

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 Safety & Policing

Date: 15/01/19

Number of attendees: 21

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

Participants were drawn from a broadly representative range of community-based organisations. Following a lengthy discussion of the issues, they reached a firm consensus that they do not wish to see B4 funding allocated to community safety & policing interventions, but rather for policing-related issues and interventions identified in Phase 1 to be addressed using existing PSNI resources (including those allocated through the Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime programme). The priorities put forward were:

- The restoration of proactive, knowledgeable and experienced neighbourhood policing teams;
- An institutional and cultural shift in how the PSNI views, engages with and treats the community;
- The prioritisation of community-based policing over what was seen as 'heavy-handed political policing' i.e. stops and searches, raids, increasing visibility of TSG units, the perceived subordinate role of the PSNI to MI5.

Participants were keen to stress the detrimental impact they believe current policing approaches are having on whole family units who experience them and on relationships between the community and police more generally, with the result that key community and youth leaders are increasingly less likely to encourage support for the PSNI.

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

As in Phase 1, participants suggested that the most serious community safety & policing issues have arisen not from a lack of community capacity or commitment but from a shift in how policing is conducted in the area. Participants argued that there had been a move away from community based approaches over a number of years, but that relationships had further declined since the creation of the TP task force and which has resulted in relationships deteriorating to what was called 'year zero'. Participants made it clear that they do not feel that the issues raised during Phase 1 and with police figures locally are being taken seriously by key-decision makers. They stated their commitment to promoting effective community-based policing in their area and would respond positively to PSNI overtures to engage with them around this. In the interim, there will be a discussion as to how the community can best make its voice heard.

3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?

N/A

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

N/A

5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?

N/A

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

N/A

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

See above

- 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.**

8. Any dependencies identified by participants?

N/A

9. Any risks identified by participants?

N/A

10. Any other comments made by participants?

Participants acknowledged that many rank-and-file police officers are doing their best in difficult circumstances and that they share in common the objective of building a safe and confident community, but argued that this work will continue to suffer unless there is a change in the culture and policy direction of the PSNI as a whole.

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

N/A