

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: New Lodge / Ardoyne

Theme: Policing and Community Safety

Date: 23.01.19

Number of attendee's: 7

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

Overall there was an understanding from participants that there was an onus on the PSNI to be part of any process that might improve policing and community safety in the local areas but that the community must also be a key part of any intervention. A number of inter-connected programmes under this theme were put forward.

- a. Invest in existing community safety networks and partnerships. The consultation suggested that the architecture for community partnership is already in place in this area and there is a willingness to engage on these issues. The resourcing of these projects should however also consider sustainability;
- b. An induction and support programme to increase the knowledge base of local PSNI officers in the area and enabling local community members to understand the dilemmas of local policing. The programme would also highlight important stakeholders and partners in the community. This course would enable partners to develop a complex and changing local community narrative and allow both police and community to develop and consider the role of each partner in supporting policing and community safety initiatives;
- c. Integrate local restorative practices into the wider criminal justice and community development portfolio through increased co-operation between the local community and the wider criminal justice system. There are overlaps with proposals for both restorative practices and youth work with local young

people, that could decrease criminalisation, and alleviate pressures on local policing;

- d. A finance facility (properly governed through a multi-agency group) to allow the community and police to support short term interventions as needs arise, and target specific constituencies that are increasing local distress and have implications in terms of policing;
- e. Develop a triage approach to anti-social behaviour by supporting local youth workers and/or mental health practitioners to work closely with the PSNI in the community when they are policing, especially at weekends and holiday periods.

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

It was evident from the discussions that there was significant commitment across both areas to engage on issues around policing and in both areas there was a long history of community activism and a willingness to be involved in programmes and initiatives that could improve the quality of life of local residents. Participants emphasised that resources should be applied to ensure sustainability as well as short-term improvement and that existing structures should be used.

3. Outcomes that participants suggested these interventions would achieve?

- a. A greater identification of the local population from the perspective of local police officers;
- b. Evidence of close practical co-operation between the community, community organisations and the PSNI;
- c. A normalisation in the relationships between residents and the police, including an increase in calls, willingness to provide evidence and more relaxed interaction with officers;
- d. Higher expectations of appropriate responses to anti-social behaviour and crime issues and evidence of greater satisfaction in service from the public;
- e. A reduction in the level of crime and fear of crime, and in reported anti-social behaviour;
- f. An end to attacks and intimidation by non-state agencies;
- g. Increased confidence in the wider criminal justice system.

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

- a. The local residents would have a positive attitude to police and policing, have confidence in the police service and participate appropriately with the police and other partners in resolving policing and community safety problems.
- b. The PSNI would note a more positive change i.e. increased reporting; increased attendance at local events.

5. Target beneficiaries/participants of the suggested interventions?

- a. Confidence: the entire community;
- b. Anti-Social Behaviour: victims and perpetrators;
- c. Partnership: Youth services, restorative justice practitioners, community safety practitioners.

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

Sustainable investment in community safety and police and community capacity for partnership is a community priority. All consultees expressed disappointment at the withdrawal of neighbourhood policing and the resulting failures of neighbourhood policing in terms of the PSNI having a physical and meaningful presence in the community. The need is to invest in long run capacity through existing mechanisms which can be sustained over time rather than invent short-term programmes. It is crucial that these are developed in collaboration between the community and local PSNI.

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.

Increasing local confidence in the PSNI and putting in place interventions that will lead to a more normal and positive relationship between the police and residents will reduce the space in which armed groups can operate within.

b. Citizens and communities feel safe and confident.

By improving the relationships between the public and police there will be more communication and reporting of crime, which should lead to a decrease in crime and an increased sense of safety.

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

Developing programmes of work that increase collaborative working should increase community knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice system.

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

Ultimately this work is underpinned by respect for the rule of law and individuals have a choice and these interventions promote a culture of lawfulness.

The consultees also accepted that any programme should be able to demonstrate commitment to the B4 Programme Values:

- **Empowerment:** Empower and support citizens and communities to address the problems they face.
- **Sustainability:** Embedding capacity within communities so that change can be continued beyond the lifetime of this programme.
- **Partnership:** Working together within communities and between communities and statutory agencies.
- **Lawfulness:** Supporting commitment to the use of peaceful and democratic means and upholding the rule of law across all communities.
- **Inclusivity, fairness, transparency, impartiality and democratic accountability.**

8. Any dependencies identified by participants?

- a. The success of the entire programme depends on the willingness of the PSNI to develop bespoke neighbourhood policing which is designed on PwC and problem-solving principles.
- b. The engagement of the DPCSP in oversight and accountability, and the development of locally based projects under DPCSP oversight.

9. Any risks identified by participants?

- a. The PSNI will not be involved increasing the risk of alienation.
- b. The capacity of the DPCSPs to undertake problem-solving work.
- c. The need to ensure that policing is joined up with other community safety issues including youth intervention and restorative practices.
- d. B4 is a short-term programme raising expectations, which will be diminished when funding ends. Sustainability needs to be planned in from the outset.

10. Any other comments made by participants?

N/A

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

No PSNI personnel attended the consultation. Further work on this issue will also be done through workshops on Restorative Practices and Youth Intervention.