

# **BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION IN LURGAN (KILWILKIE AND DRUMGASK)**

## **FIELDWORK REPORT FROM PHASE 1 – BUILDING CAPACITY IN COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION**

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AUGUST 2018

# Foreword

In July 2016 the Northern Ireland Executive published an Action Plan setting out 38 actions it would take to address some of the most difficult issues which continue to disrupt peaceful and democratic society, in particular, the issues of continued paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime.

This plan seeks to achieve four ambitious outcomes; a society where citizens and communities feel safe and confident; where paramilitarism has no place; where the public support and have even more confidence in the justice system; and where those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures are supported to do it.

The Executive Office has responsibility for delivery of Action B4 of the Executive Action plan through the Communities in Transition project, which aims to support eight areas where there has been a history of paramilitary activity and coercive control to transition into open and accessible communities where paramilitary activity no longer plays a role.

The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board, which oversees delivery of the Executive Action Plan, commissioned independent research which identified the eight areas of focus for this project that have been most impacted by paramilitary activity and associated criminality. The report will focus on Lurgan (Kilwilkie and Drumgask).

In September 2017, we appointed a Consortium, led by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the Mitchell Institute (QUB), INCORE (Ulster University) and the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR) as Strategic Partner to develop a two-phase programme to build capacity to support transition within these communities.

A partnership approach sits at the very heart of this project; we recognise that delivery on the ground needs to include those people who are most affected by these issues.

Phase 1 of the project consisted of extensive consultation with local communities and key stakeholders in each of the areas. This report provides a summary of the findings from Phase 1 and our proposed next steps as we move forward.

We recognise and value the extensive range of important and often challenging work that has already been undertaken by individuals and groups at local level in tackling these issues. This project gives us the opportunity to further drive forward with a new and innovative approach to tackling paramilitary activity and we look forward to continuing to work alongside the communities involved, who are often best placed to propose and deliver solutions to the problems they face.

*The Executive Office, in partnership with the Communities in Transition Consortium*



# Introduction

It has been twenty years since our society said YES to peace. Although much has changed, there are still many challenges as we continue to transition into a peaceful society.

The Executive's Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime recognizes the role communities must play in tackling paramilitarism by developing a culture sympathetic to the rule of law and addressing the systemic issues that these groups seek to exploit. Lawfulness is binding on all, extending across communities, the justice system and statutory agencies. Many of the actions within the plan seek to promote culture of lawfulness across society.

## ACTION B4

seeks to provide programmes to build community capacity so that they can move beyond the coercive control and malign influence of groups involved in criminality. As such, Action B4 will **'Support ambitious initiatives aimed at building capacity in communities in transition, including through developing partnership across civil society and across community divisions.'**

## OUR AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Antiville and Kilwaughter in Larne together with Northland and Castlemara in Carrickfergus
- Brandywell and Creggan in Derry/Londonderry
- Kilcooley (Clandeboyne 2&3 SOA) and Rathgill (Conlig 3 SOA) in North Down
- Drumgask and Kilwilkie in Lurgan
- Lower Falls, Twinbrook, Poleglass, Upper Springfield, Turf Lodge and Ballymurphy in West Belfast
- New Lodge and Greater Ardoyne in North Belfast
- Shankill (upper and lower, including Woodvale) in West Belfast
- The Mount and Ballymacarrett in East Belfast

Between November 2017 and March 2018, the CIT consortium conducted an engagement process in each of the selected eight areas as part of the phase 1 of the project.

The process included a desk-based review of the locality in conjunction with interviews and focus groups with a range of stakeholders in each area, including services providers, community groups, faith-based groups, elected representatives, the business sector, residents and others.

**THIS REPORT REFLECTS THE MAIN FINDINGS THAT EMERGED FROM THE FIELDWORK AND THE PROPOSED NEXT STEPS.**

The information presented in this document represents the views and suggestions expressed by the participants in Phase 1 of the project. We are conscious that there will be other views and perspectives on the document and the purpose of the publication is to stimulate discussion and promote debate on issues that are of utmost importance to the continuing development of your community. In addition, as stakeholder conversations took place over a limited period of 3-4 months, it was not possible to speak to everyone within the community.

