

## **Appendix A**

Appendix A illustrates a range of work in relation to parading, cultural diversity supported and financed through CRC programmes.

### **FUNDING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

CRC's Core and CR/CD Grants Scheme has directed significant resources towards dealing with community conflicts which arise as a result of contentious parades along interface areas.

#### **Mobile Phone Networks**

Over the past 10 years CRC commissioned research into the benefits of developing mobile phone networks involving community activists working in interface areas. One of the main outcomes of this early research was to develop CRC support to community activists in the creation of information networks across interfaces. The work of all the mobile phone networks has been aimed at the prevention of community conflict through on-going dialogue between community leaders.

The main learning which has been fed back to CRC via its funded groups has been:

1. The quality of the relationships between community representatives has a significant impact on their ability to deal with conflict within their respective communities.
2. Facilitated dialogue through regular meetings between community representatives throughout the year is essential. Waiting until May or June to discuss issues such as parades/protests is seen as very difficult given the heightened tensions that arise during this time to secure agreements.
3. There need to be agreed protocols between communities for how they are going to exchange information and how they are going to deal with the aftermath of any incidents.
4. It is vital that those in positions of community leadership and influence are involved in any process and that there has to be equal authority to influence for the respective participants from each community.
5. Mobile Phone Networks are only as effective as the quality of the relationships between those involved; they are a tool for improving dialogue but should not be seen in isolation.

#### **Summer Intervention Programme**

In addition to the support of Mobile Phone Networks CRC has developed a range of support provided to community and voluntary groups mainly during the summer period. In 09/10 CRC awarded approximately £100k towards work aimed at reducing the potential for community conflict, as well as providing an opportunity for communities to begin to address the underlying issues of the conflict. In addition to this CRC also provided Core Funding support totalling £630k to a range of groups working within and between interface communities and those involved in managing and mediating flashpoint parades & protests.

#### **Youth Diversionary Programmes**

CRC has developed a range of support for Youth Diversionary programmes which enables participants to reflect on community relations themes. This work involves a range of activities including arts & media based projects, residential programmes, visits to sites of cultural and historical significance for both communities, cultural diversity workshops and CR training programmes.

CRC believes strongly that it is vitally important to engage those young people most likely to be involved in community conflict in work that gives them the opportunity to reflect not only their own identity and experiences but which also connects them with similar young people from other communities. Whilst we recognise the need in emergency situations for programmes that simply provide recreational diversions for young people, feedback from the groups we work with has overwhelmingly advocated for a longer term, more in-depth, engagement with young people which is much more successful in producing long term change. It is also worth noting that this longer term view also prevents the creation of the impression that bad behaviour receives immediate and significant reward.

### **Community Festival Events**

CRC supports a range of community festival events which seek to provide a positive space through which communities can come together particularly during times of tension. As is the case with the youth diversionary programmes the Council supports those events that aim to enable communities to positively explore their own cultures and traditions and where appropriate that of others traditions and beliefs.

CRC, in partnership with Belfast City Council, community organisations and Groundwork Northern Ireland, have been developing a Bonfire Beacon programme which aims to reduce the environmental and sometimes negative communal impact that some traditional bonfires have. CRC has supported projects such as the Woodvale/Cambria Youth and Community Association to develop a creative alternative to a series of bonfire events that traditionally take place in the Woodvale area. These events have often had a negative impact on the community in terms of anti-social behaviour, interface violence and environmental damage.

Part of this work involved an all day event which included workshops on identity, cultural traditions, Lambeg & Samba drumming, storytelling, Graffiti Art and Ulster Scots music & dance. Various stalls were hosted by the Emergency Services as well as local community groups who promoted the work they are doing in the area. This is an example of how creative, positive alternatives can be created for and by communities which assist in the reduction and prevention of community conflict.

### **CRC CORE FUNDING SCHEME**

CRC core funds a number of groups whose work is directly related to parading issues. Below is an example of some of their work which has been supported via CRC's Core Funding Scheme

#### **Belfast Interface Project**

BIP supported the development of the Whitewell Youth Mediation Project (20 participants and partnered with Two Parks Project, Whitewell Transformation Project & Intercomm) up to the end of August 2009 and were funded by Belfast City Council Peace III small grants to host 3 presentations on the value of this approach to PUL community workers in Springmartin Community Centre, to CRN workers in Short Strand Community Centre and to CRN and PUL community workers at Intercomm.

BIP also commissioned the publication 'Local Accommodation: Effective practice in responding to disputes to parades' which focused on parade disputes outside of Belfast.

## **Interaction Belfast**

Springfield Intercommunity Forum (SIF) was formed in 2001 as a network of community activists which work on both sides of the Springfield/ Falls/ Shankill interface in West Belfast. Many of the activists within SIF are also phone holders in the Mobile Phone Network (MPN) established in 1998 with a view to reducing and preventing violence along the interface.

