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: Brandywell and Creggan

Theme: Community Development

Date: 15/01/19

Number of attendee's: 17

1. **Proposed interventions discussed to address the issues identified in Phase 1 fieldwork?**
   A collaborative community employment and leadership programme, with a particular focus on marginalised young adults who a) fall through the net of youth/community provision; and b) are liable to become engaged in criminality and/or are susceptible to paramilitary influence/attack. This programme may include:
   - Access to the labour market to provide secure employment and complementary training;
   - Practical advice and support in the establishment of social enterprises and other sustainable forms of community and economic development; and
   - One-to-one mentoring and support through training and initial employment.

   It was also suggested that the community employment programme would include education and leadership development training, to promote the ethos of community development, community values and ethos, political and social identity that would promote sustained engagement within the local community and create leadership opportunities in the area.

   Such a training programme could serve as both a component of the employment and leadership programme, but also as a stand-alone programme that could be utilised in other contexts and with other sections of the community.

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

There is a long tradition of self-help in the community and this is reflected in a well-developed community infrastructure. There is a need to strengthen this by reaching sections of the community who are marginalised, overlooked or are not fully aware of the traditions and opportunities that exist within their area.

The community development sector is well-equipped to deliver a coordinated programme of the type suggested, not just in terms of the infrastructure but also the recent experience of successful interventions e.g. the Community Work Programme. It is suggested that there is no need to reinvent the wheel but instead to revisit and build on these experiences for the purposes of the Communities in Transition programme.

Currently there is nothing that brings together these elements in the form of a sustained, dedicated programme of work that targets this particular group.

3. **Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?**
   - Move marginalised young adults away from involvement in criminality and the influence of paramilitarism towards secure employment and opportunities for participation in community life.
   - Tackle the systemic issue of socio-economic deprivation that has been identified as contributing to trends in drug use, anti-social behaviour, criminality and paramilitary activity.
   - Enable marginalised young adults to play an active role in different facets of community life.
   - Strengthen the capacity, integration and reach of community-based services.

4. **How did participants suggest will we know if these projects/interventions have succeeded? (indicators/measures)**
   - An increase in the number of marginalised young adults with qualifications and secure employment;
   - Number of social enterprises etc established;
   - An increase in the number of marginalised young adults who feel they have a better awareness of traditions and opportunities that exist within their area;
   - An increase in the number of marginalised young adults who are actively involved in different facets of community life;
   - Community-based organisations feel that their capacity, integration and reach have been strengthened;
   - Communities feel safer and more confident;

5. **Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?**
   Marginalised young adults who:

a) fall through the net of youth/community provision due to their age or due to other more complex factors

b) are liable to become engaged in criminality and/or are susceptible to paramilitary influence/attack

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

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.**
      The proposed intervention would contribute to this objective by encouraging marginalised young adults away from involvement in criminality and the influence of paramilitarism towards secure employment and opportunities for participation in community life.
   b. **Citizens and communities feel safe and confident.**
      Citizens and communities will feel safer and more confident where there are fewer people experiencing marginalisation and alienation, fewer people at risk of becoming engaged in criminality or falling under the influence of paramilitarism, and more are engaged productively in employment or community life.
   c. **The public support and have increased confidence in the justice system.**
      The proposed intervention would seek to keep people out of the criminal justice system and thus reduce the strain placed on it.
   d. **Support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures.**
      The proposed intervention would involve a targeted element for those most susceptible to paramilitary influence. At the same time, it would seek to strengthen the capacity, integration and reach of community-based services that are working to support those who may wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures.

8. **Any dependencies identified by participants?**
The success of any such programme would depend on buy-in by local employers and community-based providers. Participants expressed confidence that the latter exists and that the former will be secured on the basis of past successes and the oversubscribed interest of employers in previous programmes.

9. **Any risks identified by participants?**
N/A

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

Participants discussed the challenges of designing an intervention that would target an overlooked, hard to reach constituency (aged 25+) but without foreclosing the participation of younger adults who for one reason or another sit outside conventional conceptions of 'youth'. It was suggested that recruitment targets (80/20 for example) may help to resolve this challenge.

Participants also reiterated their frustration with the slow pace and perceived disjointedness of the B4 process. They suggested that there are few clear linkages between the different programme actions, a lack of clarity on what work is underway and how this relates to Action B4. One re-emerging theme is the idea that innovation and the hard work of avoiding duplication is being demanded of community stakeholders after the fact of statutory agencies being awarded funding under the Tackling Paramilitarism programme.

Related to this, it was suggested that innovation need not necessarily mean new and that the sustainability of proven, effective interventions – including successive pilot programmes – is something that has yet to be adequately addressed.

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

The discussion is likely to develop over the course of remaining thematic workshops, including a final feedback session.