

ACTIVE CITIZENS

Globally connected, locally engaged

Please read this information sheet carefully, before completing your application form. In this document you will find the following –

- What is Active Citizens all about?
- Who is the programme for?
- What selection processes are involved?
- What is the Learning Journey to Corrymeela about?
- What is Social Action?
- What is an International Study Visit?
- Programme overview/Workshop dates
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What is Active Citizens all about?

Active Citizens connects organizations and people, especially young adults, involved in local initiatives that benefit their community. Through a series of facilitated and participatory workshops it aims to provide them with tools and assistance to develop their intercultural skills, to run social action projects in their local area, to gain an international perspective on community-led development, to share ideas and practice.

In today's world, we encounter a greater variety of perspectives, cultures and communities than ever before. This is partly the result of globalisation, through which people and countries have become increasingly connected culturally, politically and economically. The British Council's Active Citizens programme envisages a world in which these increasing connections lead to positive outcomes. A world where people feel empowered to engage peaceably and effectively with others in the sustainable development of their communities. For more info activecitizens.britishcouncil.org . This programme is part funded by The British Council and part funded by Together for Peace t4p.org.uk.

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Who is the programme for?

Active Citizens is for adults, aged 18 upwards, who are interested in community and/or youth work. It is for individuals who are interested in learning and broadening their horizons; who value fairness and social justice; who have a sense of their own identity; who enjoy communicating with others; and who have good links in a local community.

What selection processes are involved?

- Please complete a paper application and submit it before 11am on Monday 17th September to the T4P office, to be considered for the programme by a diverse selection panel of people.
- If you are selected, we will contact you on 18th Sept and invite you to the Leeds workshops, starting on 22nd of September.
- All 4 workshops will be in Leeds, venues TBC.
- The workshop themes include: Identity & Culture, Dialogue, Local & Global Citizenship and Social Action.
- There will be a further selection process (in October) for the Corrymeela learning journey.

What is the Learning Journey to Corrymeela about?

- If you are accepted onto the programme you will have a chance of being selected to go on a Learning Journey to Corrymeela, in Belfast (1st-4th November).
- The aim of this visit will be to learn from the deep experiences and wisdom of practitioners who have 30 years of very creative and effective community work. Corrymeela is a peace and reconciliation organization, their ethos is to embrace difference, heal divisions and enable reconciliation. For more info on Corrymeela, visit corrymeela.org
- Participants will need valid photo ID (passport or driving license) in order to travel.
- All travel, accommodation, food and visits will be paid for during the visit.

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What is Social Action?

- A social action project could involve working with others on an existing community idea or creating something new.
- All participants will be invited to take part in the social action aspect of the programme
- Social Action will take place from November onwards.
- We will provide support and mentoring in developing ideas.

What is an International Study Visit?

- Active Citizens programmes are taking place all over the world. In December (10th-13th TBC) a group of Active Citizens will visit Leeds for a few days to learn from us about community work and vice versa.
- All participants will be encouraged to be involved in a range of activities with these Active Citizens from other countries when they visit Leeds in December.
- Participants on the Leeds programme may also have the opportunity to apply for other activities with the British Council.

Programme overview/Workshop dates:

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| • Awareness eve, T4P Office | 12 th Sep, 6.30-8pm |
| • Application deadline | 17 th Sep, 11am |
| • Notification of selected applicants | 18 th Sep |
| • Workshop 1 | 22 nd Sep, 12-4pm |
| • Workshop 2 | 29 th Sep, 12-4pm |
| • Workshop 3 | 6 th Oct, 12-4pm |
| • Workshop 4 | 13 th Oct, 12-4pm |
| • Selection panel for Corrymeela | Oct, TBC |
| • Learning Journey (Corrymeela, Belfast) | 1 st – 4 th Nov |
| • Social Action Project planning | November onwards |
| • International Study Visit in Leeds | 10-13 th Dec TBC |

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Meet the team:

Who is involved facilitating and running the programme in Leeds?



My name is Daniel Lucas. I graduated last year from university with a 2:1. I heard about CYDC and wanted to get involved. I started to volunteer for CYDC and I went back to UHURU and did project support and administration as a volunteer and was inspired by Lutel, Richard and Zanzi to start my own project.

I have now gone on to start my own project tying in all the skills I have acquired through my studies and the experiences I have recently learned addressing the issues we face in Chapeltown... and I came up with **Social Arts**.