SIF's work on the interface covers four core areas:

1. Transforming relationships and resolving differences
2. Reducing conflict and violence
3. Increasing community capacity and
4. Exploring diversity

## **Mediation Northern Ireland**

The Policing & Justice work contains 5 independent projects which are to assist the evolution of policing and justice as a shared endeavour between police officers, the legal sector and citizens in order that mediation and mediative approaches will be further embedded in delivery within the sector.

1. District Policing Partnership: This project builds on the learning from the previous DPP problem-solving pilot project and will enhance the delivery of statutory DPP functions.
2. Youth Conference Service: Within this project MNI develops the effective delivery of the "Making It Right" curriculum for young offenders and will continue its support to the Youth Justice Agency's restorative practice.
3. Police Ombudsman: This project will assist OPONI's delivery of, and implementation of learning from, its pilot mediation service.
4. Critical Incident Training: This project's aim is to continue providing insight from a community perspective for police officers training in handling critical incidents.
5. Legal Mediation: This project will deliver Continued Professional Development (CPD) training opportunities for mediators in the legal sector. It will also create and facilitate a Mediation Working Group to consider strategic development of mediation in the sector.

## **REACT**

REACT is involved in a number of initiatives in Armagh aimed at reducing tension and creating better relationships in and between communities and between communities and statutory bodies.

### *1. Flags and Banners Project*

The aim is to replace flags in Armagh (Gaol Square) with those reflecting history of local PUL community. The project currently involves 30 young men and REACT aim to expand this work to other areas in Armagh.

In 2009, meetings were held with those who erect the flags, local groups, PSNI and Council. 6 banners were designed, printed and erected by the same young men who would have erected the contentious flags. The young men who were involved in this project have now established a group to address issues on flags & bonfires to would like to extend the project to estates where flags are normally erected. This work is set to continue in 2010.

## 2. *Work on Bonfires issues*

In 2009, REACT facilitated meetings in June & July between Council and young men who build bonfires in the Folly area of Armagh. A bonfire plan was agreed by all parties for the Folly area and a group was established to look at the issues of bonfires & flags with aim of developing more family-friendly event. Again, this work is set to continue in 2010.

## 3. *Bands Forum Model*

REACT has partnered with Armagh Bands Forum in the development of a bands forum model. This work has been hugely successful with further networks now established in Lisburn, Craigavon, Newry and Mourne and Banbridge. REACT is sharing this model to help ensure that the work leads to peaceful and less contentious parades across Northern Ireland. This work has been highlighted in Armagh City and District Council promotional material as a model of good practice.

## 4. *Interface work*

REACT is working at interfaces in Armagh to try to reduce tension. One example of success has been the reduction of violence incidents between GAA fans travelling on buses through loyalist areas and attacks on buses travelling through republican areas en route to parades. It is fair to say that these incidences were a 'regular occurrence' and now are quite rare.

## **The Nerve Centre**

The Nerve Centre has produced *The Symbols Interactive Experience* - a series of three educational resources exploring major symbols of cultural identity in Northern Ireland today. These interactive resources look at the history and continuing significance of major events, highlighting common themes. They combine text, photographs, images and illustrations with film archive, period music, video and audio. Contributors include historians, politicians, journalists, community workers, poets, writers, public servants and school pupils.

**1916 – Lest We Forget** CD-Rom explores the symbolism of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising, events which shaped the history of twentieth century Ireland. The memory of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising lives on today in the annual rituals of remembrance; in flags, banners, memorials and wall murals; and within symbols such as the Poppy and the Easter lily. The resource is aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils.

**1798: Myth and Memory** CD-Rom explores the symbolism of the 1798 Rebellion and examines the culture and ideals of the United Irish movement. This CD-Rom offers an interactive experience of the enduring legacy of the United Irishmen – in music, film, monuments, murals and art. Beginning with the first nationalist histories of the rebellion, 1798: Myth and Memory traces the journey of the United Irishmen from secular revolutionaries to nationalist martyrs, venerated by Church and State. The bi-centenary celebrations of 1998 saw a new vision emerge with the 1790's re-discovered as a decade of Ulster Presbyterian radicalism. For the first time in two centuries northern unionists commemorated the rebellion in significant numbers. Key Stage 3 and 4

**1690: A Culture on Parade** is a DVD exploring the culture and identity of the Loyal Orders. The Orange Order, the Royal Black Institution and the Apprentice Boys of Derry have over 50,000 members in Northern Ireland and have a strong historical, religious, cultural and political role. Through a series of

interviews with leading members of the Orders, rank and file members, politicians, commentators and Human Rights activists, 1690: A Culture On Parade offers an insight into the role and function of the Orders within their own community and examines various perceptions of them in wider society. The DVD structure allows almost two hours of information to be accessed and navigated in a series of short, focused films examining a range of issues. The resource is aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CRC's Chief Executive has been directly involved in mediation with a number of groups:

- North and West Belfast Parades and Cultural Forum
- Springfield Road Residents Group (in relation to the Whiterock Parade during 2006/2007 and 2008)

He also served as an independent advisor to the Strategic Review of Parading Group between 2007-2009.