

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: LURGAN

Theme: YOUNG PEOPLE

Date: 14TH JANUARY 2019

Number of attendee's: 15

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

- Global Service Learning (GSL) to include a dedicated progressive curriculum focusing on the life experiences and development of young people
- Mental Health / Drugs / Alcohol are the critical issues impacting on the lives of young people in all the B4 areas and should be the principal target point for early interventions.
- The age profile of youth being targeted for interventions should be (re)considered as the current age of 14-18 may be too old and is already being targeted under existing provision. Primary school children discussed as a potentially more impactful and malleable core group.
- Need for crossover with not only existing provision (Peace IV etc) but also the other thematic workshops within B4 – for example there was a range of issues such as Mental Health, drugs, alcohol which in addition to familial and intergenerational legacy issues which may also fall under 'Health and Wellbeing'.
- Social enterprise community café for young people and staffed by young people within the community area (Drumgask) to reduce anti-social behaviour and provide employment opportunities.
- Inter-generational workshops which involve young people and ex-combatants to challenge 'romantic' notions of the conflict that some young people may hold. This is also important on a wider project scale in relation to global service learning as currently a lot of young people's views are limited to what they perceive of their area/community.
- The success of OCN attached educational provision was noted as an intervention approach that could be developed further with additional funding.

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

- Current provision is in place but concern raised over the appropriateness and effectiveness of existing (funded) organisations and their capacity to fulfil the aims/conditions of their funding.
- More engagement and collaboration on an equal partnership basis between statutory organisations / community and voluntary groups / outside agencies is critical.
- It was discussed that there is a lack of community capacity to effectively work on the issues. A major factor in this is the dependence on volunteers who may not be able to engage on a regular and consistent basis.
- All participants noted the absence of health services/providers from the room given the critical health needs of young people

3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?

- Participants pointed to the opportunity to be proactive in responding to young people by engaging with a younger demographic (primary age) rather than responding on a reactive basis with older teenage young people (at which current provision exists).
- Any educational or employment measures would have measurable outcomes - are young people in education? Have they received accredited qualifications? Are those young people who were failing to attend school back attending regularly? Are young people moving into employment? - but it is important to note that the success of some interventions could only be measured longitudinally.
- Inter-generational work with ex-combatants could be measured using attitudinal surveys (with Likert scale) pre and post sessions and/or with focus groups with participants.

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

- All youth work provision must be quality assured at both the point of delivery and on a strategic and management level. There is a range of measurement frameworks that could be used or adapted (see Education Authority for example).
- For realistic and achievable aims both interventions and assessment targets should be co-designed with young people.

5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?

- Young people voices need to be heard within this project. Young people should not be consulted about but consulted with for any intervention to have traction with what is the target demographic.
- Young people's family and local environment are critical factors that contribute to behaviour and actions and as such should be included in interventions.
- Target group of young people should be at the younger age range – primary school and/or 11-14.

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

They didn't know!

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.**
- With regards to Global Service Learning the opportunities gained for young people beyond the geographical, social and economic limits of their community is an important factor in contextualising the coercive nature of life in the area.
 - As was emphasised in the first phase of this project the community is disinclined to engage on what they regard as empty promises. They need to see action and as such introducing interventions and measures in response to the identified critical community issues of mental health, drugs and alcohol represents an opportunity to open a mechanism towards further and more sustainable engagement with the community.

8. Any dependencies identified by participants?

- There is a capacity issue with a dependence on volunteers who have limited time and resources.
- Participants identified the lack of physical space/infrastructure to effectively engage on programmes with young people.

9. Any risks identified by participants?

- The overall language of the programme with an explicit focus on paramilitarism and a prevailing tone towards 'lawfulness' was identified as

a major obstacle for all participants including statutory, community and voluntary sector as well as delivery and service providers.

- From a community perspective in Drumgask it is important to note that any engagement with the PSNI is viewed as putting community workers and young people at risk from armed organisations.
- In relation to successful implementation and sustainable projects it was stated that it is vitally important that money is not rushed to be spent in line with financial years. It was recommended that time is spent to gather and collate the most effective consortia based on the needs identified in the research. With regards to time to build relationships within the consortia the absence of such trust was signposted as a significant factor that lead to the failings of previous funded interventions to the aforementioned issues.

10. Any other comments made by participants?

N/A

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