

# The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Newsletter

#endingtheharm

Winter/Spring  
2019



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## A Collaborative Approach

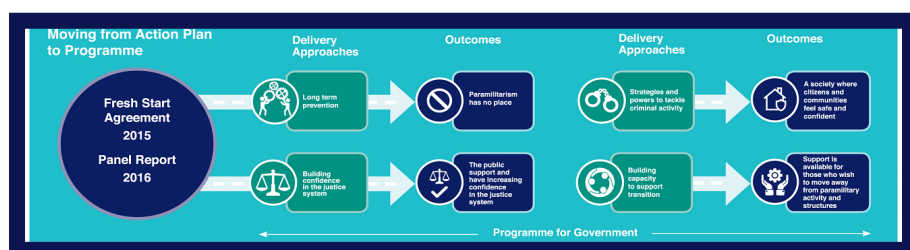
WELCOME to the 3rd edition of the the Harm public awareness cam-  
Tackling Paramilitarism Programme paign on so-called paramilitary style  
newsletter. Over the past few months attacks, to the ongoing work of the  
we have seen substantial progress Paramilitary Crime Taskforce and  
across the four main delivery ap- the Education Authority's Youth out-  
proaches within the Tackling Paramili- reach workers, the Tackling Paramili-  
tarism Programme. tarism Programme is making a posi-

From the launch of the Department tive impact in local communities.  
of Education and CCEA's education There are now more than 55 organisa-  
resources for schools based on the tions from the public sector and in  
themes of 'Active Citizenship' and local communities contributing to the  
'Culture of Lawfulness' and the Ending delivery of the 38 commitments as we

“If we all play our part  
and work together to  
better our community  
– great things can  
happen.”

recognise that a meaningful approach  
to tackling paramilitary activity can  
only be achieved through a multi-  
faceted approach to delivery.

Collaboration with community part-  
ners, local communities and subject  
matter experts is essential. It is only  
by working together that we can end  
the harm caused by paramilitaries and  
associated criminality.





## CCEA Resources Launch

L to R: Debra Whyte, Programme Team, Teresa Robb, CCEA, and Laura McCurdy, Cinemagic

THE Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), has recently launched new Active Citizenship resources in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Cinemagic.

Linking directly to the Local and Global Citizenship component of the NI Curriculum, the resources examine topics such as democracy and lawfulness;

the impact of organised crime and paramilitaries; and how students can make a positive contribution to their community and society.

Speaking at the launch of the resources recently, Justin Edwards, CCEA

CEO, said: *"CCEA has produced these resources in order to support teachers in the delivery of citizenship in schools and to promote the important role that lawfulness has to play in our communities and the wider society."*

There are eight units covering a range of topics including: 'What is Lawfulness?', 'What is Justice?' and 'Criminality and Paramilitaries' amongst other themes. There is also a specific lesson plan based on the Programme's 'Ending the Harm' public awareness campaign on paramilitary style assaults.



Some of the actors taking part in the stage version of the play 'A Stone's Throw' during a recent performance at SERC

Local and Global Citizenship (LGC) is a key component of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the basis for promoting Active Citizenship in schools.

CCEA has developed a series of animations and lesson plans to provide teachers with practical classroom teaching and learning strategies.

The resources are FREE to all and are available on the [CCEA website](https://www.ccea.org.uk/).



## 'A Stone's Throw'

### An Short Educational Film by Cinemagic



A SHORT educational film 'A Stone's Throw', which was produced by Cinemagic, was also launched at the event.

The film, featuring local actors, focuses on the themes of risk and consequences associated with anti-social behaviour and the positive impact youth clubs and youth workers can have.

It has already received positive feedback for its authenticity and for driving home a very strong message to young people about the consequences of breaking the law which is part of the wider programme theme of promoting a culture of lawfulness.

'A Stone's Throw' has also been adapted for the stage and schools will also be able to use the resources to put on their own production of the play.

