**Policy and Communications Meeting Minutes**

**7 March 2016**

 **Present:** Gerard Deane (Chair), Leon Litvack, Norman Hamilton, Allan Leonard, Katie Hanlon, Libby Keys, Peter Osborne

**In Attendance:** Dympna McGlade, Jacqueline Irwin, Ellana Tomasso, Gemma Attwood

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Brendan McAllister, Jonny Byrne and Don Mackay

1. **Reconciliation Paper presented by Robin Wilson**

Robin Wilson joined the meeting to give a presentation on his Reconciliation paper. A roundtable will be held on 23 March to inform the paper going forward.

Robin Wilson gave a brief overview of his background and experience in reconciliation and research.

Dr Wilson gave a brief synopsis of his research so far giving a possible definition of reconciliation *“reconciliation is the inclusion of the other within the self”*, as well as highlighting some of the work from creative arts and sporting organisations that has been hugely important in reconciliation work.

Dr Wilson produced 10 principles for reconciliation work, and emphasised that we need a new language for community relations work to make it part of the broader debate. Four points were raised in relation to the paper:

1. Is the definition all encompassing or is it more complex with many more layers.
2. Understanding cosmopolitanism – do we need to find out more about communities and what they are about.
3. Shared Future, CSI and TBUC – there are differences between these three policies and it’s important that one is not seen as being better than others, and how we engage this will be important.
4. Principles of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence easy to understand – so need principles that are straightforward and understandable.

Jacqueline Irwin gave a short background to this project and emphasised that at the heart of this work is a need for a set of practical principles that may be challenging in delivery but are easy to understand and underline the fact that life is richer when we accept and appreciate others with different views.

The Chair thanked Dr Wilson for his contribution and encouraged Members to send him any further comments.

The Committee had a discussion about the paper and felt that reconciliation was more than the individual and had to include societal reconciliation as not everyone would wish to be reconciled but that could not be used as a reason for reconciliation not to happen.

It was felt that the principles of reconciliation should be more like guidelines such as the Decade principles. It is very important that key points should emphasise the need for reconciliation as without it, everything else can fall apart. The key points also should be user friendly and practical to help inspire people to do reconciliation work.

The Committee were given options in how to take this forward and it was suggested that the Terms of Reference and Tender document will be looked at to move this paper forward. Committee members were asked to send any comments they have on this to Dympna McGlade who will pull them into a paper to send to Dr Wilson prior to the roundtable on 23 March.

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Leon Litvack was present at the previous meeting.

1. **Matters Arising**

Page 1 - Thematic Issues paper was on the agenda for today’s meeting.

Page 2 – Priority themes will be discussed at Council meeting

Page 4 – See above – Robin Wilson’s paper

Page 4 – Community Engagement Forum meeting to be held on 10 March.

1. **Chair’s Business**

Patricia O’Neill and Ellana Tomasso were thanked for their assistance in Ray Mullan’s absence.

1. **Communications and Learning Updates**

The Statistics paper was handed out for information.

1. **Consultations and Commissioned Work**

There are no consultations this month.

ICR have been commissioned to look at work on peacebuilding in the women’s sector. There has been a large amount of work carried out on this by women’s groups over the years, and ICR are pulling the recommendations together to identify any gaps. Women’s groups will also be consulted on this. The deadline for this work is end of May. However, ICR will be asked to present their findings to the Policy and Communications Committee at its next meeting on 12 May.

The Detail has also been commissioned to carry out some research on Paramilitarism and its Impact on Peacebuilding. They are currently having meetings with the sector and individuals to carry this work forward.

Galvanising the Peace – Neil Jarman is redrafting the Galvanising the Peace paper following a meeting with the sub group and Dympna McGlade is currently drafting an accompanying paper with recommendations for actions.

1. **TBUC Monitor**

Gemma Attwood presented this paper to the Committee (see paper)

The TBUC Community Engagement Forum is holding its first meeting on 10 March chaired by Mark Browne from OFMDFM.

The Department have been asked to provide CRC with information on the meetings taking place on TBUC.

1. **Advocacy Plan**

Dympna McGlade presented this paper to the Committee giving a short overview of the plan. It was suggested that consultations will be discussed further with Council as part of its Governance discussions. Ms McGlade will circulate the paper to Council for information at this point.

10. Policy Themes Paper

It was agreed that Ms McGlade would discuss this paper at the Council at its away day on Friday 11 March. Jacqueline will consider where best this item will fit on the agenda.

1. **AOB**

The annual temperature check will be carried out shortly, this gives CRC an idea of what issues are coming up on the ground over the next few months, and how CRC can be of support to groups.

It was suggested that the PSNI should be invited to the next Community Engagement Forum meeting in June to see if they can feed into the temperature check on a regional basis.

It was also acknowledged that it was Katie Hanlon and Leon Litvack’s last meeting, they were thanked for their contribution to the Committee.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

12 May 2016