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## Special day in our search for peace

Oct 12 2007 by Luke Traynor, Liverpool Echo

A PEACE programme that has helped survivors of the Northern Ireland terrorist atrocities is being celebrated in Warrington.



An acclaimed centre has been running a six-year scheme working with victims of the bloody IRA troubles.

Today, Paul Goggins, minister of state for Northern Ireland, visited the headquarters in Great Sankey to hail its achievements.

Staff at the centre have produced a report called The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future, based on 80 survivors of the sectarian violence.

The peace centre was built as a result of the 1993 Warrington bomb which killed 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball.

Fifty-six people were injured in the blast in busy Bridge Street in the centre of the town.

Colin Parry, Tim's father, helped set up the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust in 2000 which has now gained international recognition.

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Mr Goggins said: "This is an important day for the Legacy project and a time to celebrate the invaluable work done with those whose lives have been affected by the Northern Ireland troubles.

"The work has made a significant impact on the lives of victims and survivors and we should give our thanks and congratulations to those who have shown that beyond the tragedy, good and great things can be achieved.

"The changes Northern Ireland has seen in the last few years and historic events of this May have shown how hope can emerge from the most bitterly divided past.

"It is evident that the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace has been a beacon for healing and reconciliation."

The peace centre has been visited by top figures including John Major, John Reid and Mo Mowlam.

Legacy project manager Jo Dover said: "There has been a great deal of learning from the past six years of work that may be of benefit to other organisations and therefore help improve services for future victims and survivors."

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