Cinemagic Project Executive, Laura McCurdy, said: "We are very proud of all of the young people involved in the project

*and their dedication and enthusiasm has shone through from the beginning.*

*"With support from CCEA, Cinemagic has been able to provide an invaluable creative experience and one which is results-focused and will have longevity with the development of the educational resources to benefit school children and teachers across Northern Ireland".*

The film is also available on the [CCEA website](#).



A scene from the film which was supported by Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

# #EndingTheHarm

# Campaign Update



THE most recent phase of the Ending the Harm public awareness campaign has come to an end.

The hard-hitting, multi-media campaign about the brutal reality of so-called paramilitary style attacks (PSAs) is aimed at highlighting the devastating impact of PSAs on victims, their families, local communities and wider society by telling the story of a paramilitary style shooting from the points of view of the victim, his mother, the paramilitary gang member and a witness.

The campaign material also includes radio adverts from the same points of view and a poster of a badly beaten man. The call to action is to visit a bespoke campaign website, [www.endingtheharm.com](http://www.endingtheharm.com) which has a number of sections including some real-life stories and information on

where people can go for help and support.

Commenting on the campaign, Debra Whyte, the Programme's Communications and Engagement Manager, said: "The campaign has been a great success to date. We wanted to challenge levels of implicit acceptability and complacency of the issue, and highlight the devastating impact of PSAs on victims, local communities and wider society. We also wanted to demonstrate the brutal reality of these attacks and encourage a public conversation about this issue.

"We will be carrying out some research to gauge reaction to the campaign however we are really pleased with the positive impact it has had already. It has generated a high level of interest and public conversation on

social media platforms and on the ground, with a number of stakeholders reporting that the campaign has given them the opportunity to discuss an issue that has always been very difficult to approach given the sensitivities around it.

"The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has also developed a teaching resource which includes a lesson plan based on the campaign material.

"The campaign continues to perform well on social media platforms and almost 130,000 people have visited the website since it was launched. Debra added: "We're really pleased with the impact this campaign has had and would like to thank everyone who has supported it.

"Although the TV and radio ads are now over, the website will remain active and I would encourage everyone to continue to show their support. We are now considering the next steps for the campaign which is likely to run in the Autumn."

You can access all of the material on the [campaign website](http://www.endingtheharm.com).

# Highlighting WICT and Engage on International Women's Day

THE Tackling Paramilitarism Programme recognises that women are at the heart of every community and as such have an important role to play in building a better society within which everyone can feel safe and confident.

On International Women's Day we took the opportunity to highlight two Tackling Paramilitarism Programme projects which are specifically aimed at women.

Women Involved in Community Transformation project (**WICT**) is a project aimed at developing participation and influence in community development. The project also supports the development of influential relationships, increasing participation in political structures and growing civic leadership from neighbourhood level.

More than 500 women have participated in Phase 1 of the project, delivered by a consortium of community and voluntary sector organisations

working with the Department for Communities, and 425 are now signed up for Phase 2.

Speaking at our 'Working Together to End the Harm' conference, one of the participants talked about the life changing impact the project has had.

She said: "I was delighted to enrol on



Some of the WICT participants at a recent event

the WICT programme. I would go as far as saying it saved my life."

Around 50 women are also involved in the **Engage** project delivered by PBNi in partnership with Start360.

The project is aimed at ensuring that women in the criminal justice system are equipped with the resilience to

withstand the pressure of paramilitary influence when they exit the system, and it takes a holistic approach, including generic counselling, trauma work, addressing addiction issues, family services, domestic and sexual violence, mental health issues and the impact of living in communities affected by paramilitarism.

Feedback from participants indicates that the Engage programme is having a positive impact. Many of the women have highlighted the pervasive and damaging impact paramilitaries have had on them, their families and wider communities and this is helping to provide them with the skills and ability to withstand these negative influences.

It shows that the programme is helping women to build resilience, improve their lives and make a positive contribution to their communities.

