



LONG TERM PREVENTION

UPDATE ON THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME TO TACKLE PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY, CRIMINALITY, AND ORGANISED CRIME – LONG TERM PREVENTION

NOVEMBER 2018



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Delivery Approach

We continue to focus on work to promote a culture of lawfulness and to address the societal issues that can lead to people becoming involved in or under the influence of paramilitary gangs in the first place, particularly in relation to vulnerable young people.

Promoting Lawfulness is one of the key themes running through the programme as a whole. In the run-up to the programme conference and launch of the public awareness campaign, the Programme Team has been working with stakeholders and the Promoting Lawfulness sub-group to support a coordinated programme of events and activity on the theme of promoting lawfulness. As part of this, PCSPs facilitated showings of the Banjaxed play in local community settings, with follow up panel discussions on the issues raised. Promoting lawfulness was also a key theme of the NILGA conference on 28 September.

Our programme conference, 'Working Together to End the Harm' on 15-16 October included workshop sessions on promoting lawfulness and on support for vulnerable young people on day 1.

The workshop on promoting lawfulness, which was supported by the AG's team, included consideration of what is meant by the rule of law, how we can demonstrate that life can be better by respecting the rule of law, empowering communities in creating a culture of lawfulness and ways of supporting that work. The emphasis was on lawfulness and what it means to how society operates and communities are actively involved as citizens and not on law enforcement.

The workshop on young people focused on ways to prevent young people becoming involved in paramilitary activity; key themes emerging were the need to address the context in which young people are living, the need for early intervention and for joined up services to support families and young people. It was also recognised that a range of solutions are required to address the individual needs of young people. We are working to ensure that young people's voices and lived experience is directly involved in this work.



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Day 2 saw the launch of the public awareness campaign on PSAs and a panel discussion on the issues involved. This continued the discussion from day 1 and the core message emerging was the need for a full-society response and for all sectors of society to work together to address this issue.

Project Updates

Development of Curriculum materials (A2)

CCEA appointed a project manager to lead the Active Citizenship (Drama) project in August 2018. As at October 2018 eight animated online resources on citizenship and lawfulness have been developed in draft form under the following headings:

1. What is Citizenship?
2. What is Lawfulness?
3. Democracy and the Rule of Law
4. What is Justice?
5. The Role of the Northern Ireland Justice System
6. The role of the PSNI
7. Criminality and paramilitaries in communities
8. Staying safe and making choices

The Project Manager has engaged with a number of stakeholders to gauge interest in trialling the resources and initial feedback on their suitability. This work will continue throughout 2018/19.

NIO / Cinemagic

NIO has been working with Cinemagic and a number of other organisations including the Department of Education and CCEA to create a range of educational resources that will assist post-primary school teachers to explore curriculum based topics on the theme of lawfulness. CCEA has been involved in contextualising the resources and ensuring that they fit within the curriculum. A range of existing video resources have been used in approximately 15 schools to date. The evaluation of the educational resources to assist post-primary school teachers to explore curriculum based topics of the theme of lawfulness indicated that the resources were beneficial. Young people responded positively and



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engaged in discussion and debate on the various themes explored. Teachers advised that they felt the resources were beneficial and that the initiative should be made available to all post primary schools.

CCEA has now made the Cinemagic videos and resources available to schools via its website: (http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/key_stage_3/areas_learning/learning_life_and_work/local_and_global_citizenship/lawfulness). Evaluation feedback indicated that additional information about the Good Friday Agreement and an understanding of associated societal changes that came with this in terms of policing reforms, devolvement of justice related powers was required to assist with baseline knowledge. This additional material has now been developed, including a lesson workbook. This resource is also being made available on the CCEA web-site (using the link above) and there are discussions through the Lawfulness subgroup on how to maximise the reach and impact of this resource.

Cinemagic also commissioned the development of a short film, directed by Paul Smyth, in conjunction with a number of young people on the issue of Paramilitary Style Attacks. The video can be found here: <https://wiseabap.com/stop-attacks/>.

Awareness Campaign (A2)

The 'Ending the Harm' campaign was launched on Tuesday 16th October as Day 2 of the Programme's Working Together to End the Harm Conference. The launch event was attended by approximately 80 people from statutory and VCS organisations, along with media reps, and included a panel discussion on the issues associated with ongoing PSAs. The 4 ads went live after 9pm on Tuesday 16th on TV and the radio ads started on Cool FM on Wednesday 17th.

All the campaign material is now showing on multiple platforms (including outdoor, online and social media) and a bespoke website, www.endingtheharm.com, has been set up to provide further information and sources of support. The launch event generated a high level of media interest, both locally and nationally with articles in all the local daily press and regional and national TV and radio coverage including Radio 4's Today Programme, Radio 1 Newsbeat and LBC Radio. Early feedback shows the campaign is landing well and encouraging a wider public discourse on the issue.



