

Communities In Transition

Participatory Design Process – Reporting Template

Please complete this report following each participatory design session (i.e. one per session) to record the key of the discussion. Please use the sections below to structure the report. If any area was not covered during the discussion, please note that in the relevant section.

Please return the completed report to cit@cooperationireland.org within one week of each participatory design session.

Area: Carrick

Theme: YOUNG PEOPLE

Date: 15TH JANUARY 2019

Number of attendee's: 10

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

- Interventions must walk before they can run and the aim should be on small-scale and small steps interventions utilising the skills of local service delivery agents (often volunteers) who have real traction in communities.
- Current funded provision (PEACE IV) seems to target ages 14-16 and participants stated that they feel interventions should be targeted at primary school children and young people in forms 1-4 of secondary schools.
- Investing in broadening and supporting the work of PACT in the Glenfield Area.
- Long-term support for parents to capitalise on the work of SureStart and HomeStart.
- Restorative Practices to reduce numbers of young people coming in to contact with the criminal justice system
- Mentoring utilising the skills of community members to support and help young people, particularly those most 'at risk (those not attending schools/who live in target areas/with family issues/personal health/mental issues
- Numeracy and literacy classes for all ages – to include for parents and young people outside of a curriculum based school setting.
- A vision and focus on non-academic routes for young people; such as apprenticeships and training which is tailored to labour market requirements
- Emphasis that interventions should be designed and delivered by local community
- Preference for long term approaches and initiatives that can affect real change.

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

- Community capacity and infrastructure is very weak in the B4 areas in Carrick and Larne with a dependence on volunteers.
- Community are disengaged and there was strong support for a prevailing notion of a 'poverty of hope' impacting young people and the community generally.
- Tensions between community and statutory sector, particularly in Carrick, with some in the community reluctant to engage with statutory agencies

3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?

In terms of mentoring one-to-one programmes with 'at risk' young people (which the YMCA and EA START programme do at present, but with limited resources), it was felt that such an initiative could:

- Build the community up from the inside out by investing in young people and their support base (parents) from a young age.
- Increase attendance at school (a known risk factor in terms of young people either joining a gang or coming in to contact with the criminal justice system)
- Increase self-esteem and confidence among participating young people (it was stated that current recruitment to paramilitary groups is stimulated by preying upon the lack of confidence/connection/sense of self-worth in individual young people)
- Greater sense of community spirit, noted as; greater collaboration and volunteering across socio-economic lines and an increase in intergenerational collaboration (creating a sense of pride and ownership of community, particularly for young people)

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

- Reduction of anti-social behaviour in area
- Greater cooperation/improved working relationship between statutory bodies and community organisations.
- More funding applications to Council from eligible community groups.
- Reduced recidivism rates amongst young people and a reduction in contact with the criminal justice system.
- School attendance rates improving.

5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?

- Young people (depending – for mentoring work, a young age cohort of 11-14 year olds but for restorative practice work young people aged 13 and above)
- Parents – to improve confidence, parenting skills and help connect targeted young people with the families – to act as a 'protective factor' so that young

person does not progress to joining an armed group for a sense of identity/solidarity

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

- Previous funded projects have had no sustainability or legacy in the area (Carrick) due to not building the skills of the community but instead been carried out by external organisations with no knowledge of the local area. Participants were keen to ensure that this programme included people from the community and local service providers which, in turn, will make such work more sustainable in the longer-term

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.**
- b. Citizens and communities feel safe and confident.**
- c. The public support and have increased confidence in the justice system.**
- d. Support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures.**

Participants were in general agreement that initiatives should adhere to these principles – and several individuals in attendance felt that despite the term being heavily criticised, the concept of ‘lawfulness’ was one which should be retained and should be central to programme outputs.

8. Any dependencies identified by participants?

- Current dependence of interventions on volunteers within groups
- Difficult to attract the core young people once they get to the age of 14
- Myths and ‘fake news’ have contributed to a mistrust between community groups and Council/Statutory bodies.

9. Any risks identified by participants?

- Outside agencies that may tender for work under this Programme will not be effective service delivery providers in these communities.

10. Any other comments made by participants?

- Potential for facilitators to conduct meeting between key service providers/consortia.
- It was suggested that a consortia approach which is mandated by the terms of reference/tender process will necessitate collaboration between statutory and community service providers and organisations and additionally remove the competition for resources/young people.

- There was a query raised in relation to existing Education Authority work being undertaken both under Fresh Start and within the remit of the Education Authority's undertaking regarding youth provision generally.

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

This was not requested by participants. But it should be noted that several youth providers for the Carrick and Larne areas were not in attendance.