## FWIN Conference for International Women's Day

Julie Harrison, Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Director, attended the Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN) conference on 11<sup>th</sup> March at the Guildhall, Derry, to mark International Women's Day. Julie highlighted the positive impact of the WICT programme during the conference which was attended by more than 200 women. Other issues on the agenda included women's rights, women in communities, diversity, domestic violence and women in rural areas.

## WICT participants visit UN Headquarters

Some of the WICT project participants recently travelled to the United Nations Headquarters in New York to share their stories at the CSW63 (2019) event, the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Although not funded through the programme, it's encouraging to see the opportunities opening up for the participants and their willingness to engage in such a positive way. Click [here](#) to find out more.



## Number of people charged after Paramilitary Crime Task Force search and arrest operations

OFFICERS from the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF) recently conducted two significant search and arrest operations against the criminal activities of the East Belfast UVF.

Searches were carried out in the Greater Belfast, Ards and Comber areas on Friday 22 March. Further searches were then carried in north and east Belfast, Newtownabbey and Newtownards on Friday 30 March.

Eleven men, aged between 22 and 48, were arrested following the first operation.

Officers also seized £15,000 of suspected Class A drugs, a number of high value vehicles, high end jewellery, clothing and accessories and a significant quantity of cash.

Four men were charged to appear at Belfast Magistrate's Court on Saturday 23 March. Three of the men, aged 29, 39 and 27 were charged with supplying cocaine.

During their appearance the court was told the UVF had been "flooding the streets of Belfast" with drugs. A police officer told the court the alleged drug-dealing operation is linked to the East Belfast UVF, which, he

added, "consistently uses violence".

A 22-year-old man who also appeared in court accused of drugs offences was released on bail.

The judge ruled that the case against him was a "standalone" case and separate from the other three.

Four men, aged 32, 47 and two 48 year olds, who were also arrested during the operation, are expected to appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court on Thursday 18 April, charged with being concerned in the supply of a class A drug.

A 34-year-old man faces a charge of unlawfully obtaining and disclosing personal data.

Another man, aged 33, is expected to

appear at Belfast Magistrate's Court on 18 April, charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A controlled drugs.

A 40-year-old man arrested on suspicion of possession of a class B drug, intimidation and improper use of electronic communications has been released pending report to the Public Prosecution Service.

A further six people were charged with drug offences after the second police operation.

A 46-year-old woman and five men, aged between 24 and 40 are also due to appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court on Thursday 18 April.

All charges are subject to review by the Public Prosecution Service.



The recent search and arrest operation carried out by the PCTF



Jorge Rodriguez, Sergeant Pat Robinson, Chief Constable George Hamilton, TJ Jordan and Constable Michael Allen

# The Together Project



THE PSNI recently held a training event for officers and representatives from local Police and Community Safety Partnerships, local councils and Health Trusts to help develop their problem solving skills as part of the Together Project.

The Together Project is a bespoke intervention training package which provides police and partner agencies with opportunities to develop their skills when it comes to problem solving and supporting community empowerment. It recognises that visibility, meaningful engagement and activity linked to problem solving are critical to the development of trust and confidence when it comes to policing in those communities most impacted by the threat of paramilitary activity and coercive control.

Seventy delegates attended the four-day workshop which focussed on Engagement, Coaching/Mentoring and Clinical Therapy. It was delivered by international facilitators Robert Örell, a Senior EXIT worker and member of the steering committee of the EU RAN programme from Sweden, and Jorge Rodriguez and TJ Jordan, from Engage 2 Empower, Chicago.