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We also organised a series of 22 performances (to date) of the Banjaxed play in the run-up to the campaign launch as part of the wider public narrative on the issue. All the performances, which were well attended and received, included a panel discussion on the issues raised within the play, including PSAs.

Training for teachers and youth workers to support young people at risk (A4)

The Education Authority has developed the START programme, which incorporates the work to deliver on commitment A4, along with other work funded by the EA in support of tackling paramilitarism. This includes the development of a Justice, Crime and Citizenship course at Level 1 and Level 2, which has been accredited through OCNNI for delivery to one group of young people in each area and delivery of Theatre of Witness workshops, which commenced in September in 28 schools across the eight areas (both funded by the EA). The Capacity-building programme is continuing in Larne/Carrickfergus and Conlig/Kilcooley/Clandeboye. Independent research, being carried out by UU, is continuing and an Evaluation Framework to measure initial impact of the EA projects is being developed.

Delivery of youth intervention programmes targeted at vulnerable young people (A4)

The Youth Outreach Programme is being delivered in eight areas to support vulnerable young people, their peer group and families. A Peripatetic Outdoor Education Instructor, funded by the EA, has been appointed to support projects.

Examples of work in each area are provided below:

- A Family Support project in Holy Trinity YC and St Peter's Immaculata YC commenced in April 2018, working with young people with severe involvement in drug dealing and alcohol misuse. Parents have engaged in a programme of support and skills development around stress, anger management, employment, money management and health issues.
- A Mentoring Programme commenced in Holy Family YC with young people involved in drug taking and low level criminality and who have issues around anger management and violence.
- A programme of life coaching, counselling and mentoring of vulnerable young people is ongoing in Greater Shankill/Woodvale area through StreetBeat YC.



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- A pilot programme commenced 1st September in Brandywell/Creggan providing one to one support through counselling, life coaching, mentoring or complementary therapy sessions.

A range of summer programmes were delivered in each of the 8 areas for the core groups and for sibling/peer groups:

Community Plans include a focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness (A6)

Community Plans can provide a mechanism to bring together a range of Partner bodies to identify actions and activities that can contribute to building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness. The partnerships are working to identify and develop outcomes that will influence an action plan to build community confidence in the rule of law by means of workshops or events.

Newry Mourne & Down and Fermanagh & Omagh districts have held Embedding Lawfulness Participatory Budgeting events. The immediateness of the event highlighted how participants can develop and improve their neighbourhood by engaging positively in community activities. The event was also used as a platform for networking between community groups from diverse backgrounds.

Causeway Coast & Glens Antrim & Newtownabbey and Mid & East Antrim have held events at which council members, community and voluntary sector representatives and PCSP members were briefed.

Review of protocols for engagement with representatives of paramilitary groups (A8)

The Programme Team wrote out to relevant stakeholders and a meeting was held on 19 June to explore how key stakeholders might reinvigorate this work, noting the potential for limitations in the absence of Ministers to take decisions on what would be considered a sensitive policy issue. The meeting provided an opportunity to begin to unpack the complexities associated with the recommendation and to consider possible next steps.



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A paper was subsequently agreed by the Programme Board in August outlining proposed next steps on this action.

Dedicated unit to ensure a joined up approach to delivering this programme (B7/D4)

The Programme Board, with its extended membership, met in August and October. The Programme Team completed work on a costed delivery plan, setting out milestones, earmarked funding allocations and outcomes for each commitment from 2018/19 onwards, and this has been shared with the IRC. The delivery plan is intended to be a living document and will be further developed as plans are finalised for all commitments. Baselines have also been developed for programme indicators, against which to monitor impact and progress in future years. This includes measures of public perceptions of paramilitary activity, which were included in the NI Life and Times Survey. The Survey questions are being repeated in 2018 and fieldwork is currently underway. Data will be available in April 2019.

We hosted the conference, 'Working Together to End the Harm' on 15-16 October, which included the launch of the public awareness campaign. We also worked with the PCSPs to support the showing of the Banjaxed play and follow up discussions to support a wider discourse on promoting lawfulness. We continue to use the programme twitter account to provide information to the public about the programme and engage in a wider discourse and have over 700 followers, with an increase achieved following the launch of the public awareness campaign. We continue to regularly brief the five main political parties (most recently in September 2018) and have set up a cross-party reference group for this purpose.

The programme sub-groups also continue to meet and are having valuable conversations which are beginning to lead to concrete action. The Communities, Transition and Learning sub-group, which has been extended to include VCS delivery partners, met on 30 August and the Lawfulness group met on 25 July and 24 October.

Aspire Programme for young men (B12)

In total, 168 statutory referrals have been received since September 2017 and a total of 141 non stat referrals to date.

Participants have been referred to a wide range of VCS services for support, including Princes Trust, Extern Igynte, Reading Room, Ascertain, Start 360, Springboard, Nexus, Victim



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and Survivor Services, Drug Outreach Team/Community Addiction Teams, Family support Hubs, and Housing Rights. There is also involvement with the Learning Disability Team and 16+ Team and CFMHT. Mentoring services have provided assistance with benefits, accommodation, social isolation, employment support and training, financial skill development, and developing independent living skills, registering with GP and support with medical appointments. There have been 3 referrals to Barnardo's for support with parenting services.