With this in mind, it should be noted that the suggested interventions are therefore not funding commitments but the starting point for continued dialogue on the possible options moving forward.

## Outline

The first section of this report presents an outline profile of the area, the headline findings and the relevant context for successful transition in the area. The second part of the report provides a detailed thematic description of the findings and possible solutions as suggested by various participants. Although each area is unique, seven common themes arose as the major issues regarding building community capacity for transition – Community safety and policing; Young people; Health and well-being; Environment and culture; Community development issues; Restorative justice and restorative practices and; Personal transition. The final section presents the next steps in the project and the timeline for their implementation.





# **Area Profile and Headline Findings**



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# Area Profile of Kilwilkie and Drumgask

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## Politics

- Both Kilwilkie and Drumgask are within the Upper Bann constituency area for Parliamentary and Northern Ireland Assembly elections. The constituency area is represented by David Simpson MP (DUP) at Westminster, and elected one DUP, one Sinn Fein, one UUP, one SDLP and one Alliance at the 2017 Northern Ireland Assembly election.
- Within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council, Kilwilkie and Drumgask, are geographically distinct areas. Kilwilkie lies within the Lurgan DEA which elected three Sinn Fein, two DUP, one SDLP and one UUP at the last election in 2015, and is generally considered to be part of the predominantly nationalist northern area of the town (locally defined as North Lurgan). Drumgask residents identify as being from Craigavon (as distinct from Lurgan) and the area falls within the Craigavon District election area (DEA) of the district Council. In the last local government elections (2015) Craigavon DEA elected one SDLP, one Sinn Fein, one UUP and two DUP councillors.

## Social and Economic Issues

### Lurgan

- Kilwilkie lies within the Drumnamoe 1 'Super Output Area (SOA)' within the Multiple Deprivation Index compiled by NISRA and is the 83<sup>rd</sup> most deprived area in Northern Ireland (of 890). Drumgask specifically covers the Drumgask 2 ward and is 52<sup>nd</sup> on the NISRA list of deprivation. Both SOAs are among the 10% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland and among the most challenging 8 SOAs in the Council area. Kilwilkie was ranked in the top five rural areas by the Draft PSNI Community Prioritisation Index that statistically measured Community Harm, Vulnerability and Disengagement.
- Indicative perhaps of civic, ethnic and socio-economic separations in the wider community, the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area is the only area outside of Belfast to contain three separate Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. Kilwilkie and Drumgask were both located within Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA), falling into Lurgan and Brownlow NRA respectively. An Education Authority assessment of the area concluded that 'the legacy of the conflict has contributed to segregation, lack of aspiration, social deprivation, poorer quality of life and dissociation within public space'.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Education Authority, *Craigavon Assessment of Need 2017-2020*, available at <http://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/youth-service/area-plans-and-assessment-of-need/banbridge-cookstown-craigavon/> page 16.



## Social and Economic Issues

### **Drumgask**

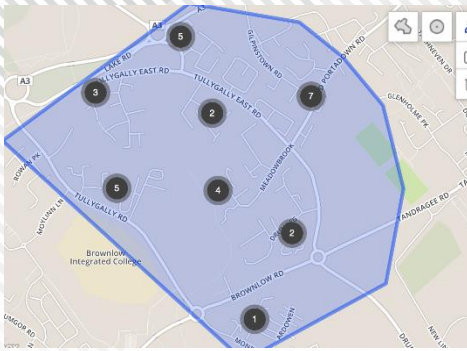
- Out of the 890 Super Output Areas across Northern Ireland within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures in 2017, Drumgask was the 42<sup>nd</sup> most deprived in terms of health deprivation and disability.
- Drumgask was the 24<sup>th</sup> most deprived for education, skills and training.
- For all recorded deprivation measures Drumgask is the 52<sup>nd</sup> most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland.
- Drumgask falls within the Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) and analysis of the social renewal data pertaining to educational achievement indicates that only 57.9% of young people leaving school have at least 5 GCSE's grades A\*-C compared with a non-NRA average of 80.7% and an Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area average of 78.1%.
- Drumgask falls within the Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) and deaths from suicide and undetermined intent accounted for 5.9% of deaths compared with a non-NRA average of 1.7% and an Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area average of 2.0%.