Inspector Cheryl Johnston, from the PSNI's Policing with the Community Branch, explained: *"The Together Project, which is funded through the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme and is delivered by the PSNI's Policing with the Community Branch, is a unique intervention training package to enhance confidence and trust in policing.*

*"It recognises the complexities of those areas still impacted by paramilitary activity and the need for a longer term commitment by officers and staff beyond the daily provision of 'routine' policing activity. Targeted intervention which is carried out in a consistent and sustainable manner is also vital and this project further enhances our ability to do this so that we can work together to keep communities safe."*

Constable Michael Allen, who organised the event, added: *"Those who took part learnt that every single person has vulnerabilities and we need to be aware of this when dealing with vulnerable people to keep them safe in our communities."*

For further information contact Constable Allen via email: [michael.allen3@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:michael.allen3@psni.pnn.police.uk)

# Attorney General's 'It's Your Law' Programme

**THE** 'It's Your Law' programme is part of the Attorney General's public legal education initiative and the latest numbers show that 217 young people have participated so far.

The programme, which is delivered in partnership with the Prince's Trust, consists of workshop style sessions about law, lawfulness and the justice

system which are fun, interactive and informative.

The Attorney General, John Larkin QC, leads the sessions, aiming to justify and enhance the young people's sense of ownership of our law through promoting the rule of law, building a justified confidence in the justice system and promoting active citizenship as an aspect of developing a culture of lawfulness.

He explained: "As a community and as individuals we all need law, but it is not always obvious that we do.

"In the 'It's Your Law' programme we have the chance to talk about the

need for law, the challenges to, and for, law, and the limitations of law. I'm very grateful to all of those who have participated in 'It's Your Law' for their frank, insightful and hard-hitting contributions."

There is a focus on those who are at risk of influence from paramilitary/organised crime.

The Prince's Trust is also involved through three of its post 16 programmes: Fairbridge, TEAM and Young Ambassadors, and the Achieve Club, its in-school programme.



The Attorney General, John Larkin QC, speaks to pupils at Hazelwood Integrated College

## Young people design 'Ending The Harm' poster

**YOUNG** people involved in DfC's lawfulness project with NI National Citizen Service have designed a poster linked to the Ending The Harm campaign which will be rolled out to schools across Northern Ireland.

Programme Manager, Colm Fanning, from Co-operation Ireland, said the participants now have a new-found awareness of the issue and why it's important to their future.

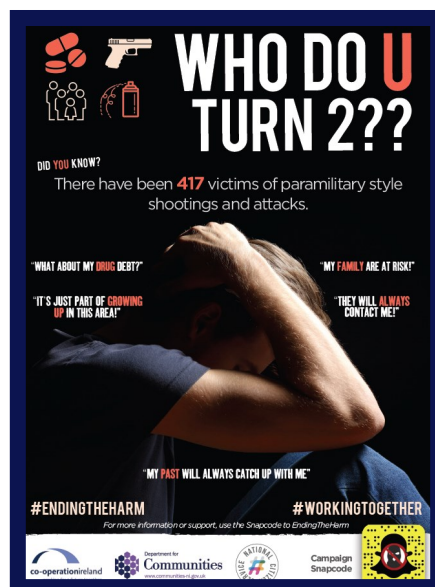
He explained: "At the beginning the young people looked at the Ending

the Harm campaign as something that wasn't particularly relevant to

them. But, after time spent exploring the topic, the issues that came up began to resonate with them and they took the decision to devise a poster.

"The crux of the message was that if any of their peers were feeling threatened, help is there. It encouraged anyone who felt they were being coerced by paramilitaries to visit the Ending the Harm website where a

range of advice and support is available.



The poster designed by the young people



# Report on Perceptions of Paramilitarism

**THE** Department of Justice has recently published the Perceptions of Paramilitarism in Northern Ireland report.

The findings, which are from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, 2017, are based on the first in-depth questions looking at perceptions of paramilitary influence in local communities.

Commenting on the research, Anthony Harbinson, from the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board, said: “It is really important that we understand the extent and impact of paramilitary activity in local communities and this survey provides us with data on which to build that understanding.

“The findings clearly show stronger paramilitary influence in mainly Loyalist and Republican communities, its negative impact on community safety and its links to crime, drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour.

“The findings also highlight the negative influence of paramilitaries, particularly on young people. These groups create fear through exerting coercive control in local communities and that is something that the Tackling Paramilitarism programme is firmly committed to addressing.

