

## Communities In Transition

Area: **East Belfast**

Theme: **Community Development**

Date: **14/1/2019**

Number of attendee's: **15**

**1. Proposed interventions discussed to address the issues identified in Phase 1 fieldwork?**

One to one mentoring of young people – to assist with basic foundational personal development skills (eg getting out of bed, interview skills);

Childcare for Young Mums (so they can attend empowerment programmes)

A specific programme to support those living with the particular stresses of living at interface wall

**2. Comments on current community capacity to address issues identified?**

There was confusion about how this initiative might link or overlap with existing programmes (eg Neighbourhood Renewal, TBUC), and the view that support for local programmes currently working were a priority

There was a strong view that the 'fear factor' was still a major obstacle in getting communities involved in programmes

**3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?**

Mentoring would lead young people into employment and away from drug-use, debt and crime

Childcare for young mums which reduces social isolation, builds community capacity and family resilience, develops new voices in community

Interface programme – no specific outcomes mentioned

**4. How did participants suggest we will know if these projects/interventions have succeeded? (indicators/measures)**

Notions about seeing new confidence in the community, more neighbourliness, and less fear

**5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?**

As 2 – hard to reach youth, young mums and interface residents

There was a thread of frustration throughout the conversation about how paramilitaries/criminals were outside of this process and yet could 'scupper' any new initiatives. The participants also talked about looking for new models of dealing with gangs/criminals.

**6. How did participants suggest these projects/interventions will build the capacity/capability in the community?**

As 3 – more jobs = less drug-use, less debt, less crime; more support for young mums = greater stability within family, less domestic violence, different choices made.

**7. How did participants suggest these projects/interventions will support the overall objectives of the Tackling Paramilitarism Executive Action Plan...?**

**a. Paramilitarism has no place.**

Participants recognised that without dealing directly with paramilitaries, then all new or existing programmes were limited

**b. Citizens and communities feel safe and confident.**

Participants felt that individuals needed a personal sense of pride and clear identity, as well as communities needing to develop a particular civic pride

**c. The public support and have increased confidence in the justice system.**

Participants were very interested in creating a more integrated approach to police-community relations, but were unsure as to how this might be achieved

**d. Support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures**

Stated previously in 3.

**8. Any dependencies identified by participants?**

N/A

**9. Any risks identified by participants?**

Continued concern about the absence of known paramilitaries/associated community groups - questions regarding how the programme will end paramilitary activity if the organisations are not engaging and concerns that paramilitaries might 'deliberately scupper' projects emerging from the programme.

**10. Any other comments made by participants?**

Ideas mentioned during Phase One (dealing with debt, anti-racism training) were briefly raised again, but mostly to say that there were existing programmes addressing this (partially, if not adequately). Participants wanted on-going positive work to receive at least as much support as any new initiatives.

Concerns about the lag between last year's consultation and these sessions - feelings that goodwill toward programme was gone. Other complaints about communication in general.

**11. Is a further follow-up workshop required? Please provide details.**

Perhaps outreach sessions to explore and more clearly define the interventions outlined by participants.