

**TACKLING PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY, CRIMINALITY
AND ORGANISED CRIME**

EXECUTIVE ACTION PLAN

**UPDATE ON DELIVERY – AUGUST 2019
(UP TO AND INCLUDING QUARTER ONE 2019/20)**

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STRATEGIES AND POWERS TO TACKLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

**Outcome: A society where citizens and
communities feel safe and confident**

| C1 | | |
|---|--|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k)¹ |
| The strategies and activity of the PSNI and other law enforcement agencies should be updated to reflect a shift in focus from 'paramilitary activity' to criminality. | Strategies and activity in this area will be updated by PSNI as appropriate to reflect the situation as informed by regular operational and strategic assessments. | 0 |
| For update see under C4 | | |
| C2 | | |
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Department of Justice should urgently review the legislation relating to serious and organised crime in Northern Ireland | The Department of Justice will commence a review of relevant legislation in July 2016. The review findings will then go out for consultation with a view to introducing draft legislation to the Assembly in the current mandate. | 0 |
| <p>A paper based review of existing organised crime legislation in other UK jurisdictions, as well as selected international jurisdictions, was completed and various models and options considered in respect of their potential application in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Draft legislative provisions were agreed following a preliminary workshop with operational colleagues from the NCA and PSNI. These were tested in a wider multi-agency workshop, held at the end of November 2018 with senior officials from the Scottish Government, PSNI, PPS, NCA, Police Scotland, Scottish Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), HMRC, Belfast City Council and the NI Housing</p> | | |

¹ Please note: The budget figures for 2019-20 are subject to change and will be updated following the conclusion of the January monitoring round.

Executive. The group considered if there were any changes or improvements to the current regime that would positively contribute to thwarting organised crime in the absence of new draft offences. Further bi-lateral meetings took place over the last quarter to identify and address potential issues with the draft legislative proposals.

Draft proposals have been prepared and the Department of Justice has now begun work on a public consultation document. However, in the absence of Ministers, it will not be possible to progress beyond consultation stage.

C4

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>The PSNI should prioritise investment in its investigative capacity for tackling criminality linked to paramilitary groups and work with the NCA and other agencies to tackle all organised crime linked to paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland</p> | <p>The Executive will urge the PSNI to prioritise investment in its investigative capacity. PSNI has submitted a funding proposal to create an additional dedicated investigative capacity to tackle criminality linked to paramilitary groups.</p> | <p>14340</p> |

The Paramilitary Crime Taskforce (PCTF), consisting of the PSNI, NCA and HMRC, was set up to provide a dedicated, co-located law enforcement response to tackle the particular issue of criminality related to paramilitary groups. Creating this dedicated investigative resource means that a long term consistent focus can be applied to the investigation of paramilitary groups.

The combined investigative resource of all three agencies has been focusing its efforts on:

- increasing understanding the activity of paramilitary linked Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs), and their criminal enterprises and networks;
- increasing the number of paramilitary linked OCGs frustrated, disrupted and dismantled;
- increasing the number and quantity of cash seizures / confiscations from paramilitary linked OCGs; and
- increasing the number of paramilitary linked offenders subject to Serious & Organised Crime Prevention Orders.

The PCTF has also been supporting wider community based strategies aimed at promoting a culture of lawfulness.

Summary of recent successes:
 Over the first quarter of 2019/20, as well as a significant PCTF operation in respect of West Belfast UDA in June:

- 6 convictions were secured;
- 30 searches were carried out;
- Over £20k of drugs were seized; and
- Over £27k of cash was restrained.

Since its inception, the PCTF has²:

- Confiscated £579 893 cash
- Restrained £260 250 cash
- Seized 35 vehicles
- Seized £525 030 of drugs
- Carried out 433 searches
- Arrested over 195 people
- Charged or reported 148 people to the Public Prosecution Service
- Secured 20 convictions/criminal justice outcomes

C6

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|--|--|---|
| <p>The NIEA, and the Environmental Protection Agency in Ireland, should be included in the cross-border Fresh Start Joint Agency Task Force, including the Operations Co-ordination Group</p> | <p>The Joint Agency Task Force will undertake a new strategic assessment in October 2016, and will again consider if it would benefit these agencies either joining the Task Force or participating during specific operations.</p> | <p>0</p> |

The PSNI continues to support NIEA activity operationally, and has invited the agency to participate in a multi-agency operation.

² These statistics are from April 2016 to March 2019 and are subject to change

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| C8 | | |
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The UK Government, the Executive and law enforcement agencies, working with their partners in Ireland, should ensure that tackling organised criminal activity is an integral part of their efforts to deal with NI related terrorism | The Executive supports this recommendation and affirms its commitment to continue and build upon existing efforts in this area. | 0 |
| For update see under C4 | | |
| Section A (<i>A Fresh Start</i>) | | |
| <i>A Fresh Start</i> provision | | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| A Fresh Start provided for “Measures to improve forensic capabilities to enable evidence to be secured more effectively”. | | 500 |
| Specialist forensics equipment to support drugs testing which was agreed as required through Section A of <i>A Fresh Start</i> . | | |
| Total budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2018-19 for <u>Strategies and Powers to Tackle Criminality</u> | | 14,840 |



LONG TERM PREVENTION

Outcome – Paramilitarism has no place

| A1 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should make promoting lawfulness a key priority in the current mandate. | Demonstrated through PfG and Ministerial Pledge | 0 |
| <p>The draft Programme for Government Framework demonstrated through Outcome 7 (“we have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”) that promoting lawfulness was considered to be a key priority in the mandate of the Executive at the time of drafting. This commitment continues within the current Outcomes Delivery Plan.</p> <p><i>A Fresh Start</i> set out the Executive’s commitments to upholding the rule of law and tackling paramilitarism, organised crime and criminality. These values and the commitment to disbanding paramilitary organisations and their structures are reflected in the Ministerial Pledge of Office. The commitments also form the basis of a new undertaking for each Member of the Legislative Assembly. A Lawfulness Framework has been developed as a living document, with input and feedback from stakeholders, to provide a shared understanding of lawfulness across the programme.</p> | | |
| A2 | | |
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should use all avenues available to it to increase public awareness of what people can do about criminality in Northern Ireland and promote active citizenship in building a culture of lawfulness. | DE to commission development of curriculum materials. DOJ to launch public awareness campaign. | 238 1159 |

CCEA is taking forward this part of commitment A2 on behalf of DE. There are two inter-related elements to this work. The first is the development of a set of eight Active Citizenship and Lawfulness online resources during 2018/19, which CCEA published in March 2019. The second relates to a three-year programme of work, centred on the use of film and drama, to promote and support the teaching of active citizenship as a way of tackling paramilitarism and promoting lawfulness.

Aligned with the development of curriculum materials DE has worked with the NIO and Cinemagic to develop a series of educational resources that will assist post-primary school teachers to explore curriculum based topics on the theme of lawfulness.

Development of Curriculum materials

CCEA appointed a project manager to lead the Active Citizenship (Drama) project in August 2018. Eight animated online resources have now been developed, as follows:

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

Five schools completed a trial of the eight resources from October-December 2018.

Three events took place Belfast, Armagh and Limavady in March 2019 to launch the resources and provide support for teachers in the use of the resources, drama techniques and teaching controversial issues. Sixty post primary teachers attended from 56 schools.

The eight units of resources are available to schools on the CCEA website. Some of the activities integrate the use of the Ending the Harm campaign 'Shooting by Appointment' videos and website (Unit 7: Criminality and Paramilitaries in Communities)

http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/key_stage_3/areas_learning/learning_life_and_work/local_and_global_citizenship/active

As of June 2019, briefings were provided to Active Citizenship teachers at two events in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.

Twenty new post primary schools have been recruited to participate in the second year of the programme. The schools will receive support in

adapting and using the resources. CCEA will also measure the impact of the resources through questionnaires and interviews with teachers and pupils from the 20 participating schools.

CCEA Active Citizenship using Drama (Film and Play)

The aim of this project is to produce a short film, a stage play and accompanying teaching activities and guidance which can be used as an educational resource for Key Stage 3. CCEA awarded a contract to Cinemagic in October 2018, and filming of “A Stone’s Throw” was completed in November 2018.

The film and associated stage play focus on the themes of risks and consequences associated with anti-social behaviour and the positive impact youth clubs and youth workers can have. Cinemagic engaged with the PSNI, NI Ambulance Service and a Youth Club for filming purposes. A number of young people from the youth club appear in the film with officers from the PSNI Mental Health unit. The film was launched in collaboration with CCEA at an event in the Stormont Hotel on 12 March 2019.

CCEA created teaching resources to accompany the film and stage play. These resources use a different approach to the eight units of work under Active Citizenship. They focus on using drama strategies in the classroom to engage young people in exploring the issues raised in the film and/ or play, to encourage a cross-curricular approach to Active Citizenship. There are five lesson plans, each addressing different themes from “A Stone’s Throw”, as follows:

1. Family Relationships and Conflict
2. Peer Pressure
3. Consequences
4. Jack’s Mental Health
5. Jack’s Journey

These are available on the CCEA website:

http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/key_stage_3/areas_learning/learning_life_and_work/local_and_global_citizenship/active/drama

In May 2019, CCEA engaged a provider to produce a second film with initial focus on research for a theme. It is anticipated that this will be agreed and work commenced in September 2019.

Public Awareness Campaign

DOJ implemented Phase 1 of the awareness raising, “Ending the Harm” campaign (branded ‘I Am Your Money’ #EndTheHarmNI Campaign), in two bursts in 2016/17.