Some examples of achievements to date include:

- A few individuals achieved full time employment/obtaining placement in MAC Theatre.
- Many have obtained independent accommodation.
- Some have achieved completion of CSR card, qualifications in catering/mechanics and merchandising to promote employability.
- Meaningful engagement with Barnardo's – evidence of developing insight of impact of offending on children/developing parenting skills, improved relationships and family dynamics.
- A number of clients have successfully completed work with addiction services.
- Positive engagement in goal setting/Victim Awareness work/Anger Management – feedback from men reflect positive impact.

Cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people being drawn into paramilitary activity (B13)

A team member has been appointed to the Programme Team to lead work on this commitment.

The postholder continues stakeholder discussions and engagements and other programme development work and discussions have been convened with relevant policy leads and practitioners on relevant issues impacting young people; including linkages to B4. A paper on a proposed programme framework was presented to the Programme Board in August 2018.

Key issues are the added value of a B13 programme and ensuring joined up working across partners and organisations and existing programmes.



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Improve educational and employment prospects of children and young people in deprived communities – overcome barriers to participation in further education (D1)

Building on the Department for the Economy's research on 'Barriers to participation and progression in education', the Institute for Conflict Research has been appointed to carry out further research focussing specifically on identifying the main barriers to participation in education and employment which those at increased risk of paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime face, and establishing which types of education, training provision or paths to employment would be of interest to affected young people and the most suitable means of participation in and delivery of relevant provision.

This research is due for completion by January 2019 and will be published by the Department.

Beyond the specific focus of this action, the NI Executive secured EU PEACE IV funding for a major cross-border programme with the Irish Government under Children and Young People (Priority 2.1). Within Northern Ireland, this programme will closely align with the vision and objectives of the United Youth Programme as set out in the T:BUC Strategy. DfE is the NI Accountable Department for this strand of the PEACE IV Programme. The Programme will target 7,400 14-24 olds (6,000 in NI) who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalised; have deep social and emotional needs; and are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or paramilitary activity. It will enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. Delivery of the programme began in late 2017.

Improve educational and employment prospects of children and young people in deprived communities – promoting pupil attendance at school (D1)

Attendance at school

The Department of Education has been building on the launch of its attendance strategy in December 2016, which identified the need for tailored support for pupils where specific circumstances may be a barrier to attendance and attainment. Since then, the Department has produced a series of attendance posters highlighting this link and where pupils can seek help. A new Attendance Desk Aide issued to all schools in September 2017 and this was followed in Oct 2017 by an updated school circular which gives comprehensive guidance on managing attendance. The Desk Aide and DE Circular were updated and issued in



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September 2018. . A QUB / DE / schools workshop on the “Challenge of pupil attendance at school” took place on Monday 26 November 2018. The event celebrated the work achieved by schools to date, culminating in the publication of a good practice guide, illustrating how schools facing significant challenges are addressing the issue of pupil attendance within their schools.

Parental Engagement Campaign

DE’s launch of its new parental engagement campaign (Give your child a helping hand) took place between February and March 2018 and feedback was very positive. A link to the TV campaign can be found [here](#). A 2nd media burst took place in September / October 2018 and a 3rd is planned for January / February 2019. Subtitled versions of the campaign advert have been provided in 12 languages. Additionally, the Department launched a new “Play Matters” campaign in August 2018 to emphasise the importance of playing with your child from an early age and the positive impact this can have on outcomes. The video for the campaign can be viewed [here](#).

Improve educational and employment prospects of children and young people in deprived communities – Buy Social

The Buy Social Unit’s quarterly monitoring analysis has tracked the following results in the last quarter (based on those NETs for whom postcode data is currently available):

- 23 people who live in NRAs have secured employment this quarter (April 2018 = 57 people, July 2018 = 73 people, October = 96 people)
- 8 people who live in a B4 area have secured employment this quarter (April 2018 = 18 people, July 2018 = 21 people, October = 29 people)

In September, ten men from the ExternWorks programme were welcomed on to Graham/Farrans’ A6 Dualling site to learn about careers in the construction industry. The A6 road project includes Buy Social clauses which require the contractor to deliver social value as part of the contract. Buy Social introduced ExternWorks to the construction company, and worked with both organisations to arrange the site visit. Buy Social initiated the visit to encourage partnership working, to support people who are furthest removed from the labour market and showcase the variety of career paths available in construction.



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Buy Social has also been involved in EA's construction procurement for the build of St Mary's Youth Club in Derry/Londonderry. They have worked with both the commissioner and client and have now included specific clauses for people at risk of offending with St Mary's Youth Club named as the broker. They will continue to support the client throughout the delivery, which often includes providing support and advice to the contractor as they work to meet the Buy Social requirements.