

Communities In Transition

Area: East Belfast

Theme: Community Safety and Policing

Date: 28/1/19

Number of attendee's: 9 (however none of these were residents, 3 were from PSNI, 1 from council, 4 from CVS and 1 from Co-operation Ireland)

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

Capacity building for local people to understand the policing and justice systems.

Better connections / networks established between community and police.

Protocols established regarding engagement with community gatekeepers / influencers.

Existing structures (PACT, PCSP) made more accessible, e.g. where and when meetings held, who invited.

More community-based policing e.g. better relationships and more visible policing.

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

Some good capacity in existence, some really good programmes ongoing. Need strengthened and investment.

3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?

Information / communication sessions between police and community exploring **resources** (lack of and best use of), **accessibility** (two-way that the community have contact numbers beyond 999 / 101 and that the police move beyond existing gatekeepers for engagement) and **process** (ensuring the community understands evidentiary and judicial processes and so they can use these more effectively).

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

Some initiatives already ongoing and could be rolled out, e.g. Streetwise with Alternatives doing outreach with young people and taking pressure of police. This could be run out through local schools.

5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?

Young people

Residents

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

If local residents better understand the process required to secure a conviction they are more likely to report more effectively, also if they are aware of other mechanisms for reporting or addressing ASB and low level crime, e.g. PACT or Alternatives, they

will have different expectations from statutory services in terms of response and may be less likely to go to paramilitary structures for the 'quick fix'.

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.

Providing local community with effective and efficient mechanisms for addressing crime that do not involve paramilitary 'justice'.

b. Citizens and communities feel safe and confident.

Access to structure and officers to reassure and address crime and concerns of crime in the area.

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

If the community understand the process better they will use it more effectively.

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

N/A

8. Any dependencies identified by participants?

That the PSNI do their job effectively. Building and encouraging the community to realign their expectations of paramilitaries then the police need to deliver effective policing and justice alternatives.

9. Any risks identified by participants?

Same gatekeepers will be used as access to the community and will exclude the wider community not affiliated.

10. Any other comments made by participants?

No

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

No