Phase 2 of the “Ending the Harm” campaign focussed on paramilitary style attacks (PSAs), aiming to challenge levels of implicit acceptability of this issue in NI society, and to highlight the devastating impact of these attacks, both on the victim, and on the local communities and wider society. This finished at the end of March 2019, and in May 2019 research in those areas most impacted by so-called ‘paramilitary style attacks’ to provide an indication of the effectiveness of the campaign and to take an updated snapshot of attitudes towards the attacks. While caution is exercised in terms of drawing a direct comparison between the results of the two surveys, due to a change in how a paramilitary style attack was defined, the recent research provides a representative indication of the opinions of people living within areas most impacted.

There were substantial shifts in attitude between 2017 and 2019 on whether people agreed/strongly agreed with the following statements:

PSAs are justified / justified in certain circumstances

2017: 35%

2019: 19%

Change: - 46%

PSAs just involved a good kicking

2017: 25%

2019: 18%

Change: - 28%

PSAs deliver swift justice

2017: 34%

2019: 15%

Change: - 56%

A PSA is a good way of giving an offender a warning

2017: 35%

2019: 17%

Change: - 51%

There is normally a good reason for a PSA

2017: 44%
 2019: 20%
 Change: - 55%

A third phase of the campaign launched on 5 August.

The campaign material is also available on a bespoke website, www.endingtheharm.com, which provides further information and sources of support. Furthermore, over 4000 young people attended the play 'Banjaxed' which looks at how paramilitaries exploit their own communities through criminality as part of the wider engagement linked to the campaign.

Social media activity continues, particularly using the Ending the Harm Twitter account to signpost people to the website.

A4

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|--|--|---|
| <p>As part of its 'cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people being drawn into paramilitary activity', the Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through youth work in communities.</p> | <p>DE to ensure teachers and youth workers are appropriately trained to support young people at risk.</p> | <p>142</p> |
| | <p>DE and TEO to deliver youth intervention programmes targeted at vulnerable young people.</p> | <p>912</p> |

There are two related activities being implemented under this commitment. The first is a Capacity Building Programme (for Teachers and Youth Workers) and the second relates to a Youth Outreach Programme, both of which are being delivered by the Education Authority's (EA) Youth Service.

Capacity Building Programme

The focus of the Capacity Building Programme is on implementing a partnership approach between teachers and youth workers to engage with young people involved in risk taking activities, and to promote lawfulness through programmes in schools and youth clubs. The programme is

innovative as it brings teachers and youth workers together to participate in training and in the development of resources.

Significant progress includes:

- A Justice, Crime and Citizenship course at Level 1 and Level 2 has been developed and accredited through OCNNI for delivery to one group of young people in each of the 8 Communities in Transition areas.
- Delivery of Theatre of Witness workshops (involving ex-combatants and ex PSNI officers) by Playhouse Derry across NI – so far 101 young people have been involved in workshops in Derry and Belfast.
- A Capacity-building programme has been delivered in Larne/Carrickfergus and Conlig/Kilcooley/Clandeboyne.
- Independent research, being carried out by UU, is continuing and an Evaluation Framework to measure initial impact of the EA projects is being developed.
- A Lawfulness module has been developed and distributed to 40 schools for delivery by the youth worker/teacher team as part of EA's Learning Together Programme (LTP). This was delivered from September 2018 – March 2019.
- A 'Your Voice Matters' conference took place in the Guildhall in Derry/Londonderry on 21 June, involving 100 young people expressing views and experiences of policing in local areas.
- Three day training on 'Responding to Critical Incidents' delivered to youth workers in Derry/Londonderry

Other work under way includes:

- Trauma Informed Practice training for 50 Teachers and youth workers.
- 'Circle of Courage' training packs, including materials and resources, have been developed and are being cascaded to Youth Workers and Teachers.
- The Start360 organisation has been procured to deliver Youth Leadership Training for young people involved in the Tackling Paramilitarism programmes with either EA's voluntary youth club partners and statutory providers, or those currently in custody in Hydebank Wood (under the age of 25).
- 2 practitioner Workshops/seminars around identified support and training needs are being carried out during 2018/19.

Youth Outreach Programme

The Youth Outreach programme started in December 2017 and entails placing an Outreach Worker in each of the 8 Communities in Transition (B4) areas. The Outreach Workers aim to build relationships with young people who do not currently engage with the youth services and who could be considered as being at higher risk of involvement in paramilitary activity; they deliver programmes and support that develop the young people's resilience and awareness of risk factors.

Summary of progress

A number of young people highly vulnerable to paramilitary threat and coercion have regularly engaged in various programmes across the 8 areas. A Peripatetic Outdoor Education Instructor has been appointed to support projects. Inter-agency co-operation has steadily increased and there is evidence of core group members being integrated into mainstream youth service groups. There is also evidence of a positive impact on parents. Seven of the project partners have trained their part time staff to be able to support the Youth Outreach Workers.

Examples of work from across the areas include:

- A Family Support project, working with young people with severe involvement in drug dealing and alcohol misuse.
- A Mentoring Programme for vulnerable 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 young people at severe risk from paramilitaries through youth club involvement.
- A pilot programme providing one to one support through counselling, life coaching, mentoring or complementary therapy sessions.
- Positive Mental Health Programmes
- Theatre of Witness workshops delivered in schools.
- Youth Volunteer Academy programmes targeting young people in the age range 14-17.
- Peer Education projects.
- EA Youth Workers delivering Lawfulness programmes and activities in youth settings and schools (Key Stage 2 & 3).
- A resource pack of materials.

A range of summer programmes are being delivered in each of the 8 areas for the core groups and for sibling/peer groups.

During the last quarter, 337 young people were involved in the outreach programme. Examples of engagement include:

- 99 young people participating in core groups and 106 involved young people in peer and sibling groups;
- Counselling sessions provided to 51 young people;
- Provision of support to 25 parents in parenting and life skills;
- 8 young people in core groups gaining employment/training; and
- 89 meaningful interventions put in place by youth outreach workers for young people across the programme.

| A8 | | |
|--|--|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive and the PSNI, in conjunction with the NIPB should review their protocols for engaging with representatives of paramilitary groups. This change in approach should also apply to other public community bodies and public representatives. | Review of protocols for engagement with representatives of paramilitary groups. | 0 |
| <p>This is a particularly sensitive recommendation, and one that would benefit from Executive consideration. In the interim, the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Team is exploring how best to engage on this issue with a view to identifying and better understanding the type of situations in which engagement by statutory agencies might fall into the space alluded to in order to explore some of the issues involved and identify learning. This is a complex issue, which is being taken forward in the context of the wider programme values, and the related issues around lawfulness.</p> | | |

| B7 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| A dedicated unit should be established to carry out a programme of work, including research, to enable Government to better understand relevant issues in communities and the options for influencing change; to ensure that all Executive Departments are fully engaged in the strategy; to develop further targeted interventions; and to ensure that wider Government policy and messaging contribute to delivering positive outcomes in respect of paramilitaries and communities in transition. | The Executive will establish a dedicated unit to ensure a joined up approach to delivering this programme. | 1599 |
| <p>A dedicated unit was established in the first quarter of 2016, based in the DoJ. The remit of the team is to lead work to coordinate and implement the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme, which involves an extensive programme management and support function, including programme governance and assurance; evaluation and learning; communications; stakeholder engagement; and strategic direction. The team also provides secretariat support to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board (which oversees implementation of the Executive Action Plan) and its various delivery sub-groups. A team member has also been appointed to the Programme Team to take forward work on the B13 project (see under B13 update).</p> <p>It should be noted that this is also contributing to achievement of Commitment D4 in the Executive Action Plan, which is that '<i>The Executive should put in place strong programme management arrangements for developing and delivering the strategy</i>'.</p> <p>Summary of progress</p> <p>Detailed consideration of funding proposals, and ongoing monitoring of progress across the programme and its constituent projects, helps to maximise connections and impact across the Programme. It also ensures a focus on programme values and on clear outcomes and alignment to the four outcomes set out in the action plan.</p> | | |

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 2017 NI Life and Times Survey. The Survey questions were repeated in 2018 and the latest data published in June 2019. This information is currently being incorporated into baselines and into a new programme dashboard.

The Programme Team works to ensure that the collective aims and objectives of the Programme are fully understood and bought into across Executive Departments, statutory agencies and VCS partners, in support of building a 'one-team' approach to delivery. This includes a significant communications effort – the team is currently building on the success of the 'Working Together to End the Harm' conference held in the autumn of 2018 with a further conference planned for autumn 2019(see under A2 for further detail). There is information on the website <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/articles/executive-programme-tackling-paramilitary-activity-and-organised-crime-0> and there is also a specific campaign website, www.endingtheharm.com. The twitter account (which has over 930 followers) provides information to the public about the programme and helps promote a wider discourse.

A symposium with Permanent Secretaries and the Programme Board took place on 13 May. It provided attendees to consider, identify and commit their added value to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme. The Programme Team also continues to update the Independent Reporting Commission on progress.

A Political Advisory Group has been set up to facilitate engagement with political parties, and work will be taken forward, following the IRC's first report, to explore how best to develop this group's advisory capacity.