### **Kilwilkie**

- Out of the 890 Super Output Areas across Northern Ireland within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Kilwilkie was the 31<sup>st</sup> most deprived in terms of health deprivation and disability.
- Kilwilkie was the 42<sup>nd</sup> most deprived for employment.
- For all recorded deprivation measures Kilwilkie is the 83<sup>rd</sup> most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland.
- Kilwilkie falls within the Lurgan Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) and analysis of the social renewal data pertaining to educational achievement indicates that only 58.3% of young people leaving school have at least 5 GCSE's grades A\*-C compared with a non-NRA average of 80.7% and an Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area of 78.1%.
- Kilwilkie falls within the Lurgan Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) and alcohol related deaths accounted for 3.6% of the total deaths in the area compared with a non-NRA average of 1.4 and an Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area average of 1.6%



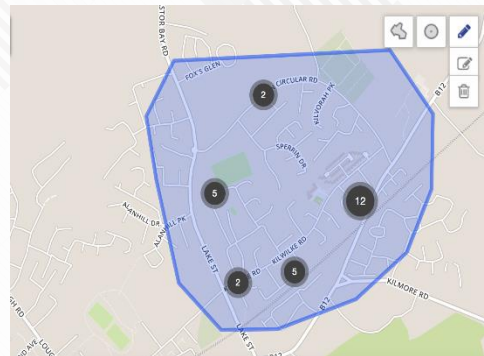
## Crime Statistics: REPORTED crime in September 2017



### Drumgask

(as per the area report taken as the estates of Drumbeg, Meadowbrook and Ardhoven)

Total	29
<b>Violence &amp; Sexual Offences</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Criminal Damage &amp; Arson</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Public Order</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>1</b>



### Kilwilkie

Total	27
<b>Violence &amp; Sexual Offences</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Criminal Damage &amp; Arson</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Possession of Weapons</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Offences</b>	<b>1</b>

## Context for transition:

Transition in Kilwilkie and Drumgask takes place in the context of visible challenges of:

- The legacy of conflict and sectarianism and associative trauma;
- Poverty and the challenges of deprivation;
- Low levels of educational attainment and aspiration;
- Issues of reporting crime to the police; and
- Impact of drugs and anti-social behaviour
- B4 cannot address all of these issues.
- The significant transitional, legacy, ideological, physical, economic, political and social differences between each area makes a single approach difficult. While the purposes may be joined this project will require distinct programmes and goals tailored to Drumgask and Kilwilkie.
- In relation to a 'culture of lawfulness' there was universal dislike of the terms like 'culture of lawfulness' and 'transition' in our research. A shared vision for transition on an individual, organisational, community or statutory basis must establish a common meaning for lawfulness.
- The overarching priority among respondents in relation to community transition was through addressing socio-economic issues that continue to impact immediately on daily life in the community.



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# *Headline Findings Arising from Kilwilkie and Drumgask*

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1. Political leadership (mainstream Republican and Nationalist parties) in Kilwilkie is evident and there has been substantial investment in relationship-building with statutory sector services and PSNI by political representatives in the area. The commitment to transition in building relationships with the PSNI is evidenced by participants noting that many community issues with policing are often directed more at political representatives than police.
2. In Drumgask, there does not appear to be a strong or organised community leadership, with respondents often complaining that political representatives were not doing enough to engage and represent the community.
3. Sporting achievement and capacity in both Kilwilkie and Drumgask is strong and the GAA plays a critical role in shaping the lives of young people and their extended families.
4. Concern was repeatedly expressed regarding the perception and misconception of the area as a hotbed of dissident activity. However, there appears to be a dichotomy between participants who stated a pride in being from Kilwilkie which was juxtaposed with a concern that this pride amongst some individuals, particularly some young people, could be misinterpreted as a pride in being associated with the perceived 'reputation' of the area.
5. In Kilwilkie many community activists felt that there is a positive underlying 'community attitude' that is challenged at times by the fluctuating relationship with policing in the area.