“It is important to note that most people do feel safe living in their areas and feel protected by the law and justice system but there are some parts of Northern Ireland where this is a real challenge and it is important to recognise and address this.

“This is the first time there have been in-depth questions about community perceptions on paramilitary influence in the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey and we will be monitoring the responses in the annual survey over the coming years.”

You can read the full publication [here](#).

## Some of the statistics

- 32% of those living in mainly Loyalist areas and 24% of those living in mainly Republican areas agree that paramilitary groups have a controlling influence on their area (NI 14%).
- 68% of those living in mainly Loyalist areas and 62% of those living in mainly Republican areas disagree that paramilitary groups keep their area safe (NI 81%).
- 29% of those living in mainly Loyalist areas and 24% of those living in mainly Republican areas agree that paramilitaries create fear and intimidation (NI 15%).
- 43% of those living in mainly Loyalist areas and 29% of those living in mainly Republican areas agree that Paramilitary groups contribute to crime, drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour (NI 22%).
- 32% of those from mainly Loyalist areas and 29% of those from mainly Republican areas agree that young people are being influenced too much by Paramilitary groups in their area (NI 17%).
- 42% of those from mainly Republican areas and 29% of those from mainly Loyalist areas agree that there is a lot of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour among young people in their area (NI 15%).

# PCSPs hold Culture of Lawfulness workshops

**FOUR** regional workshops were recently held with Policing & Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to look at the role of PCSPs in 'embedding a culture of lawfulness and improving confidence in the rule of law'.

The workshops were an opportunity for PCSP members to get together to discuss the issue and share ideas and learning.

Work taken forward in 2017/18 by PCSPs includes the development of Recommendation A6 of the Action Plan tasks the Department of Justice (DoJ) and NI Policing Board (NIPB) with ensuring that PCSPs focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness.

PCSPs also supported a series of performances of the play 'Banjaxed'. A total of 44 performances were delivered to more than 4,000 young people. The young people also took part in a panel discussion with representatives from DoJ, PSNI, the Youth Justice Agency and others.



Alistair Hughes, DfC, Lucy Geddes, Co-operation Ireland, Julie Harrison, Programme Team, Glenn Thomas, Belfast PCSP, and Michael McAvoy, DoJ

## Get in touch

We welcome your feedback.

If you want to get involved or find out more please get in touch.

### Contact Details:

Phone: 028 9037 8674 or 028 9052 0069

Email: [tppt@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tppt@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)

Find us on  @endingtheharm

You can also find more information on the programme at the following links:

[The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme](#)

[The Ending the Harm Campaign](#)

## Dates for your diary



Building Capacity to Support Communities in Transition

### Workshop on Communities in Transition Project

We have been working with your local community to come up with a plan to help support your area to transition away from paramilitary influence.

We want to take this opportunity to share details on proposed projects in your area with you and hear what you think.

We will be in your area on:

**DRUMGASK/KILWILKIE:** Monday 1 April 2019 - Ashburn Hotel, 7-9pm

**SHANKILL:** Tuesday 2 April 2019 - Farset International, 7-9pm

**RATHGILL/KILCOOLEY:** Wednesday 3 April 2019 - Signal Business Centre, 7-9pm

**CARRICK & LARNE:** Thursday 4 April 2019 - Carrickfergus Town Hall, 7-9pm

**THE MOUNT/BALLYMACARRETT:** Monday 8 April 2019 - East Belfast Community Network Centre, 7-9pm

**WEST BELFAST:** Tuesday 9 April 2019 - E3 Springvale Campus, 7-9pm

**NEW LODGE/ARDOYNE:** Wednesday 10 April 2019 - Clifton House, 7-9pm

**BRANDYWELL/CREGGAN:** Thursday 11 April 2019 - Holywell Trust, 7-9pm

Why not come along and find out how the Communities in Transition Project can support you and your community.

The Communities in Transition project is part of the Executive Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime.