The programme sub-groups (Communities, Transition and Learning; Lawfulness and Communications) provide opportunities for valuable engagements and learning. The Communities, Transition and Learning sub-group has been extended to include VCS delivery partners, which is very beneficial.

| B12 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| Develop, fund and implement an initiative (based on the INSPIRE model) focused on young men who are at risk of becoming involved, or further involved, in paramilitary activity. | As part of the cross-departmental programme, the Executive Departments with responsibility for Education, the Economy, Health, Communities, Infrastructure and Justice, together with the Executive Office, should all identify the opportunities available to them to both prevent at-risk individuals becoming involved in paramilitary activity and measurably address the underlying issues that put some young people at a higher risk of becoming involved | 3492 |
| <p>The Aspire project commenced in the last quarter of 2017/18 as a new initiative. The project works with marginalised young men (aged 16 to 30) who are most at risk from being involved in paramilitarism and criminality. This includes both those under statutory supervision through the criminal justice system, and non-statutory referrals. The latter are typically young men who could be under threat (or previous threat) within their community, originating from families experiencing inter-generational trauma, involved in anti-social behaviour, in drug debt or involved in drug/alcohol abuse. They may also be unemployed with low educational attainment. Around 70% of referrals originate from the B4 areas. Most are unemployed (95%) and around half have reported a sense of fear and intimidation.</p> <p>The project is led by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, working with NIACRO and the Voluntary and Community sector to prevent and reduce offending and to enable these young men to resist negative influences and develop their full capacity. This involves intensive interventions with a focus on personal development, health and wellbeing, opening up access to alternative social pathways, including employment, training and stable housing.</p> <p>Services include a mentoring programme for young men under PBNI supervision leaving prison, or in the early stages of their community sentence, together with a range of community based interventions, including restorative justice approaches for those not in the criminal justice system.</p> | | |

Summary of progress

Since the beginning of the project, there have been 382 statutory referrals and 451 non statutory referrals to Aspire:

- Participants have been referred to a wide range of VCS services for support, including Princes Trust, Extern Igynte, Reading Room, Ascertainment, Start 360, Springboard, Nexus, Victim and Survivor Services, Drug Outreach Team/Community Addiction Teams, Family Support Hubs, Barnardo's and Housing Rights.
- Involvement with the Learning Disability Team and 16+ Team and the Community Forensic Mental Health Team (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.

Over the last quarter 40 referrals were made to Aspire. 23 of those referrals were from community teams and 17 were from staff in the three prison establishments. 39 of the 40 referrals were referred to NIACRO for mentoring services.

Some examples of achievements to date include:

- A few individuals achieved full time employment/obtaining placement in a local theatre.
- Many have obtained independent accommodation.
- Some have achieved completion of 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 reflects positive impact.

Feedback from exit questionnaires has reflected that all respondents valued the intensive support from Aspire.

| B13 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| As part of the cross-departmental programme, the Executive Departments with responsibility for Education, the Economy, Health, Communities, Infrastructure and Justice, together with the Executive Office, should all identify the opportunities available to them to both prevent at-risk individuals becoming involved in paramilitary activity and measurably address the underlying issues that put some young people at a higher risk of becoming involved | A cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people being drawn into paramilitary activity will be developed to sit within the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP). | 333 |
| <p>Initially, delivery of this commitment was being taken forward by the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP), led by the Department of Health, and two strands of work were undertaken in order to meet the commitment under B13. The first strand focused on programme development; and the second was the provision of funding for the Edges Project^[1] pilot in the Newtownabbey area.</p> <p>Programme Development</p> <p>The cross-departmental nature of the work, and the importance of linking other parts of the Action Plan with a programme of work related to this commitment led the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board to decide that responsibility for the action should rest with the Programme Team. A programme manager for B13 was appointed in June 2018.</p> <p>Work to date has included stakeholder engagement and programme development work with policy leads and practitioners working on relevant issues impacting young people.</p> | | |

^[1] The Edges project uses evidence-informed practice to build and support family stability for those families with troubled and/or troubling adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17, who are on the 'edge' of school exclusion, care, homelessness, becoming NEET and formal involvement in the youth justice system.

Key issues are the added value of a B13 programme and ensuring joined up working across partners and organisations and existing programmes. Stakeholders have highlighted that a lot of provision already exists for this target group, as well as a number of co-ordinating bodies for particular types of need. Strategies and initiatives are also being developed that have relevance including, for example, new projects on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Summary of progress

- Regarding programme development, most of the linkages and relevant considerations have now been identified through research and stakeholder engagement; this work will shape the final proposals for the B13 programme.
- The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board approved a paper outlining the knowledge base and proposed approach in March 2019. Engagements are now ongoing to identify partner agencies to implement that approach.
- £68k was provided for Planned Interventions in Derry / Londonderry during the summer of 2019.

The Edges Project

Edges provided support to families with troubled and/or troubling adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 to address issues that can put young people at risk of involvement in paramilitary activity. EITP and the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme provided support for the Edges Project in the 2018/2019 financial year, to extend the pilot evaluation, and to maximise project participation. This allowed a robust evidence base to be gathered to inform an in-depth evaluation and future decisions about roll out. The Edges Project has now been completed.

Summary of progress

- The Edges project worked with young people with a range of criminal issues including substance misuse, physical violence to others, damage to home property assault, anti-social behaviour, shop-lifting, possession of drugs (and potentially selling them), sharing explicit images, underage sex, driving offences, resisting arrest and fraud.
- There was an increase in education based referrals. The School Based Care Team referrals identified young people with a range of complex difficulties.
- Work tracked the outcomes for young people and their families and to measure the success of the project – an evaluation report is now being completed, and learning from that will help to inform development of the wider programme.
- The Start 360 Information Team will be following up with families who received the service at 6 and 12 months post-intervention to see if the progress made during contact with Edges has been maintained.
- Following the Regional Edge of Care Workshop a “plan on a page” on Intensive Support for young people “edging towards care” has been developed and sets out underlying principles, outcomes and priorities using OBA methodology.

| D1 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>The Executive should prioritise steps to significantly and measurably improve the educational and employment prospects of children and young people in deprived communities, focusing particularly on those who are at greatest risk of educational under-attainment.</p> | <p>DfE, through the ‘Social Inclusion’ project in Further Education Means Success, will identify the barriers that inhibit groups of learners from participating in further education provision, and explore ways to overcome those barriers.</p> <p>DE to continue to promote pupil attendance at school</p> <p>DfI will, in line with the rest of the public sector, ensure social clauses are included in contracts for major infrastructure schemes.</p> | <p>37</p> |
| <p>DfE commissioned research relevant to this commitment in order to identify and analyse the barriers that inhibit different groups of learners/potential learners from engaging and participating in education, training and employment. As a result, it became apparent that more bespoke research and engagement was needed. This led DfE to commission, from the Institute for Conflict Research, a bespoke piece of work focusing specifically on barriers for those who are at risk of becoming involved with paramilitary groups. The aim of this is to provide the Department with a deeper insight into this group, and the specific barriers to education and employment which they face, and provide recommendations on suitable policy interventions to address their identified needs.</p> <p>Summary of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Institute for Conflict Research has finalised its report on ‘Barriers to participation and progression in education and employment for those at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland’. • The report will be published and shared with relevant project leads and Departments; the recommendations will be considered and actions agreed in response. | | |

Peace4Youth Programme

In progressing the activities under this commitment thus far, synergies have been sought with the implementation of the Peace4Youth Programme. This is a jointly funded cross-border intervention with the Irish Government under the EU PEACE IV Programme (Children and Young People (Priority 2.1)). This is closely aligned with the vision and objectives of United Youth as set out in the NI Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy.

The Programme is targeting 7,400 14-24 olds 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.

Summary of progress

- The Programme is on track to successfully achieve its objectives with around 2700 young people having participated to date.
- The projects are supporting participants to develop and improve capabilities in personal development, good relations and citizenship on a multi-outcome basis, and are designed to lead to enhanced employability and increased life chances for the young people.
- The independent evaluation of Phase 1 of the programme (October 2018) was highly positive with the majority of indicators under the main outcome areas showing clear progression for participants.
- Almost 80% of the young people surveyed indicated they were going to progress to education, training, employment or voluntary/community engagement, and almost 90% had gained a qualification in at least one area.
- The Peace IV Programme Monitoring Committee considered the Phase 1 evaluation and gave approval for Phase 2 to proceed (November 2018). Phase 1 ended in late 2018. Phase 2 is underway and will run until 2021/22; as of 30th April 2019 approximately 780 young people were participating in Phase 2.

Promoting pupil attendance at school

DE has a range of policies in place aimed at tackling educational underachievement and to close the achievement gap by improving the quality of educational provision. Since October 2018, the Department has had access to in-year attendance data which provides absence data by school – this is enabling closer monitoring and the identification of issues much earlier than before.

The Department has also worked with Queen's University and the Education Authority to deliver attendance workshops for approximately 18 schools with a high proportion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and low attendance levels. An event to wrap up the involvement with QUB took place in November 2018. At that event, the "Challenge of Improving Pupil Attendance at School" Case Study paper was launched. This paper highlighted ten good practice examples for managing pupil attendance.

DE also launched a new parental engagement campaign (“Give your child a helping hand”) last year and feedback was very positive. Additionally, a new “Play Matters” campaign was launched 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.

Summary of progress

- DE has been building on the launch of its attendance strategy (launched in December 2016), which identified the need for tailored support for pupils with specific barriers to attendance and attainment.
- A range of attendance posters has been produced to provide help for young people and guidance for schools.
- An Attendance Desk Aide and a school circular which gives comprehensive guidance on managing attendance were updated and issued again in Oct 2018. These included a broadening of the definition of some absence codes and a new “Extended Leave” absence code.
- The best practice from the attendance workshops is being disseminated more widely, and engagement with schools around specific areas effecting attendance is continuing in 2019.
- A 3rd media burst of DE’s “Give your child a helping hand” campaign took place in January and February 2019. .
- From April 2019, DE is sharing its new in year attendance data with employing authorities including the Education and Welfare service. This provides absence data by school which enables closer monitoring and the identification of issues closer to the time.
- DE has distributed copies of a booklet – ‘Give your child a helping hand – top tips for parents’ to all pre-school and nursery establishments.
- DE is currently developing a new advertising campaign on the impact that being absent can have on a young person’s outcomes.