6. Drumgask participants reflected a strong belief that they had been abandoned by the State and political structures. This now appears to have become an inter-generational legacy issue.
7. There are significant transitional, legacy, ideological, physical, economic, political and social differences between each area. As a result of these significant organisational, historical and political differences, the potential for and value of a common shared vision between Drumgask and Kilwilkie seems limited.
8. In both areas, but particularly in Kilwilkie, the activities of small numbers of young people in relation to anti-social behaviour and associated issues of drugs and alcohol use, and illicit or abusive sexual behaviour, was a critical concern for many residents.
9. Mental health amongst the communities of both Kilwilkie and Drumgask was repeatedly noted by participants as a significant issue (part of which is related to legacy conflict issues). The mental health needs of young people and former combatants is a particularly acute concern.



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## *What does this mean for the Executive Action plan*

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### SUCCESS IN KILWILKIE AND DRUMGASK WILL DEPEND ON:

- Improved policing with the community
- Joining up B4 with other neighbourhood initiatives
- Support for improved youth services
- Better inter-agency co-operation
- Reducing public tolerance for violence through working with the community





# Themes for transition

Although each area is unique with its own set of circumstances, needs and challenges regarding paramilitarism and associated criminality, seven common themes have arisen out of the fieldwork.

These themes have been used to frame the findings in this next section which are based on the participants opinions and suggestions.

It is important to note that solving the issues raised by the participants will take a multi-faceted and collective response and it is beyond the scope of this project to solve on its own.

The transition will take time and cannot be achieved by communities alone. This project seeks to help build capacity within communities to forge their own pathways towards a peaceful, democratic society where paramilitarism has no place as part of a wider programme. The next section should be read within this context.



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# Community Safety and Policing

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## Key issues

**A general sense of negative sentiments and distrust in the PSNI has enabled paramilitaries to continue to exercise coercive control and influence.**

There was a strong narrative that identified the inconsistent tactics, techniques, attitudes and approaches of community police officers and non-community police officers were a significant issue obstructing transition towards an improved relationship between the PSNI and the community. It was noted that growing relationships between community and police through community groups and political figures has been vital. However very few of the respondents anticipated that there would be much scope at this time to reduce the intermediary role of these groups and individuals.

" How can people be assured that the police will be the only law and order in the community? "

## Possible solutions

**Improving trust, communication and collaboration between the PSNI and the local community will reduce levels of coercive control and influence of paramilitaries.**

In the immediate future the evidence suggests that a transition plan should consider:

- Investing in the capacity of locally based community organisations to act as a partner in local policing and community safety, alongside work undertaken in A5.
- Training and support programme for local communities around the key principles of a 'culture of lawfulness', language of criminality rather than 'paramilitaries' (action C1), human rights and policing and to foster greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the criminal justice system
- Developing a Communication Strategy for police- community engagement to focus on increasing the capacity for communities to engage with the wider action plan on a community impact basis.
- Increasing the community-based and problem-solving approaches to policing that have been previously implemented successfully in order to focus the community attention on the dangers and risks for young people engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Broadening of previous police initiatives both in schools and the community to build relationships with young people who are considered likely to be involved with anti-social behaviour.



# Young People

"How do you build a culture of lawfulness amongst young people whose family have been lifted for murder?"

"Young people seem to think being in the paramilitaries is like being in a real life grand theft auto."

"Youth workers are a partner but we are not state agents, we just aren't capable of doing everything."

"We need to work in these communities with the kids, taking the kids out doesn't work."

## Key findings

**Restricted opportunities coupled with a 'Glamorisation' of the conflict contributed to young people vulnerability and attraction to paramilitarism, thus creating a challenge for transition.**

Young people have already made significant steps towards a transition narrative and the critical issues facing this group in each area centre upon drugs and alcohol use; mental health issues; education and employment aspirations and achievement.

There was concern that young people were 'glamorising' the conflict and were susceptible to the romance and excitement of paramilitarism.

The 'glamorisation' of conflict amongst young people emerged as a theme that needs to be challenged, to stimulate transition and avoid the learned 'community memory' of conflict in young people.

