



**BUILDING CAPACITY  
TO SUPPORT TRANSITION**

**UPDATE ON THE EXECUTIVE  
PROGRAMME TO TACKLE  
PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY, CRIMINALITY,  
AND ORGANISED CRIME – BUILDING  
CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION**

**NOVEMBER 2018**



# BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

## **Delivery Approach**

We continue to stress that the process of transition is a societal issue and requires partnership working across civil society and with communities. The complexity and breadth of the task is reflected in the number of actions (10) specifically committed to this delivery approach.

The concepts of 'transition' and of 'lawfulness' from the Panel Report and Action Plan are threads which we have been using to try to help connect and amplify all of the work to tackle paramilitary activity and organised crime. These were key themes discussed at the programme conference, which included a workshop session on the issue of transition. The workshop included table discussions on real life examples of transition, how we can support transition and indicators of success. The discussions were mostly seen by participants who provided feedback as engaging and constructive and raised many issues, such as the importance of community development, use of language and understanding of terminology, which we will want to reflect upon to inform the development of the programme, including work on commitment B4.

## **Project Updates**

### **DfC to bring forward proposals on promoting lawfulness (A3)**

DfC is working with voluntary and community sector partners to deliver three lawfulness programmes.

Workshops exploring lawfulness were delivered during the **NI National Citizen Service (NCS) Summer Programme** to 195 young people by the YMCA, Volunteer Now, Co-operation Ireland and Youth Works and St Columb's Park House. These workshops included discussion groups examining the concept of lawfulness, agency roles, community mapping and the viewing and discussion of the videos *Recruited*, *#StopAttacks* and *Upstanding/Bystanding*.

Phase 2 of the project involved working with a cohort of the NI NCS Summer graduates in a day of facilitated workshops to 'unpack' and discuss lawfulness in more detail. This was followed by a networking event where the young people interacted with representatives from



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

NI's justice system to explore a range of issues relating to the themes of law, human rights and citizenship. The project concluded at the end of October 2018 with the design and delivery of a social action project by the young people which took the form of a poster campaign to engage with their peers and highlight the effects of paramilitary control.

**Redeeming Our Communities (ROC)** delivered 2 'Conversation Events' in West Belfast (Lower Falls and St James). The faith-based events aimed to inspire and encourage attendees to proactively make a difference in their communities; connecting and engaging local residents with community and statutory agencies; empowering local people to have their say; and galvanising local people into action.

Since the delivery of the earlier ROC Conversations in March 2018, ROC has committed its long term support and is providing consultative support to the Groups. During the reporting period the Newtownards Road Action Group has considered a number of recommendations from the ROC Conversation report and sees a particular need for supporting local families. The ROC+COACH Community Mentoring project is a potential project which is currently being considered. East Belfast Mission is connecting in with other local churches (St Patricks Church of Ireland and Megain (Church of the Nazarene) to work together in this project.

The Lower Shankill Action Group has met twice from July to September and includes a range of faith-based, agency and community representatives. They have set up an action plan and have delivered two events in October and November. The first was a 'Keeping Safe Event' on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The second was an afternoon tea-dance for 20<sup>th</sup> November for older members of the community. Connections have also been made between local groups and agencies who are establishing relationships which would not have existed prior to the ROC Conversation.

**Volunteer Now in partnership with Sport NI and the Ulster University** will deliver a programme to 450 Primary 7 school children from 15 schools from the following council areas; Mid and East Antrim, Ards and North Down, Derry City and Strabane District and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. The schools will be in areas of deprivation / high levels of paramilitary activity.



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

The programme will look at lawfulness through sport, values-based activities, practical volunteering tasks and legal workshop-based activity. It will be delivered by volunteers recruited via the University's Schools of Law and Sport and will explore the theme of lawfulness, looking at personal responsibility, being a good citizen and basic concepts around an understanding of the law.

### **Roll out of It's Your Law Programme (A3)**

'It's your law' focuses on promoting the rule of law, building confidence in the justice system and promoting active citizenship in building a culture of lawfulness. The programme is aimed at the most disengaged young people, with a focus on those schools/young people who are at risk of influence from paramilitary / organised crime. The Prince's Trust assists with reaching these young people through its post 16 programmes and its in-school programmes and a Service Level Agreement is in place for 2018/19.