Inclusion of social clauses in contracts

Dfl does this as a matter of course with all its contracts.

In addition, a ‘Buy Social’ approach has been adopted in the implementation of the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme. ‘Buy Social’ is a way to maximise the benefits from public procurement in terms of personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, equal opportunities and sustainable development and has a particular focus on securing employment opportunities in areas with high levels of disadvantage. In addition, a programme of work has been agreed with the Buy Social team, who have been working with relevant projects to consider potential opportunities for participants, including the Communities in Transition project; the Women In Community Transformation project; the Aspire project; programmes for young people and opportunities for those with an offending background.

As of June 2019, a total of 1134 people who were long term unemployed, or had no substantial work experience have now been able to access a job opportunity through a Buy Social project:

- 24% (274) are women
- 70% (791) are under 25 years of age
- 16% (178) live in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area
- 5% (53) live in a B4 area

D4

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|--|--|---|
| <p>The Executive should put in place strong programme management arrangements for developing and delivering the strategy.</p> | <p>The Executive will establish a dedicated unit to ensure a joined up approach to delivering this programme.</p> | <p>130</p> |
| <p>See under B7 update</p> | | |
| <p>Total budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2018-19 for <u>Long Term Prevention</u></p> | | <p>8,042</p> |



BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT TRANSITION

Outcome – Support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures

| A3 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should work with leading figures and organisations throughout all sectors of society to take a stand against criminality in Northern Ireland and promote responsible cooperation with authorities as part of a culture of lawfulness | <p>Bring forward proposals for engagement on this issue via community, voluntary, and sports forums.</p> <p>Expand the Attorney General’s “It’s your Law” programme</p> | 419 |
| <p>This commitment sits within the overall commitment by the Executive to promote a culture of lawfulness. As noted under A1, a draft lawfulness framework and a set of guiding principles has been developed which is a key reference point for implementation of Commitment A3.</p> <p>DfC has been working with voluntary and community sector partners to deliver three lawfulness programmes:</p> <p>1) The NI National Citizen Service Programme This year’s NI NCS programme will involve the participation of 355 young people aged 15 – 17 and the outputs will include an opportunity for the participants to explore what lawfulness means.</p> <p>For the first time, a specific requirement to promote lawfulness has been included within the design of DfC’s 2019/20 NI NCS programme. This is now a Contract for Funding requirement.</p> <p>2) Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) There are ROC Action Groups in the Lower Shankill, Newtownards Road, St James and Lower Falls areas of Belfast. These groups have been formed following ROC ‘Conversation Events’ in each of the locations. These structured community engagement events align with a number of the principles set out in the ‘Lawfulness Framework, namely: 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.</p> <p><u>Recent progress</u></p> | | |

The events have been very well attended by statutory agencies, including PSNI, NIFRS, Belfast City Council, DfC, and DoJ, as well as schools, faith-based groups and local residents.

ROC has committed its long term support and is also providing consultative support to the Action Groups to look at issues such as mental health, communication/co-ordination, youth/anti-social behaviour and drugs.

Specific developments have included the award of funding to ROC Lower Shankill by Belfast City Council and PCSP for a series of community safety events between April and September 2019, and the launch of a school uniform project for summer 2019 by ROC Lower Falls.

3) Volunteer Now

Volunteer Now (in partnership with Sport NI and the Ulster University) delivered a programme (the Small Steps project) to 473 Primary 7 school children from 16 schools from the following areas: Derry/Londonderry, Larne/Carrickfergus, Lurgan and Bangor. The schools were in areas of deprivation / high levels of paramilitary activity and the programme looked at lawfulness through sport, values-based activities, practical volunteering tasks and legal workshop-based activity.

Recent progress

DfC is working with Community Evaluation NI to compile a report on the Small Steps project that captures quantitative and qualitative data including learning for future work.

Following on from the success of the Small Steps project, DfC is preparing for a similar initiative involving children in the Derry and Strabane and Causeway Coast and Glens council areas.

More generally, work is ongoing to create a more streamlined DfC approach to consolidate the promotion of lawfulness. For example,

The need to promote a culture of lawfulness has been incorporated into the DfC's Women's Regional Infrastructure Support Programme 2019/20 Contract for Funding.

“It's Your Law” programme

The aim of the “It's Your Law” programme is to promote lawfulness; to support law and order and the justice system; and to promote active citizenship in building a culture of lawfulness. It is aimed at the most disengaged young people, who are far away from reaching their potential and have chaotic lifestyles, and young people in school who are at risk of exclusion and are educationally underachieving, with a particular focus on those schools/young people who are at risk of influence from paramilitary / organised crime.

A trainee solicitor is engaged to assist with development and delivery of the programme and to act in a 'peer mentor' capacity. The programme is being delivered in partnership with The Prince's Trust to help reach young people in the community and in schools.

Recent progress

23 sessions have been delivered (at first quarter 2019/20). Three events were delivered over the last quarter:

- Glengormley High School, 30th April 2019: Session was organised with the help of Alternatives North Belfast. Ten pupils attended, all of whom were studying a BTec in Public Services. Two of the module teachers also attended. The Principal attended the first half of the session. The session was structured around a presentation and discussion with the Attorney General about the rule of law, how laws are made and how they can be changed/influenced, the criminal justice system, paramilitarism, and human rights.
- Glengormley High School, 13th June 2019: This was a follow up session to the above. It was held in Parliament Buildings in Stormont as none of the pupils had visited before. Ten pupils in the Public Services BTec class attended again, along with the two teachers. The session looked at how laws are made, specifically in the Northern Ireland Assembly, the idea of legislative competence, and what makes a law a "good law". The pupils then played the "make your law" game where they drafted their own Bills. The Bills were debated and the level of discussion and engagement was excellent.
- Larne Factory Forum event, 24th June 2019. The Attorney General led a presentation and discussion with a community group who are exploring restorative justice with Alternatives Northern Ireland. Ten adults participated. Topics explored included the rule of law, how laws are made, what makes a law a "good law" and the workings of the criminal justice system.

Planning for the 2019/20 programme is ongoing.

A9

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|--|---|---|
| The Executive should put in place a dedicated fund for restorative justice initiatives to provide enhanced levels of resource over longer periods of time to | The Executive will put in place a dedicated fund for restorative justice initiatives. The Department of Justice will carry out a feasibility | 363 |

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|--|---|---|
| <p>deliver positive outcomes for individuals and communities. This should include resourcing the proposal for a centre of restorative excellence.</p> | <p>study to identify best options for a new centre of restorative excellence.</p> | |
| <p>During 2017/18, the Department of Justice commissioned an independent feasibility study to seek to identify the best options in establishing a Centre of Restorative Excellence. As well as reviewing international literature in relation to the effectiveness of restorative practice/restorative justice (RP/RJ), the researchers also met with key stakeholders from a range of organisations and conducted five community workshops.</p> <p>Progress update</p> <p>The research recommended that a centre be established, and the Department has been working with other criminal justice organisations and Government departments to consider the implications of the feasibility study and consider a preferred option for future arrangements.</p> <p>The next phase of this work is beyond the sole remit of DOJ. However, the Department of Justice has established a Working Group to assist with the further development of proposals on this issue. Consideration is being given to the staffing structure and location of a Centre of Restorative Excellence.</p> <p>The community based accredited restorative justice organisations are also essential partners in successfully progressing this work in line with the spirit of Commitment A9. Levels of core funding have been maintained, to date, in order to support the organisations in further developing capacity and practice. Proposals on restorative practice has been developed under the B4 commitment through the participatory design phase and have been tested for complementarity with departments and statutory agencies.</p> | | |
| <p>B1</p> | | |
| <p>Panel Recommendation</p> | <p>Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment</p> | <p>Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k)</p> |
| <p>The Executive should urgently adopt recommendations by the Review Panel that (a) the Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998 (FETO) should be amended; (b) the employers' guidance</p> | <p>Amend the Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998</p> <p>Implement the employers' guidance for the NICS</p> | <p>9 (B1 – B3)</p> |

| | | |
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| <p>should be implemented in respect of public sector recruitment and vetting; and (c) that there should be greater transparency over all these issues. Oversight of the implementation of these specific measures should be included within the remit of the Independent Reporting Commission.</p> | <p>Ensure greater transparency over all these issues.</p> | |
| <p>Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998</p> <p>Summary of progress</p> <p>Engagement has taken place with the Office of the Legislative Council, the Ex-Prisoner Review Panel and the Executive Office. TEO Officials have drafted policy instructions to amend the legislation, and work is underway to ensure that legislation can be progressed once Ministers are in post. The changes in FETO will need primary legislative change and will require a minimum timeframe of 5 months post drafting, depending on the legislative process.</p> <p>A sub group of the overall Working Group has been established, and has met on 3 occasions, to discuss and follow up any identified issues on barriers to employment. There has also been engagement between TEO and DfC officials on how to assist ex-prisoners with conflict related convictions to get back into employment.</p> <p>The Ex Prisoner Review Panel met on 4 April 2019 and the Ex Prisoner Working Group met on 25 June 2019.</p> | | |
| <p>Employers' guidance for the NICS</p> <p>Progress update</p> <p>The NI Civil Service (NICS) has implemented the Employers' Guidance, and all policies have been amended to adopt the change. Work is ongoing to promote the guidance to the wider public sector; the Head of the Civil Service has written to Chief Executives of each of the 11 Councils, and to all Permanent Secretaries, highlighting the guidance and asking them to inform their ALBs and NDBPs of the changes and to promote their adoption.</p> <p>A website providing information, support and advice for ex political prisoners, their family members and prospective employers is now operational – www.reviewpanel.org. The Review Panel held an outreach event in Crumlin Road Gaol in November 2018 to promote the work of</p> | | |

the panel and the employers' guidance, and a second outreach event took place in Derry/Londonderry on 25 March 2019. The Review Panel is also considering how to further widen engagement.