## Possible solutions

**Reducing the levels of coercive control and influence through increased focus on resilience and reducing the opportunities for vulnerable young people to romanticise Paramilitarism.**

Moving forward the evidence suggests that a transition plan could include:

- A series of community-based forums to enable a panel of politicians, ex-combatants, police and other statutory organisations to be challenged by young people.
- Support for young people seeking to celebrate culture through music and planned alternatives to unlawful celebration.
- Workshops/youth programmes (in schools and community youth settings) to increase understanding among young people of a 'culture of lawfulness' and PSNI role in this (under action A2).
- Youth provision designed to meet the needs of young people and not focused within groups that may not have traction in the community.



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# *Health and Well-being*

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## **Key findings**

**Many respondents felt that poor mental health, drugs and substance abuse and addictions have a strong connection with anti-social behaviour and for some they are symptoms of the conflict.**

The discussions focused on issues impacting across an intergenerational spectrum. With regards to young people the critical concerns centred upon drugs, substance abuse, addiction, illicit sexual behaviour and mental health.

Research participants believed there was a strong connection between critical health issues and the overarching problem of anti-social behaviour in the area.

For older residents who directly experienced the conflict the issue of trauma-induced mental health issues was consistently raised.

## **Possible solutions**

**Improve the coping and management of mental health, drugs and substance abuse and addiction issues, will reduce levels of coercive control and influence.**

Moving forward the evidence suggests that a transition plan should include:

- Support for trauma and mental health interventions, including suicide, self-harm and depression.
- Support for interventions for conflict related trauma (action D3), including suicide prevention, self-harm, depression and anxiety.
- Improve inter-statutory coordination (Health Trusts, support hubs, social services, PSNI etc.) on working with vulnerable individuals 'at risk' of coming into contact with armed groups.
- Programmes to respond to the significant legacy issues that continue to nurse trauma in the community on a generational basis.
- Programmes of advice and education for parents and young people on the impact of drugs, to also consider associated drugs issue of criminality and actions of armed groups.
- Initiatives relating to the risk-taking sexual behaviour of young people; including online sexual exploitation.



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# *Environment and culture*

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## **Key findings**

**The local environment is dominated by images, symbols and structures of the conflict. This is still accepted as the received status quo and there is little evident pressure for transition away from paramilitary dominated images.**

In terms of culture there was a sense from people that historical narratives of the conflict evidenced in murals, plaques and gardens went some way to defining the communities, especially from an outside perspective.

There are significant paramilitary associated images spread across the two areas.

There is an acceptance that this is the status quo that is to be respected. For several interviewees, there was little prospect of any reimagining of this area any time soon.

## **Possible solutions**

**Enhancing community capacity to regenerate and invest in community appearance will facilitate the reduction of the physical manifestations of paramilitarism.**

Moving forward the evidence suggests that a transition plan should include:

- A programme of awareness raising on community regeneration including public displays of paramilitary symbolism. This will require significant preparatory conversations and consultation process to be initiated. Specifically, this should also address the absence of facilities for children and the decay of buildings throughout the community.



# Community Development Issues

## Key finding

**There is a perception that poor governance and the absence of comprehensive area-based community development organisations and initiatives has allowed paramilitaries to exert coercive control and influence.**

A major issue precluding modernisation of community development in the areas of Drumgask and Kilwilkie is alienation from electoral politics evident among community participants, and possibly stemming from the legacy of associating community development with political organisations. In addition, the role of paramilitarism in usurping control of embryonic community groups through appointment of selected individuals on management boards was identified as a critical issue. Three areas that could be considered are governance (including membership, performance and financial transparency), gender participation and relationships with the police and statutory agencies.

There was commonality amongst community participants that transition should mean positive incentives through education and employment opportunities for young people. By investing in young people transition would be achieved by delimiting the barriers, physical and mental, that currently serve to generationally perpetuate community divisions within Lurgan Town.

There was universal agreement amongst community groups that transition shouldn't denote just investment in the built environment but should provide strategic, long-term financial support for indigenous community workers through accessible funding streams. It was emphasised that this needed a coordinated response on an intra-community basis through single-identity work and not unilaterally repeating the mistakes of generic cross-community activities in the past.

