years to organisations in Donegal working to deepen and strengthen the Peace Process at a local level.”

Also helping to deliver the programme is head of Strabane Youth Association Seamus McElroy.

“This is the beginning of a partnership between Strabane Youth Association and Donegal Sports Partnership to deliver sports coaching awards to young people free of charge. This is part of a larger programme that Strabane Youth Association is doing to develop young people from ages 14-25 in the area”

The next sport is being decided at the minute but we hope to run with GAA. This will be delivered by Paul Callaghan from Ulster GAA.