NICS HR officials have delivered presentations at outreach events to ex-prisoner groups on NICS recruitment and adoption of the Employers Guidance and has encouraged ex-prisoners and their families to apply for positions within NICS. The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments has also offered to brief ex prisoner groups on the public appointments process.

Greater transparency

More generally in relation to achieving greater transparency, these issues are discussed by the Review Panel, which meets on a monthly basis, and appropriate action is identified and taken where necessary to facilitate progress. Members of the Ex-Prisoners Working Group are updated on the progress of all these issues at their meetings.

The Review Panel website process a wide range of information, advice and support for ex-prisoners, their families, and prospective employers (www.reviewpanel.org). Outside organisations, including ECNI, NIACRO, NIHRC, and the Charity Commission have provided information to be displayed on the site.

B2

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|---|--|--|
| The Review Panel's work should continue to consider what steps can be taken to improve access to financial services (including lending and insurance), adoption, and travel advice | Engage with the Review Panel to address issues identified | See under B1 |

Progress update

Progress has been made on increasing access to insurance for those with conflict related convictions. An updated list of insurers has been prepared.

The Department of Health is bringing forward proposals in relation to new adoption legislation. The Adoption and Children Bill contains a

specific power 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. The regulations and the offences to be prescribed will be subject to public consultation once the Bill receives Royal Assent.

TEO officials have engaged with the US Consulate, Department for Foreign Affairs and the NI Bureau in Washington to discuss the way forward on issues relating to travel to the United States.

The Review Panel meets regularly and continues to take forward work on individual cases in relation to barriers faced.

| B3 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should make representations to the US Secretary of State to seek an expedited procedure for visa applications from ex-prisoners affiliated with groups on ceasefire | Make representations to the US Secretary of State to seek an expedited procedure for visa applications from ex-prisoners affiliated with groups on ceasefire | See under B1 |
| <p>TEO have met with the US Consulate in Northern Ireland, and engaged with the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington, with a view to advancing this issue with the State Department.</p> <p>Officials will continue to liaise with the US Consulate, DFA and NI Bureau colleagues to ensure this issue is kept on the agenda.</p> <p>In parallel with the above work, the Review Panel seek to help on a case by case basis, where appropriate. In this work they are actively involved in facilitating engagement between individuals and the US Consulate. The insights derived from these individual cases are helping to inform the development of the over-arching policy representation.</p> | | |

| B4 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should establish a fund to support ambitious initiatives aimed at building capacity in communities in transition, including through developing partnerships across civil society and across community divisions. | Establish a fund to support ambitious initiatives aimed at building capacity in communities in transition. | 3008 |
| | [NIHE Re-imaging programme – 2016-17; and 2017-18] | 598 |
| <p>In taking forward this commitment, the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board agreed that, in the first instance, particular focus should be given to those communities identified as particularly vulnerable to paramilitary activity and control. The work is being taken forward via the Communities in Transition (CiT) project which aims to support eight identified areas where there has been a history of paramilitary activity and coercive control to transition into communities where paramilitary activity no longer plays a role. The areas, listed below, were identified through research commissioned in late December 2016 for the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Lodge and Greater Ardoyne • Lower Falls, Twinbrook, Poleglass, Upper Springfield, Turf Lodge and Ballymurphy • Shankill (upper and lower, including the Woodvale) • Brandywell and Creggan • Larne area, including Antiville and Kilwaughter and the Carrickfergus area, including Northland and Castlemara • The Mount SOA (1) (2) and Ballymacarrett (2) and (3) in East Belfast • Drumgask and Kilwilkie – Craigavon • Clandeboye SOA (2) and (3) and Conlig (3) which includes Kilcooley <p>The CiT project is designed to support ambitious initiatives that will build the capacity of individuals and groups to affect positive change for themselves and their communities.</p> <p>To support the Department in delivering the project, TEO procured a strategic partner – a consortium led by Co-operation Ireland. The work is being taken forward in two phases:</p> | | |

(i) The first phase required the strategic partner to develop eight costed transition plans, one for each of the eight identified geographical areas. The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board agreed to a series of intermediary actions proceeding, including further development and refinement of the plans as part of a Participatory Design Process (PDP) alongside a range of supporting activities. Area summary reports were then developed for wider public dissemination based on the high level transition plans. These summary reports were circulated to political parties and other key stakeholders on 19 August 2018, in advance of them being published on Co-operation Ireland's website. These summary reports were formally launched in each of the eight communities at a series of Information Events in November 2018. At these formal launches, attendees were briefed on plans for the participatory design process in their areas and given an outline of the process that would be followed thereafter

(ii) The second phase was a Participatory Design Process (PDP). This phase of the project involved direct engagement with communities and key statutory stakeholders to refine ideas and proposals brought forward during Phase 1 to develop them into a range of deliverable and meaningful projects and to ensure that activities commissioned are responsive to local contexts and need.

Summary of progress

The PDP completed its formal set of engagements in March 2019, after which Co-Operation Ireland produced an initial tranche of outline project proposals for consideration. The strategic partner also identified Intermediary Actions which could be delivered in the eight areas to support the PDP. A number of these short term projects were commissioned earlier this year and were delivered alongside the PDP; others are forthcoming.

Seven key themes have emerged through engagement, namely

- 1) Community development;
- 2) Health and Well-being;
- 3) Addressing the needs of Young People;
- 4) Community safety and policing;
- 5) Restorative practices;
- 6) Culture; and
- 7) Personal transition

The first tranche of funding proposals was refined (March/April 2019), in liaison with other key stakeholders and communities, prior to being brought back to TEO for consideration and then to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board for approval. At its meeting on 30th April 2019, the Programme Board provided approval for these proposals to progress to business case development and procurement. The CiT project team is now working with Co-operation Ireland to develop project specifications and business cases in advance of commissioning

procurement exercises.

Seven live contracts for intermediary activities are also being delivered, as follows:

- youth engagement activity in 3 areas
- environment and culture activity in 2 areas
- community connect activity in 1 area
- community vision activity in 1 area

Re-imaging Programme

A commitment to extend the NI Housing Executive (NIHE) Re-Imaging Programme was also included in the context of the B4 commitment to support communities in transition. It is centred on NIHE's ongoing commitment to tackling paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime within Housing Executive estates and their desire to progress their estates to normality. The additional investment from the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme (£498k in 2016-17 and £100k in 2017-18) has helped to support transition by enabling 20 new re-imaging projects to be implemented. This has involved community participation with residents, including young people. An evaluation of the 2016/17 programme indicated that the majority of work undertaken via the re-imaging programme could be considered as preparatory work which would help communities establish a new vision for their areas, build capacity, install confidence and enable residents' voices to be heard, with the long-term aim being the complete removal of paramilitary symbolism within Housing Executive estates.

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 parallel with re-imaging work NIHE has also introduced enhanced training and capacity building to ensure sustainable outcomes (hearts and minds alongside physical elements of reimagining). NIHE continues to fund additional re-imaging projects outside of the Tackling Paramilitarism programme.

| B5 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive's programme for women in community development should be designed not only to enable women's organisations to continue to carry out transformative community development work in our communities but also to ensure that women are equipped to take on more leadership roles in public decision-making. | The Department for Communities will organise a series of co-design workshops to determine the shape and content of the programme. These will include TEO and DOJ participation and other Executive Departments where appropriate, alongside experts in the community and women's organisations who will be taking forward the delivery of the programme. | 1444 |
| <p>Women Involved in Community Transformation (WICT)</p> <p>The Voluntary and Community Division (VCD) of DfC implemented a co-design process, involving key stakeholders of the women's sector and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland, to develop plans for a programme to support women involved in community transformation.</p> <p>As part of the development plans, DfC's Women's Early Intervention Programme (WEIP) was developed and delivered in February and March 2017 to identify groups of disengaged women and prepare them to join in DfC's larger Women Involved in Community Transformation (WICT) Programme. Following a successful pilot in 24 geographical areas across Northern Ireland, and further stakeholder engagement, a two-year WICT programme has been delivered by a consortium of VCS partners since October 2017.</p> <p>Phase 1 (October 2017 to March 2018) comprised a five module training programme delivered in partnership with local women's groups and community organisations. The modules cover: Citizenship, Leadership & Mentoring, Personal Development & Health/Well-Being, Women & Peace Building and Women in the Justice System. This training, includes an opportunity for accreditation and seeks to increase the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants: preparing them for progression into Phase 2. Phase 1 involved 539 women and was delivered in 26 areas, including the 8 areas identified by the Programme Board for focused interventions under action B4.</p> | | |

A graduation event was held in April 2018 to mark the achievement of those women who successfully completed Phase 1 – 59% achieved accreditation.

Summary of progress

Phase 2 (from April 2018 – 31 March 2019) is now complete, with 439 women having taken part. This phase sought to embed the participants' 'classroom' learning about community transformation into their everyday lives via a range of 'service and training' opportunities. Four innovative 'service and training' pathways were 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.

An evaluation by Community Evaluation Northern Ireland (CENI) of Phase 1 of the programme has been finalised. A draft evaluation of Phase 2 is being reviewed at present.

The Programme has now been extended and recruitment and selection is ongoing for **Phases 3 and 4**. Participants will include women currently on the Programme as well as new recruits. Learning from the WICT programme to date has been incorporated into delivery plans.