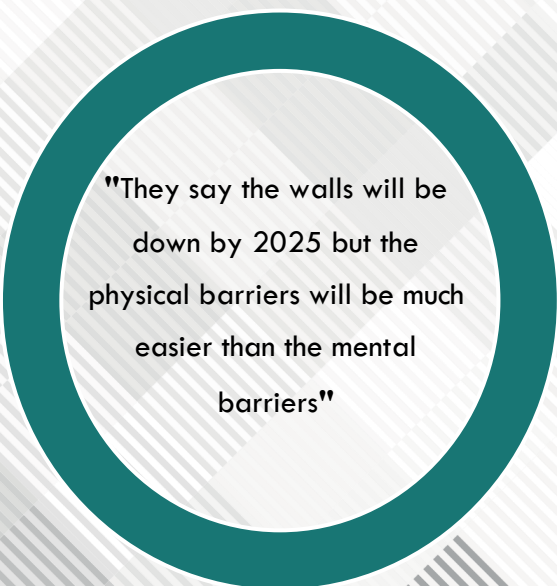
A critical concern for statutory organisations is the capacity for certain organisations and individuals to meet eligibility requirements and therefore access funding; but failing to sufficiently evidence the outcomes they claimed would result from the funding. For transition to be effective in these areas there needs to be a greater focus on social inequalities as a community need and not solely related to paramilitary activities.

## Possible solutions

**Improved governance and inclusiveness of community development organisations and initiatives will reduce coercive control and influence.**

Moving forward the evidence suggests that a transition plan should include:

- Opportunities for boards of community organisations to be diversified to ensure a minimum participation of men and women, and minority groups, and independent members.
- A series of initiatives to support community organisations with governance and management development.
- Mentoring work to establish groups and provide ongoing support to ensure appropriate governance structures and that groups have capacity to secure alternate sources of funding.



"They say the walls will be down by 2025 but the physical barriers will be much easier than the mental barriers"



# Restorative justice and restorative practices

## Key findings

**It was agreed by most that there are insufficient restorative justice and practice initiatives, an absence of a physical and definitive base for community co-ordination, and a lack of initiatives targeting older disenfranchised men susceptible to being recruited.**

Research participants believed restorative justice could have an active role in challenging existing community narratives around justice and conflict legacy. In particular, participants stated that restorative justice could have an important contribution to make in relation to the generational trauma and underlying mental health issues that were regarded as a critical community concern.

With regards to transition, it was strongly argued that an alternative justice system (specifically through ex-prisoner groups and Community Restorative Justice Ireland) needs to be developed in the area.

An additional role suggested for restorative justice by participants was activating a difficult to reach group - older (40+), disenfranchised men who are considered susceptible to being recruited by paramilitaries. No programmes currently exist to target these individuals, but this may be a role for republican ex-prisoner groups or community-based restorative practices.

It was emphasised that the absence of a physical space or definitive base has been identified by community-based restorative justice organisations as a barrier to community engagement.

" To be honest people care about bread and butter issues not whether justice is restorative. "

## Possible solutions

**Providing restorative justice and practices initiatives has the potential to improve existing community narratives around justice and conflict legacy, generational trauma and underlying mental health issues, which can reduce coercive control and influence.**

The evidence suggests that a transition plan could include:

- The development of restorative practices within a definitive community base, with a focus on the intergenerational needs of the community – in particular a restorative approach to challenge the significant legacy issues in the community.
- The development of a bespoke transitional toolkit to facilitate community dialogue on issues of transition, post-conflict legacy issues and empowering people to make decisions around lawfulness.
- Consider use of recommended (PfG) pilot substance misuse/family drug and alcohol court (under action A9).
- Consider the potential role for restorative practices given the high levels of anti-social behaviour incidents across the borough (also A9).