I was introduced to Jill from T4P and got an opportunity to be an Active Citizen at the beginning of this year and was lucky enough to attend an International Study Visit to Kenya which is where I started my career as an Active Citizen.

Since then I have attended a Peace Jam youth conference and various other projects as an Active Citizen and have cascaded down the skills and experiences I have gained to inspire others in my community to become Active Citizens also.



I'm Richard Bennett a youth and community worker and personal trainer based in Chapeltown, Leeds. I work for an organisation called Chapeltown Youth Development Centre which is a voluntary organisation focusing on sports & community development.

I first got involved with the Active Citizens Programme in April 2011; I applied and was successful in gaining a place to the induction workshops. Over the course of a weekend I learnt about the ethos of the British Council and the Active Citizens programme. This was the start of the learning journey, which consisted of a variety of discussions and activities around identity, citizenships, community and cultural diversity. As a result of my positive participation I was selected along with 8 other Active Citizens to travel to Romania for a week on an International Study Visit of June of that year. The study visit took place once I had helped host a group of 15 Active Citizens from Romania and

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Estonia for a week, which involved us showing them a variety of community projects in Leeds and Bradford. These excursions included a trip to Leeds Civic Hall to meet the Lord Mayor for tea and coffee and a guided tour of the council chambers.

The study visit to Romania consisted of 3 days in the Transylvania mountains and 4 days in the city of Cluj-Napoca. We met with various NGO (charities) and Youth Projects and participated in a variety of training, presentations and activities. This experience was very enlightening and I gained another perspective on life. Once the trip concluded I was a member of the global family called Active Citizens whose network reached all 4 corners of the world and part of a global movement for change. I made some good relationships and connections that I am utilising every day. I returned to Leeds an inspired man and kept in contact with Jill Mann (T4P) and in particular Mohammad Aslam (DEEN Enterprise) a fellow Active Citizen and through dialogue and discussions we were then given the opportunity to develop our own social action project. The project was born out of the racial tension between the African-Caribbean and Asian communities. We wanted to lead by example and show our respective organisations and communities that we could work together to benefit us all regardless of our differences.

Chapelton Active Citizens Safer Community Project was designed to bring together and empower young people (17-25) from Chapelton whilst developing tangible life skills, such as driving lessons and promoting positive interaction and community cohesion. In regards to my own personal development it has been invaluable and it has improved me professionally e.g. my facilitation skills. I have learnt so much from this experience which in turn has enhanced the project that I coordinate, **Uhuru Real Chance** which is a community engagement project.

For me Active Citizens is about being pro-active within your community and creating awareness as well as a sense of personal and social identity. It's about taking the opportunities that are available and taking the steps to implement changes that you want to see happen. It is also about utilising the knowledge you have, building and developing new skills. It has improved my understanding and awareness to local and global issues, which has in turn enabled me to utilise and address some of the cultural, social, economic and political factors that shape my community.



Hello, I'm Jill Mann. I worked for 10 years in project management and training roles in the corporate sector before joining **Together for Peace** (T4P) initially as a volunteer, in 2005. T4P became a registered charity in 2008 and since then I've been involved running the organization and facilitating

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programmes bringing people together to deepen understanding and develop community skills. These include Active Citizens, In One City films, Peace Jam youth events, interfaith work, women's groups and Leeds Peace Poetry. My work has been on local, national and international projects and exchanges.

When I first heard about the British Council's Active Citizen programme in 2010, I felt very inspired by its potential of empowering people and I was determined to bring it to Leeds. It struck me as a generative method of learning new perspectives, connecting and collaborating with others. I believed deeply that it was a way of having a positive impact in the lives of those who decided to become involved and that in turn would be of benefit to their communities and Leeds. I'm impressed with the social action that is being created by Active Citizens across the city, by their levels of commitment, creativity and courage. It's a privilege to play a part in this innovative programme and I'm looking forward to supporting, working and learning with the group this Autumn.

Together for Peace (T4P) has been developing projects and events that build bridges between people since 2002. Our whole work centres upon connecting people and nurturing relationships across and between people from different cultures, communities and life experience. Every piece of work we do is in partnership and collaboration with others. We enable people to make connections (typically across difference) around shared values, then help turn visions and ideas into positive action. So – working from grassroots to government – we catalyse initiatives, broker partnerships, develop projects, processes and co-host a range of dialogue, learning and creative events. In addition to the projects and events we're also involved in mentoring individuals or groups, hosting training, learning lunches, learning journeys, exchanges and civic mediation. Further info t4p.org.uk