Supporting women in the justice system to build capacity – Engage Project

The Engage Project is a complementary programme to the main DfC women's programme, also sitting under Commitment B5. It specifically focuses on women currently within the justice system, both those in Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) custody, and those women in the community involved with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). The aim of 'Engage' programme is to ensure that women in the justice system are equipped for resettlement and capable of engaging with the wider DfC programme in their communities. It is hoped that this will, in turn, support them to refrain from further offending.

PBNI commissioned Start360 to deliver a flexible and dynamic suite of programmes and interventions which promote positive citizenship. The programme adopts a holistic approach to addressing women's needs which may include 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, criminality and organised crime.

The Engage programme has been particularly important in focusing on women involved in the criminal justice system with direct and indirect experience of paramilitarism who face increased risk of community isolation. The project remains on target of 80 referrals per year; 28 women are currently engaging with the programme and a further 19 are on the waiting list. Participants are engaged in a process of support to increase their confidence and self-worth allowing them to make initial engagement with their local community groups/women's centres. For those most exposed to paramilitary influence there has been positivity around their capacity to deal with such influences and, where applicable,

| feel better able to support/encourage their children. | | |
|---|---|--|
| B6 | | |
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive, in implementing rigorous enforcement of funding rules, should ensure that funding will be available for supporting creative and ambitious initiatives. | The Executive is providing additional funding to support the delivery of this action plan, and is committed to developing creative and ambitious initiatives that will support communities in transition. Funding rules are rigorously enforced in a proportionate manner, commensurate with risk. The Department for Communities is giving consideration to what further work can be done in this area. | 0 |
| <p>Through Joint Forums DfC continues to seek feedback on funding (and related governance issues) that are of concern to the Voluntary and Community Sector (this is wider than the Executive Action Plan commitment).</p> <p>DfC's Guide on Grant and Procurement is reviewed as required. Recent changes involve the introduction of a new contract format that allows the Department access to sub-delivery agent's records to prevent/investigate fraud. This has been welcomed by a number of Lead Delivery organisations.</p> <p>DfC responds regularly to queries about the simplification and completion of the Government Funder's Database. It is also a useful reference tool for organisations seeking funding opportunities – as is NICVA's Grant Tracker Database.</p> <p>DfC continues to receive and consider feedback on the Reducing Bureaucracy Programme.</p> | | |

| B10 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Department of Justice and the Probation Board should work together with others to urgently develop and implement specific interventions to prepare offenders with links to paramilitary groups for return to society and to assist with reintegration. | The Department of Justice will commission research to inform the design of relevant interventions to prepare offenders with links to paramilitary groups for return to society and to assist with reintegration. | 10 |
| <p>DoJ has been clarifying the potential scope of this work and how it may link with other Tackling Paramilitarism Programme initiatives, and it is anticipated that a short, focussed piece of work will be taken forward early in 2019.</p> <p>It is anticipated that learning from other Action Plan commitments, specifically Commitment B9 (educational and training opportunities for those in the separated regime, led by NIPS), Commitment B12 (the Aspire programme for young men, led by the PBNI) and Commitment B4 (the Communities in Transition project, led by TEO) is particularly relevant.</p> <p>The findings of this work, alongside the learning from other elements of the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme, will be considered in order to determine how best the DOJ (in tandem with justice delivery organisations) can collaboratively take forward work in this area.</p> | | |

| D2 | | |
|---|--|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive should accelerate and build on its existing good relations strategy to measurably reduce segregation in education and housing and set ambitious targets and milestones to achieve measurable progress as quickly as possible. | The Executive is committed to continuing to build on existing strategies and will give ongoing consideration to this going forward. | 0 |
| <p>This commitment is centred on the headline actions in T:BUC in relation to shared education and shared housing/ neighbourhoods. Shared and integrated education was allocated dedicated UK Government funding under the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements. Progress continues across all strands of the above, with the position (at April 2019) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared Neighbourhoods – nine schemes have been completed, and the final scheme is scheduled for completion in July 2019. ▪ T:BUC Camps – Funding has been agreed for 131 camps during 2019/20 with a total of 1900 young people aged 11 to 19 years scheduled to attend. ▪ Urban Villages – 2018/19 resource and capital funding has been committed to or earmarked for 87 projects, including 48 community led projects, 20 capital projects and a range of cross cutting projects. ▪ Shared Education Campuses (DE) – five projects have been announced and are being progressed. ▪ Removal of Interface Barriers – number of structures has reduced from 59 to 46. ▪ Peace4Youth – Phase 1 has ended and Phase 2 of the Programme is being rolled out. As of 30 June 2019, 726 young people have participated. ▪ Uniting Communities through Sport & Creativity – six projects have submitted post project evaluations and proposals for extended projects into 2019/20. Proposals are currently being assessed and successful projects are likely to commence in summer 2019 for 24 weeks. ▪ DfC has built further shared housing developments into its Social Housing Development Programme going forward, as part of the Programme for Government (200 units per annum), under the Housing for All banner. | | |
| Total budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2018-19 for <u>Building Capacity to support Transition</u> | | 5,851 |



BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Outcome – The public support and have increasing confidence in
the justice system**

| A5 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>The Executive, the Policing Board and the PSNI should review the resourcing and operation of policing in communities to ensure that policing is visible and resourced to fully engage in those communities most vulnerable to criminal control.</p> | <p>The Executive, the Policing Board and the PSNI will review the resourcing and operation of policing in communities to ensure that policing is visible and resourced to fully engage in those communities most vulnerable to criminal control.</p> <p>Bespoke interventions and training designed to enhance confidence and trust between the police and communities will be developed.</p> | <p>387</p> |
| <p>This commitment contains two areas of work: (1) the review of resourcing and operation of policing in communities, being led by the NI Policing Board (NIPB); and (2) the roll-out of bespoke interventions and training designed to enhance confidence and trust between the police and communities which are still susceptible to paramilitary influence. This is being led by PSNI.</p> <p>Review of community policing</p> <p>The NI Policing Board and PSNI launched a consultation in August 2018 to seek views on the future delivery of local policing. The terms of reference for the review were informed by the Panel Report, Executive Action Plan and the HMICFRS³ recommendation on the effectiveness of policing. The consultation closed in November 2018. There were over 4300 responses and 87 engagement events were attended where the views and opinions of a broad and diverse range of people were obtained. Independent analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data commenced immediately and the report has been shared with the PSNI and the Partnership Committee within the NI Policing Board. Work is ongoing to develop an Action Plan to enable delivery on the observations identified within the report.</p> <p>Policing with the Community Project</p> <p>The PSNI is continuing delivery of a Policing with the Community Project (PWC); the additional bespoke work being taken forward in response</p> | | |

³ HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

to Commitment A5 links to this wider PWC programme.

The overall aim of the work to date (and going forward to 2021) is to address issues of visibility, engagement and problem-solving in those communities still susceptible to Paramilitarism. The project is focused on training; research into community issues; and local interventions to address the issues raised.

'Gauging Community Voice'

In 2017/18, PSNI procured support to conduct research, community engagement and community awareness raising events within communities most affected by the 'Troubles' including the eight Communities in Transition project areas. The findings from this 'Gauging Community Voice' research have been made available to Senior Commanders and Officers, NIPB Officials and the PSCPs to help inform local policing and problem solving action plans. The replication of the work in 2019/20 will inform progress from the baseline of community sentiment captured in 2017/18.

Training

PSNI appointed the Open University in 2016/17 to prepare a training and development product on Collaborative Problem Solving for Community Safety. The training (available via the OU website) focuses on transformative skills for police officers, citizens and other partners in areas such as mediation, negotiation, facilitation, data interrogation and listening. Various modules have been developed to date and delivered to front-line officers in priority areas to embed problem solving and meaningful engagement with communities. The training is now a requirement for all new entrant officers. Various support resources are also being developed, and the uptake and reach of the on-line resources has already been extensive.

The Open University is now developing further modules (in respect of leadership and communication in the community), and these are being promoted to colleagues within PSNI, and to external stakeholders, as part of continuous personal development.

Targeted local interventions

The final element of the PWC work is targeted local interventions. This is in the context that visible, meaningful engagement and activity linked to problem solving is critical to the development of trust and confidence in policing within communities impacted by the threat of paramilitary activity, and should complement high-profile operational and investigative activity.

In practice, this is operating by way of a resource which District Commanders bid into, in order to deliver specific tailored interventions. This funding will facilitate additional activity beyond 'routine' policing activity centred on problem solving, visibility and community engagement in line with Policing with the Community project guidance.

PSNI Districts have been continuing to develop plans to progress and implement engagement activity to follow on from last year's delivery.

Examples of work to date include:

- a scoping project on addressing the needs of youth at risk of paramilitary assault;
- additional operational activity focused on licensing checks and patrolling of hotspots for drugs, anti-social behaviour and PSAs; and
- additional engagement activity with local youth and community groups and with businesses on the issue of extortion.

