

Belong Closing Event- 9th October- Malone House

In 2003 the Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee (SACYPC) established a working group to address needs of children and young people from minority ethnic backgrounds within their jurisdiction.

In 2007, the working group commissioned Queen's University Belfast to undertake research on the degree of exclusion/belonging experienced by children from minority ethnic backgrounds. The BELONG programme was the result, informed by the research and the collective practice experience of the working group.

In April 2009 the BELONG vision became a five-year partnership programme employing eight full-time staff; a range of sessional support staff including tutors, artists, counsellors and youth workers across three locality areas: Coalisland, Craigavon and Newry. Local delivery took place in community centres, youth clubs, after-school clubs and schools. The project was part funded by Atlantic Philanthropy

The legacy the project leaves behind are the suite of evidenced based programmes for BME families.

The BELONG partnership held an event on the 9th October to close the Five Year programme. The event highlighted the achievements over the years including the 9 key interventions completed. Emphasis was specifically given to how the learning from the programme will be sustained by making the evidence based programmes available for practitioners to use ([link to BELONG website](#))