Since January 2017, a total of 17 sessions have taken place with 156 young people participating on one or more occasions. Of the 4 schools which have taken part, 3 were in the 11 highest ranking schools (out of 200) by reason of the number of pupils who reside in the B4 target areas.

The programme in 2018/19 has to date involved Christian Brothers School (Achieve club), West Belfast (June) (12 young people) and the Prince's Trust Fairbridge and TEAM groups (for unemployed young people aged 16-25) from East Belfast, West Belfast, Limavady and Derry/Londonderry (August, October and November) (24 young people). Feedback indicated that participants enjoyed being able to discuss legal issues important to them with the Attorney General. These included effective policing, bail conditions, sentencing, the influence of paramilitaries, anti-social behaviour, drugs and voting. Participants reported an increase in awareness and understanding about the rule of law and how the criminal justice system works to protect the wider community.

Extending the thinking behind 'It's your law' to the broader community this year, 22 people involved in youth or community work in East Belfast participated in a session on young people and the justice system with the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

### **Restorative Justice (A9)**



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

The four desired results for the work being undertaken in relation to the totality of the A9 recommendation are as follows:

- A cross-Executive fund for Restorative Practice.
- A Centre of Restorative Excellence to proceed towards implementation and out of the planning stage given its importance.
- More sustainable funding for accredited community based restorative justice organisations.
- Restorative practice reflected in transition plans (recommendation B4).

A paper was agreed by the Programme Board in October, which set out the four outcomes above and proposed next steps. The Board agreed that preparatory work could continue in anticipation of incoming Ministers being available to take the necessary policy decisions. DoJ is briefing the Permanent Secretary in autumn 2018 and will then appoint a Grade 7 to lead preparatory work.

The community based restorative justice groups made a presentation to the Good Relations Programme Board (Sept 2018) on their work, with a view to informing cross-Executive thinking on the development of restorative practice.

In the interim period, TEO who are leading on the delivery of the Building Capacity in Communities in Transition project (Action B4) requested that as part of the phase 1 of the work, the Strategic Partner would identify and include in the transition plans details of where restorative practice can be supported and applied in each of the 8 areas.

### **Implement recommendations of Review Panel (e.g. on FETO and employers' guidance) (B1)**

#### Amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (FETO)

##### Progress to date

Engagement has taken place with the Office of the Legislative Council, the Ex-Prisoner Review Panel and The Executive Office (TEO). TEO has drafted policy instructions to amend the legislation. Work is underway to ensure that legislation can be progressed once Ministers are in post.

#### Implementation of the Employers' Guidance

##### Progress to date



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

NICS has implemented the Employers' Guidance; with its recruitment policy amended to adopt the change. Work is ongoing to promote the Employers' Guidance beyond the NICS to the wider public sector.

A website providing information, support and advice for ex political prisoners, their family members and prospective employers is now operational – [www.reviewpanel.org](http://www.reviewpanel.org). The Review Panel held an outreach event in Crumlin Road Gaol on 19 November to promote the work of the Review panel and to promote the employers' guidance.

### **Extend remit of Review Panel to address issues relating to access to financial services (including lending and insurance), adoption and travel (B2)**

#### Access to financial services (including lending and insurance)

##### Progress to date

The Review Panel continues to meet on a monthly basis. TEO has undertaken a number of outreach meetings with Ex-Prisoner organisations to promote the work of the Panel and to identify issues in relation to barriers they may be encountering.

##### Adoption

A Bill has been drafted, the Adoption and Children Bill, which contains a specific power in clause 42 (suitability of adopters), to make regulations which may provide that an adoption agency, in determining the suitability of an individual to adopt, must not take into account offences of a prescribed description.

### **Expedited procedure for US visa applications (B3)**

#### Progress to date

TEO officials met with the US Consulate in February 2017 to discuss the way forward with these issues post US elections. Consulate officials advised that correspondence on this issue should come from First Minister and deputy First Minister. TEO officials have met on a number of occasions with officials from DFA and NIO regarding travel issues with further engagement planned.

### **Building capacity in communities in transition (B4)**

The Executive Office (TEO) has procured a strategic partner – a consortium led by Co-operation Ireland – to support it in delivering the Communities in Transition Programme. The



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

work is being taken forward in two phases. The Programme is focused on eight geographical areas which have been identified as those under the most influence and coercive control by paramilitary structures and organisations, and impacted most by associated criminality. The identification of the eight areas was informed by an independent piece of research commissioned by the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board.