The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Team is working with PSNI to identify targeted local interventions as well as wider opportunities to further embed policing with the community across PSNI. Work is also ongoing between the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Team and PSNI to explore the potential for better connection between commitments A5, A9, B13 and B4.

| A6/A7 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>A6: In setting the strategic objectives of PCSPs, the Department of Justice and Policing Board should ensure that the partnerships focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness.</p> <p>A7: The designated organisations should also ensure that their representatives are sufficiently senior and committed to building effective partnerships.</p> | <p>In setting new strategic objectives for the PCSPs the Department of Justice and the Policing Board will implement this recommendation.</p> <p>The designated organisations will ensure their representation at PCSPs is of a sufficiently senior level to facilitate effective partnerships.</p> | 10 |

DoJ has worked with PCSPs and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) to build a commitment to promoting lawfulness into the strategic objectives of all PCSPs. Links have also been made between the role of PCSPs and the Community Plans being rolled out across all District Council areas, and in this context formal linkages have been made between DfC, DoJ, PCSP and Community Planning Partnership personnel to capture and share best practice. As such, there is now a shared community of interest established including Council CEOs, PCSP Chairs and Vice Chairs, Community Planning Managers, PCSP Managers and DoJ, TEO and DfC colleagues.

Annual funding of £4.25m was secured in 2018/19 to support the delivery of the 11 PCSP action plans across NI. These plans link to the role of PCSPs in embedding a culture of lawfulness and improving confidence in the rule of law (primarily in support of the existing PCSP Strategic Priority 3: 'To Support Confidence in Policing').

As part of the quarterly governance arrangements, meetings are held with all PCSP Chairs and Vice Chairs during which the importance of linking work that has a bearing on challenging paramilitarism and organised criminality is emphasised.

PCSPs continue to report individual project-based initiatives. These include:

- the 'Think before you buy campaign' in local cinemas (Ards & North Down); and
- bespoke PCSP-facilitated engagement between the PSNI and local community representatives to explain police methods on dealing

with drug dealers – this helps to counter a narrative whereby PSAs are deemed acceptable (Causeway Coast & Glens).

Other progress includes:

- As part of a rolling programme, PCSPs have been delivering further performances of the play '**Banjaxed**'. This has helped to engage local young people in schools and youth groups on issues such as the risks young people can encounter through contact with armed and organised crime gangs. (In all, 44 performances have been delivered to a total audience of over 4200 young people in 40 venues across NI). As each performance of 'Banjaxed' included a post-show panel discussion involving the PSNI, PCSP, Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Team/Justice representatives and local youth organisations, a follow-up evaluation event was held on 22nd January to share lessons learned and inform any future drama commissions.
- **Community Planning partnerships** have been holding events to explore how best to embed a culture of lawfulness in community plans. These have included participatory budgeting pilot events in Newry, Mourne and Down, and in Fermanagh and Omagh. Initiatives aimed at tackling gambling debt (which is understood to be linked to paramilitaries) are taking place in Mid-Ulster. Derry and Strabane Council used funding to roll out delivery of the 'Banjaxed' play across the district.
- In response to a PCSP training needs assessment, **4 Culture of Lawfulness workshops** took place on a regional basis during February/March 2019 to: highlight the role of PCSPs in relation to Commitment A6; share best practice from PCSPs and other parts of the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme (EA and DfC); and to identify any additional support needed by PCSPs to enhance and promote their role in embedding a culture of lawfulness. The workshops include attendance from Community Planning Partnership and NILGA colleagues to better integrate the work of PCSPs on this topic with wider Council initiatives.
- **Participatory Budgeting pilot events** have been held in a number of PCSPs, and have demonstrated the potential opportunity to reinforce the concepts around lawfulness in a practical and focused manner. These pilots have provided a lot of learning and consideration is being given as to how best to use the evaluation process and follow-up to relay messages regarding the impact of lawfulness
- A number of PCSPs have held briefing style events for council members, community and voluntary sector representatives and PCSP members. These have helped to disseminate the lawfulness message, and have also generated ideas for initiatives to help embed lawfulness in **Community Planning**.

| A10 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Department of Justice should bring forward draft legislation to further reform committal proceedings to remove the need for oral evidence before trial | Committal proceedings will be further reformed. The Department of Justice will bring forward draft legislation in relation to this recommendation. | 0 |
| <p>A Bill has been drafted, which it is expected could be introduced within a short period of time, should an opportunity arise. Plans are developed to implement the provisions contained in the draft Bill in tandem with the provisions contained in the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 which will allow for certain cases to be tried on indictment to bypass traditional committal proceedings and be directly committed to the Crown Court. Development work is almost complete on the basis of the draft Bill.</p> <p>Due to the absence of a legislative opportunity to process the draft Bill, on 12 December 2018 (at a Committal Project meeting), the SRO for the Committal project stood down arrangements for the planned April 2019 implementation and the project was placed in “warm storage”.</p> <p>A letter issued on behalf of the Criminal Justice Board to the Secretary of State in December seeking assistance with the passage of the legislation. The Secretary of State responded in February indicating that, with the ongoing constraints on parliamentary time as a result of the EU exit, it has not been possible to secure a slot in the Westminster legislative programme at this stage to progress the Draft Bill.</p> | | |

| A11 | | |
|--|--|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>The Department of Justice should also use the measures already available to it to abolish committal proceedings in respect of those offences most frequently linked to paramilitary groups, including terrorist offences and offences which tend to be committed by organised crime groups.</p> | <p>Committal proceedings in respect of those offences most frequently linked to paramilitary groups will be abolished.</p> <p>The Department of Justice will work closely with justice organisations to identify suitable offences to be added to the list of offences which can be directly transferred to the Crown Court.</p> | <p>233</p> |
| <p>The NIAO Review of Avoidable Delay in the Criminal Justice System was published on 27 March 2018 and made six recommendations, one of which is the development of an action plan and timetable for the eradication of committal.</p> <p>A multi-agency group agreed the six principles on which to base the decisions regarding additional offence types to be added to the list of specified offences, and a plan was developed.</p> <p>Due to the absence of a legislature to process the draft Committal Reform Bill, the planned April 2019 Committal Reform implementation date has had to be postponed and, therefore, plans to add further offence types to the list of specified offences which, upon the introduction of the legislation, will be directly committed to the Crown Court have been revised. ICP offence types, TACT offences, firearms and explosives type offences, and serious sexual offences are expected to be included in the first wave of rollout expected in 2021. The next wave is expected to roll out in January 2022 and a final rollout wave is anticipated in 2022/23, subject to review.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of other IT development work planned across the criminal justice system over the coming months which will impact on a revised go-live date. Testing of the systems to facilitate the new committal processes has been deferred until a revised go-live date has been agreed. Training of operational staff has also been deferred to coincide with a revised go-live date.</p> <p>In the meantime criminal justice organisations will work towards sequencing all necessary supporting arrangements to ensure readiness for a new go-live date.</p> | | |

The Committal Project Group will continue to meet (on a less regular basis) to maintain a focus and monitor developments

| A12 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Department of Justice, the Courts Service and the Public Prosecution Service should implement the case management improvements piloted in the Ards area throughout Northern Ireland, particularly in respect of those offences linked to terrorism or serious organised crime groups. | The Department of Justice and criminal justice partners will assess how best to implement the case management improvements in the Ards Indictable Cases Pilot (ICP)⁴ and will also explore other offence types which may be suitable for ICP type processing. | 927 |
| <p>This is a development deriving from an inter-agency 'Indictable Cases Pilot' (ICP) which operated in the Ards County Court Division during 2015, aimed at addressing avoidable delay through early engagement in a case.</p> <p>ICP rolled out in a single phased implementation on 2 May 2017 for four particular offence types: section 18 and 20 assault cases; serious drugs cases; attempted murder cases; and conveying a list 'A' Article into or out of prison. ICP has applied to murder and manslaughter cases since the initial pilot in 2015.</p> <p>Following efforts to increase awareness, and a more focused approach across the PPS and PSNI, the number of cases in which the principles have been applied has increased.</p> <p>As at April 2019, approximately 120 ICP cases (an increase of around 40 – 50 cases on the previous quarter) had concluded with positive results and reduced processing times. Of the estimated 120 completed cases the average processing time between the date an incident is reported to police until the case is disposed of at court is estimated to be between 370 and 380 days, compared to 550 days (Crown Court average for Quarter 4 2018/19). Crown Court Performance Groups, which focus on tackling avoidable delay in the Crown Court at a regional level, met for the first time in March 2019. ICP is tabled as an agenda item at each group meeting.</p> <p>Progress continues to be monitored closely and will continue to be reported through, and to, criminal justice governance groups.</p> | | |

| A13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>Law enforcement agencies and others involved in the process of bringing prosecution cases to court should ensure that they have appropriate systems and procedures in place to enable cases to progress as expeditiously as possible.</p> | <p>The PSNI is seeking to appoint an experienced Detective Superintendent to work with partners in developing more effective criminal justice processes to manage prosecutions in respect to paramilitary activity and organised criminality.</p> <p>The overall strategy for speeding up justice includes all of the measures described in the preceding recommendations, as well as other measures contained in the Justice Act 2015 including: measures concerning Early Guilty Pleas, the reform of the Summons process; and the introduction of Statutory Case Management.</p> | <p>0</p> |
| <p>The purpose of this commitment is to identify and implement the actions required to secure the best possible outcomes in terrorism cases in Northern Ireland, focusing particularly on eliminating delay and tackling the specific problems which arise. The first phase of the project's work has focused on undertaking research to establish the facts on bail, sentencing and disclosure in order to lay the groundwork for actions to be taken to improve outcomes in those areas.</p> <p>An experienced Detective Superintendent has been in place since 2016 as part of the Better Criminal Justice Outcomes team to ensure that PSNI has a representative for the expected lifetime of the project. This officer retains oversight of the PSNI's involvement, however, the day-to-day representation is now at D/Inspector level (as agreed by the Chief Constable).</p> <p>Other progress includes:</p> | | |

Legislative reform – The April 2019 Committal implementation date is postponed due to the absence of a legislature. A temporary resource from DSO has been engaged and is working to progress Statutory Case Management (SCM) Regulations.

