

# Crossing the Border

## A Case Study

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# Strategies

- Anti Poverty strategy
- Literacy and Essential skills
- Branching Out
  - Access and service delivery
  - Staff training and development
  - ICT
- Taobh Tire
- Targeting Social Need
- Literacy and creativity
- The People's Network
- Electronic Libraries Project
- Learning Strategy

# EU Programme For Peace And Reconciliation In Northern Ireland And The Border Region Of Ireland II

To provide a strategic framework for supporting Public Sector initiatives and projects which have suffered from an absence of contacts and which will make a positive contribution in developing opportunities for cross-border activities.

# Funder's Agenda

- Peace and reconciliation
- Conflict resolution
- Addressing sectarianism
- Exclusion
- Cross border delivery

# Library Service Agenda

- Awareness of the political, cultural and social context
- Take advantage of funding opportunities
- Look at new ways of delivering services and adding value

# The projects

- Cross Border Mobile Library (£300,453)
- Inspiring Readers (£231,539)

# Cross Border Library



# Cross Border Mobile 2007

- Satellite technology
- Outreach
- Mainstreaming the service
- Use of the service

# Inspiring Readers

- Creating models of reader development activities which can be sustained and evaluated
- Develop context specific reader development activities

# Objectives

- To facilitate social and cultural initiatives through reading activities in libraries
- To use books creatively to tackle issues such as conflict resolution and cultural identity
- To work collaboratively and share best practice across national borders

# Programmes

- Building Capacity
- Reading Groups
- Reading our Histories
- Start with the Child
- Aliens
- Celebrating our Differences
- One Book *Divided City*

# Divided City Objectives

- 1000 readers
- Discuss the themes
  - Racism
  - Cultural traditions
  - Citizenship issues
- Raise awareness of potential of libraries and reading to address the issues

The image shows two promotional panels for the 'The One Book' project. The left panel is titled 'North West Reads' and 'The One Book'. It contains the following text: 'ONE BOOK is a community reading project, challenging 1,000 people to read the same book throughout the North West in the period March to June 2006. A panel of library staff with support from the Community Relations Council have chosen Theresa Breslin's 'Divided City'. The book was chosen because it addresses sectarianism, and can be read by a wide age range. It has a number of themes such as football, cultural differences and relationships to engage readers in a humorous way.' Below this text is a small photograph of two people walking. A red box at the bottom of the left panel contains the text: 'The project is part of the inspiring readers programme a large scale reader development programme managed by the Western Education & Library Board on behalf of Western Education & Library Board and Donegal County Libraries. The project is cross border (N. Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) and aims to encourage people to use books creatively to tackle issues like conflict resolution and cultural identity. It is funded by the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II)'. The right panel is also titled 'North West Reads' and 'The One Book'. It features the book cover for 'Divided City' by Theresa Breslin, which has a dark cover with a cityscape and the title in large, glowing green letters. Below the book cover, it says 'This project is funded by the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Peace II'. At the bottom of the right panel are logos for the European Union, the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, the Donegal County Council, and the Western Education & Library Board (WE LB).

# Roll Out

- Project team
- Community relations input
- Choosing the book
- Author events
- Reading groups
- School packs
- Events
- Champions
- Catalyst Award
- Publicity



# Lessons Learned

**North West Reads**

**The One Book**

**About the author**  
Theresa Breslin is an award winning Carnegie writer and librarian. She was born and brought up in a small town in the middle of Scotland close to castles, old burial grounds and the Roman Wall, all of which helped fuel an active imagination as a child and further developed her love of reading. She is the author of over 25 books ranging from the Dream Master Series which explores storytelling and creative writing to her medal winning Whispers in the Graveyard.

Divided City is Theresa Breslin's latest novel. It was used for discussion during a Tolerance Day organised by the Macnall library in Glasgow where 400 young people gathered together to listen to various speakers. Young asylum seekers talked about their experiences and a member of the Refugee Council explained the types of the work they do for refugees and migrant workers. Theresa Breslin read extracts from Divided City, explaining that she wrote this book because she believed that the bonds of friendship can develop despite difference.



**Other Books to get you Talking**  
These titles may challenge your perceptions  
Harper Lee – *To kill a mockingbird*  
Monica Lee – *Brick lane*  
Anne Barnett – *The Largest baby in Ireland after the Famine*

**North West Reads**

**The One Book**

*'A young man lies bleeding in the street. It could be any street, in any city. But it's not. It's Glasgow. And it's May - the marching season. The Orange Walks have begun. Graham doesn't want to be involved, he just wants to play football with his new mate, Joe. But when he witnesses a shocking moment of violence, suddenly he and Joe are involved, with a young Muslim asylum-seeker, and his girlfriend. With Catholics, and with Protestants. With all the old rivalries - and fears. So the story begins.*

A gripping novel of our time that explores traditional tensions between Protestants and Catholic football supporters whilst introducing the plight of asylum seekers. A compelling social message is built up against the backdrop of Glasgow's historic enclaves. There is also, for Graham, a dawning realisation of the dangers many asylum seekers face. Coupled with this are raw accounts of a poverty-stricken environment. As Graham's father puts it, 'Deprivation, and all that goes with it, is what really divides this city.'



- Timescale
- Staff engagement
- Audience
- Different views of sectarianism
- Marketing
- Success!
- Next steps

# Last Words

*“I never really thought about it like that before!”*

*“This project is about more than one book. It’s got a life of its own”*

# Evaluation

*“afforded the participants a safe space to debate and discuss issues such as sectarianism and racism”*

*“enhancing understanding of issues such as sectarianism, asylum, racism and polarisation”*

# Considerations

- Different management structures
- Varying levels of capacity and experience
- Project and partnership management
- Funder's agenda (Peace/SEUPB)
- Different operational issues
  - Legal
  - Currency
  - Social/Cultural

# Partnerships

- Sharing models of best practice
- Working to ensure we serve our target populations
- Working in coalition to access funding
- Commits us to work we should have been doing anyway