

# Newcastle school hosts Integrated Education conference

SHIMNA Integrated College in Newcastle last Tuesday hosted one of four conferences for 1,000 teachers and classroom assistants representing 41 integrated schools.

Participating primary and post-primary schools focused on the theme

of 'Educating for a Shared Future'. Skills were shared in promoting positive attitudes towards diversity, while highlighting prejudice awareness and the need to challenge bias in order to create safe spaces for young people to grow and learn.

NICIE chief execu-

tive officer Michael Wardlow explained: 'The tremendous response to this initiative demonstrated the importance teachers place on the permeation of the integrated ethos through all aspects of school life.'

'These conferences further supported the development of rela-

tionships, between staff in a range of schools so that real partnerships and learning can flourish.'

The keynote speaker was Charlie Irvine, from *Questions of Difference*, while a range of external organisations also contributed by providing a selection of afternoon workshops.

Topics were widely varied and included human rights education, anti-bullying, restorative justice, conflict management, developing resilience in young people, and forgiveness education, to name but a few

The Regional Training Unit (RTU), Community Relations Council (CRC), Integrated Education Fund (IEF), Belfast City Council Good Relations, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Omagh District Council Community Relations, provided funding for these initiatives.



From left: Sharon Lennon, teacher, Cedar Integrated PS, Crossgar; Hilary Crichton, teacher, Cedar Integrated PS, Crossgar; Charlie Irvine, *Questions of Difference*, keynote speaker; Denise Morgan, development officer, NICIE, and Lorna McAlpine, senior development officer, NICIE, at the Integrated Education conference in Newcastle. (c)



Kevin Lambe, principal of Shimna Integrated College, with Charlie Irvine from *Questions of Difference*, who was keynote speaker at the conference. (c)



Teachers who participated at the Integrated Education conference at Shimna Integrated College. (c)