The first phase required the strategic partner to develop eight costed transition plans, one for each of the eight identified geographical areas. This phase is now complete and draft transition plans were submitted to TEO on 30 March 2018. Area transition plan summary reports were finalised and issued to key stakeholders, including phase 1 participants, before publication on Co-operation Ireland's website on 20 August 2018.

The next stage of the project will see a series of Information Events being held within each of the eight areas which will afford us the opportunity to launch the fieldwork reports, relay the findings from Phase 1 and set out next steps, including the Participatory Design Process. The PDP will involve further direct engagement with communities and key stakeholders in order to gather ideas and views to help develop and refine the proposed projects, budgets and delivery mechanisms in the plans. At the end of the PDP, refined proposals will be brought back to TEO for consideration and then to the TPPB for approval.

### **Reimaging programme (B4)**

NIHE has continued to encourage and develop re-imaging projects by working in partnership with local groups to encourage a real change within communities most affected by paramilitarism. In the extension to the Re-imaging Communities programme NIHE aimed to re-image 20 paramilitary murals by 2020, thus contributing to the outcome of normalisation and helping to make communities visibly more welcoming and reducing the chill factor in NIHE estates.

### **Programme for women in community development (B5)**

Delivery of the 2017/18 'Phase One' 5 module programme has been fully completed in 24 out of 26 areas. Total recruitment for Phase 1 is 539 including Newry and Lurgan and 503 women have completed Phase 1 (excluding Newry & Lurgan). A total of 310 women completed accreditation to date and we expect a further 36 to graduate from Phase 1.



## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

Phase 2 is now underway. This embeds the participant's 'classroom' learning about community transformation into their everyday lives via a range of 'service and training' opportunities. Four 'service and training' Pathways have been designed for Phase 2 covering: Social Innovation: Community Leadership: Women in Civil Society and Communication & Engagement. A fifth 'co-design' Pathway will be available where special requirements have been identified through Mentoring and undertaking Training Needs Analyses. Currently 412 women have signed up to progress to Phase 2 of the programme and this will continue to rise as the Newry and Armagh women graduate.

### **Supporting women in the justice system to build capacity – Engage Project (B5)**

Service delivery has continued without interruption, new targets were agreed and women continue to be referred into Engage from the Inspire project, Community Organisations including Start360 and Drug Outreach Team and from Hydebank Wood College. Programmes being delivered include: motivational support, practical support, life coaching, parenting support, wellness recovery action planning, confidence building, building positive relationships and communication and conflict management.

A women's day event was held on 13 October to highlight the project and give women opportunities to access other services. The event was attended by over 30 people, not all of these were ENGAGE clients, 8 were either working with ENGAGE or had been in the past.

### **Research to inform relevant interventions to assist with reintegration (B10)**

The Department of Justice will commission a focussed piece of research to inform the development of this action (5-10 days of a researcher's time). This will consist of meta-analysis of published research, as well as any lessons learned to date/emerging themes from other relevant recommendations- specifically B12 (Aspire Project); B4 (transition plans) and B9 (education and training opportunities for those in the separated regime).

### **Build the existing good relations strategy to measurably reduce segregation in education and housing (D2)**

#### Progress to date

Progress continues across all strands of T:BUC:

- Shared Neighbourhoods – 7 developments have been completed, providing 360 new homes in total; a further 3 due to complete in 2018/19.





## BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

- T:BUC Camps – 130 Camps have been approved for 2018/19.
- Urban Villages – 2018/19 community led revenue projects have been assessed with 48 projects identified for support and letters of offer issued.
- Shared Education Campuses (DE) – five projects have been announced and are being progressed; arrangements for the announcement of the successful projects under the third call is under discussion within the department.
- Removal of Interface Barriers – number of structures has reduced from 59 to 46.
- Peace4Youth – 11 lead projects delivering Peace4Youth across NI and border counties.
- Uniting Communities through Sport & Creativity – The programme has been extended into Ardoyne/Ballysillan, Rasharkin/Kilrea and Castlederg/Newtownstewart. Phase 3 of Colin & Eastside is ongoing with approx. 150 attendees, with the Erne East programme recently concluded.