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# Personal Transition

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## Key findings

**Social and economic barriers are perceived as preventing ex-prisoners/ former combatants to reintegrate into society.**

Ex-prisoners/ former combatants continue to face various social and economic barriers preventing them to fully reintegrate society with consistent high levels of long term unemployment; implicit or explicit discrimination; difficulties accessing finance for self-employment and insurance or mortgage facilities; inability to access compensation when they are victims of attacks on their person or their property; exclusions relating to international travel; exclusion from adopting children, etc

"We need a turnstile approach. Transition is about giving people the opportunity to go through that turnstile."

## Possible solutions

**Providing support and legitimate alternatives to allow ex-prisoners/ former combatants to reintegrate into society and to move away from any affiliation to a group will reduce coercive control and influence.**

Moving forward the evidence suggests that a transition plan should include:

- Supporting local individuals and groups to avail of the interventions under actions such as B1, B2, B3.
- A programme of leadership training for community organisations and ex-prisoners around models of community development and leadership.
- Any person convicted of a scheduled offence in connection with the affairs of Northern Ireland should be eligible to ask the PSNI for formal confirmation that they have no current involvement with criminal activity or issues of a security concern for 3 years or more. Formal confirmation should allow them to participate without hindrance in the affairs of any community organisation on the basis of full and equal membership, including employment. This includes the receipt of public money by organisations in which they are employed.





# What next for the Project



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## Next Steps

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The Executive's Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime sets out a range of actions which will work towards an end to all forms of paramilitary activity, the use of peaceful and democratic means and the rule of law in all communities.

This is a challenge for society as a whole and we all have a part to play. Delivery of the Executive Action Plan presents a unique opportunity for new partnerships to develop both across Government and with the community sector. Through the Communities in Transition project, we want to support areas that are significantly impacted by paramilitarism and criminal activity and build capacity amongst the people who live there and the community organisations that are working extremely hard to make a difference to their neighbourhoods.

The scope of the Communities in Transition Project is to build the capacity of these communities through specific, practical interventions to enable them to affect positive change for themselves, break the grip of coercive control and transition away from paramilitary activity.

### Tackling Paramilitary Programme Outcomes:

- Paramilitarism has no place
- Citizens and communities feel safe and confident
- The public support and have increasing confidence in the justice system
- Support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures

The Project will work with those local communities to put in place interventions to develop capacity and confidence through:

- building capacity to address underlying social issues and achieve improved outcomes for all;
- building capacity to transition in neighbourhoods and places and for groups of people that make up local communities;
- building capacity to proactively move towards a culture of lawfulness; and
- building capacity to become open, accessible and lawful communities.

The area-based approach being taken forward in this project enables activities to be tailored to take consideration of local contexts and for them to be designed and delivered in a way which empowers and supports citizens to continue to deliver change in their communities beyond the lifetime of the project.

### Underpinning Principles:

- **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.
- **Collaboration:** Working together within communities and between communities and statutory agencies.
- **Lawfulness:** 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**



# *Next Steps- In Your Community*

## PARTICIPATORY DESIGN

We would like to thank everyone who was involved during the first phase of this programme, and we look forward to continuing the collaborative work achieved up until now and extending the range of voices involved in the process.

Over the next few months we will bring together individuals from Kilwilkie and Drumgask who want to see an end to paramilitarism and are willing to act to make change happen. We will work together to define priorities, activities and outcomes that will form the basis of commissioned activity in Kilwilkie and Drumgask. The activities will add value to existing provision and develop the capacity and resilience of individuals and of the local community to address issues connected with paramilitarism and organised crime. This will mean both building capacity to proactively move towards a culture of lawfulness and to address the underlying systemic issues which are exploited by paramilitary and organised criminal gangs.

## ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATORY DESIGN PROCESS

As part of the participatory design process and to help inform design discussions in this phase, there will be a number of supporting activities happening within your area:

- **Community development and environment activities**

Community led events and platforms to increase capacity for community regeneration and community appearance, build relationships between residents and statutory bodies to connect individuals to opportunities in their area.

- **Community Learning and Safety Dialogue activities**

Community led events to increase knowledge and understanding of the justice system and the responsibilities of the different agencies within the system.



This document is the result of a community engagement process commissioned by TEO from the Communities in transition consortium: Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the Mitchell Institute (QUB), INCORE (Ulster University) and the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR)