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Press release

For immediate release

The First Peace Pitch in Derry-Londonderry

ORGANISERS of a unique sports heritage initiative have brought together Northern Ireland's Football Association, GAA, Ulster Rugby, Ulster Hockey, Peace Players and many more children's sports to celebrate our shared history.

The Children's Football Alliance (CFA) has been awarded a £67,000 grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards its Football Makes Our Shared History project, which will culminate in an exhibition of children's research on how sports contribute to our shared history and creating peace pitches by twinning their designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field, site of the First World War, 1914, Christmas truces.

Thanks to the Lottery grant, people of all ages across Northern Ireland, including schoolchildren, will research the impact of sport on local communities and how it's helped shape a contemporary society.

Foyle Down Syndrome Trust will twin the first ever peace pitch in Derry-Londonderry with Flanders Peace Field, site of the 1914 First World War Christmas Truces.

Friday 14th October at Foyle Arena FDST will be hosting a Peace Games Event and displaying their football history at the event and online via Foyle Down Syndrome Trust Facebook and Football Makes Our Shared History website.

CFA Project Director, Ernie Brennan said, 'FMOSH is the essence of play. We are delighted that NI's great sporting associations value community games of all disciplines. We look forward to seeing the children's work and how they connect to their games with their parents, grandparents, relatives and friends, games. This is about the historic nature of play and how it continues to shape our landscape.' FMOSH will leave a legacy in each of the six counties. One of the project's aims is to have a peace pitch in each county twinned with Flanders Peace Field, site of the First World War, 1914, Christmas Truces.

On the 24th April, 2018, the first ever peace pitch in Northern Ireland was the George Best Peace Pitch on the Cregagh Green, Belfast. The area of play where as a child George fell in love with the game. There are currently 60 peace pitches in 5 continents. <https://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/international/international-peace-field-projects/>

Notes to editors

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The Children's Football Alliance was established in 2008 to protect childhood through play.