



Young Coaches Give Something Back

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 projects overall goal is to address social exclusion issues by engaging young people between the ages of 14 and 17 years of ages from all religious backgrounds through a programme of capacity and confidence building, improving self esteem thus contributing to a more vibrant and inclusive community. This will be achieved by a mixture of structured sports and educational activities and programmes.

Coaches from a number of sports have been delivering sports specific sessions centred around providing the young teenagers the leadership skills and knowledge on how to lead a small group of people in a sports session. Two lads took it upon themselves to organise six weeks of soccer coaching for young kids between the ages of 10-12 in their local community. Ryan McNulty and Simon Lynch were completing a citizenship programme and decided to combine what they had learned from the FAI coaches and the skills they learned in their citizenship course to start this venture.

Thursday evening 15th April was the last week of the coaching and Trevor Scanlon from the FAI presented the young coaches with an FAI Jacket and t-shirt. This type of outcome would not have been achieved if it was not for the partnership work between the National Governing Bodies of Sport, St Johnston/NCDI Youth clubs, Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership and Donegal Sports Partnership and in particular Shaun Gallagher Youth Worker, Trevor Scanlon and Ciaran Brown FAI and of course the enthusiasm shown by the teenagers themselves.

A summer sports programme is already being planned which again will provide the young coaches with an opportunity to use the skills they have learned throughout the programme. For further information on this programme and other community programmes please visit the Donegal Sports Partnership website www.actedonegal.com or contact Michael Black on 074-91-16078 or michael@actedonegal.com