Procedural reform - ICP has rolled out (from 2 May 2017) and efforts are continuing across PPS and PSNI to further promote and raise awareness. The number of concluded ICP cases continues to increase. All PSNI District ECrime Support Units (DESUs) have now been rationalized into 4 regional Cyber Support Units (CSU). Cyber Support Units now have an establishment of 60 technical officers. PSNI Cyber Crime Centre has an establishment of 21 technical officers. All staff produce reports using the PFR1 Digital format. During Q4 2018-19 PSNI Cyber Crime (CCC & CSU) created a total of 324 PFR1 (Digital) forms.

Performance focus – Provisional data for the 1st quarter of 2019/20 showed that the overall median number of days for case processing times improved to 160 days compared to the 4th quarter the previous year (167) days. Although the overall time taken to complete criminal cases has improved in the most recent quarter, the average time taken to complete Crown Court cases has deteriorated, from 550 days in quarter 4 of 2018/19 to 567 days in the most recent quarter (Q1 2019/20).

A14

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|--|--|--|
| <p>The Department of Justice, working with the judiciary and with counterparts in the UK and Irish Governments, should review the position regarding bail in respect of serious offences to determine the facts about its availability and, if required, bring forward measures to improve the situation.</p> | <p>The Department of Justice will lead work, drawing on assistance from colleagues in UK and Ireland, initially to establish facts about bail decisions. Should that review and the analysis of its findings demonstrate any gaps in the law, phase two of this work will consider whether further measures are needed.</p> | <p>0</p> |

The key issue at the core of this commitment is determining if bail is more readily available, or less readily available, in NI than in the rest of the United Kingdom. Preliminary statistical analysis was conducted into this.

Summary of progress

DOJ has held a workshop with operational partners to look at general concerns about bail decisions and the reasons for these. The fundamental conclusion was that bail is sometimes granted in serious cases, including those connected with terrorism and serious and organised crime, due to the length of time the suspect has spent on remand. The workshop agreed that the primary task was, therefore, to improve the speed of the justice system and updates are provided elsewhere in this report.

The workshop had sight of high level statistics on bail in terrorist related cases. These are now in the process of being updated.

Within PSNI, work is underway to develop a more consistent approach to managing persons on bail. This will see a combination of automated processes and risk management developments. DOJ is also exploring with the Lord Chief Justice the possibility of a practice direction on bail applications and providing PSNI with sufficient time to respond.

A15

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>The Department of Justice should ensure that an appropriate mechanism is in place to enable the Director of Public Prosecutions to refer sentences he believes to be unduly lenient, particularly to include offences linked to terrorism and organised crime groups.</p> | <p>The Department of Justice will consider this recommendation within the scope of the recently announced Sentencing Policy Review. The Department will prioritise this element of the review and seek to bring proposals for consultation as soon as possible, including the possibility, in the shorter term, of adding further ‘linked’ offences to the statutory list by secondary legislation.</p> | <p>0</p> |

This commitment required the DoJ to consider this issue within the scope of the Sentencing Policy Review. As a response, a public consultation paper prepared by the Department was published in August 2018. The paper sought views on the proposal to add a comprehensive list of hybrid offences linked to terrorism, paramilitary activity and organised crime to the statutory list of offences that can be referred by the DPP on the grounds of undue leniency.

The consultation closed on 2 October 2018. Five responses were received, four of which were substantive. Of these, three were in favour of the inclusion of all identified offences.

A Statutory Order was laid in the Assembly on 9 July, coming into effect on 1 August 2019. The Order brings hybrid offences linked to terrorism, paramilitary activity and organised crime groups within the scope of the unduly lenient sentence provisions.

| A16 | | |
|--|--|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>The Judiciary may also wish to review the use of sentences and other punitive measures, including confiscation powers, to establish whether they are deployed to best effect in respect of terrorism and organised crime offences, including environmental crime.</p> | <p>Taking into account the Department of Justice’s review of sentencing policy, the Lord Chief Justice’s Sentencing Group will consider the guidance available to the judiciary in respect of relevant offences.</p> <p>The Department of Justice will work with justice organisations to develop proposals on other sentencing measures, such as confiscation orders.</p> | |
| <p>Guidance for the judiciary</p> <p>The LCJ’s Sentencing Group considered a paper on the issue of guidance available to the judiciary issue in March 2017. It concluded that existing guidance available to the judiciary is sufficient but it raised policy issues for consideration by DOJ.</p> <p>The DOJ review of sentencing policy will explore the issue of media reporting raised by the Sentencing Group in the context of securing public confidence in sentencing. Significant research and information gathering has been completed on the main strands of the review, and an expert reference group has been established comprising academics, victims groups and other stakeholders to inform and critically challenge the related development work.</p> | | |

Proposals on other sentencing measures

Work under C2 to develop specific organised crime legislation has also considered with law enforcement partners how other sentencing measures, such as Serious Crime Prevention Orders might be used, as appropriate, to reduce the risk of harm posed by organised criminals. The Department also continues to engage with the Home Office on a wide programme of **economic crime reform**. This involves engagement on the Economic Crime Strategy and Delivery Boards at senior level and includes work to enhance the confiscation of criminal assets. DOJ has also worked with the NCA's Proceeds of Crime Centre to highlight and promote training for law enforcement on the application of POCA powers to partners in Northern Ireland.

In addition, DOJ remains keen to take forward the full implementation of the Criminal Finances Act 2017 in Northern Ireland, subject to the appropriate legislative consents. Once fully implemented this legislation will enhance powers in Northern Ireland to tackle terrorist and organised crime groups, including through the availability of wider confiscation and civil recovery powers, such as Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWOs) which are not yet available to law enforcement in Northern Ireland. Work to prepare for commencement continues and will be escalated if there is a possibility of legislative commencement.

A **Review of the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS)** has also been initiated to explore the possibility of securing the full value of civil recovery receipts and cash forfeitures to be directed for distribution for appropriate purposes in Northern Ireland. Currently 50% is returned to the UK ARIS pot; 25% is returned to the enforcement agency (NCA); and 25% to the referring agency (e.g. PSNI). Further work is needed to scope legal gateways or gaps/barriers and potential administration arrangements.

B8

| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>The Department of Justice should revisit the framework related to the separated regime and arrange for an independent review to be undertaken examining the operation of the separated regime, evidencing the need for any changes and providing useful information for</p> | <p>The Northern Ireland Prison Service remains committed to finding ways to address the challenging issues associated with the operation of the separated regime. The Department of Justice will engage with stakeholders, develop terms of reference, and identify individuals to lead an independent review. The Review will deliver a report and make recommendations required in respect of</p> | <p>0</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| stakeholders to take forward. | the framework for separation. | |
| <p>Commencement of the review work will require Ministerial consideration and approval. Some preparatory work has been carried out, including preparing draft Terms of Reference and an estimate of the potential funding required to remunerate those taking forward the review. This has been submitted to the Cross Departmental Programme Board.</p> <p>In the meantime, NIPS continues to engage with key stakeholders on operational issues arising from the operation of separation and engagement; and Commitment B9, detailed below, is being progressed as a ‘pathfinder’ for engagement in separation, and to inform the approach to this commitment.</p> | | |
| B9 | | |
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| <p>Whilst ensuring that all prisoners are treated fairly, the Department of Justice should ensure that appropriate education and training opportunities are provided to prisoners in the separated regime.</p> | <p>Recognising that there are operational challenges involved in managing the separated regimes, the current provision of constructive activity in separation is commonly identified as an issue of concern by prisoners being held there. NIPS’ aspiration is to deliver well matched interventions to everyone in custody.</p> <p>The Department of Justice will commission a consultative evaluation of constructive activity in separated prison accommodation leading to the development and delivery of a new model of constructive activity for separated prisoners focused upon positive educational and wellbeing outcomes.</p> | <p>105</p> |
| <p>The work programme for this initiative has been centred on a consultative review of constructive activity in the separated prison accommodation, and the development and design of a new model, focussed upon positive educational and wellbeing outcomes.</p> | | |

In February 2018 the Northern Ireland Prison Service commissioned three researchers with specific experience and expertise in education and prisoner engagement to develop and deliver a consultative evaluation which would seek to engage with all prisoners in separated accommodation. The B9 review team provided opportunities for all prisoners in separated accommodation to engage with this review and also spoke with NIPS staff and a range of stakeholders in the wider educational field. Information was reviewed in relation to the educational attainment of prisoners and current learning and skills provision to assist in the formulation of the B9 Review Team's report.

The B9 Review Team's report was received by NIPS and published in March 2019. See: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/b9-report-education-and-training-prisoners-separated-regime-northern-ireland> NIPS has undertaken detailed planning from the publication of the report to date, in consultation with delivery partners (Belfast Metropolitan College and voluntary and community sector organisations), and anticipates commencing new arrangements in response to the B9 report recommendations from September 2019. NIPS has undertaken detailed planning from the publication of the report to date, in consultation with delivery partners (Belfast Metropolitan College and voluntary and community sector organisations), and anticipates commencing new arrangements in response to the B9 report recommendations from September 2019.

| B11 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Department of Justice should also work with law enforcement agencies and the Probation Board to improve the monitoring arrangements for 'paramilitary' offenders when on license. | The Department of Justice will develop and implement a plan for improving monitoring arrangements. | 40 |

DoJ has been reviewing options with statutory agencies to ensure a suitable mechanism for collective risk management. The development of a risk assessment tool is considered critical to inform that risk management.

Contractual arrangements have now been finalised in relation to appointment of a provider to lead a project to take forward work to develop a risk assessment tool to inform risk management and monitoring arrangements. The methodology has been agreed and key stakeholders have been identified who will inform and contribute to the design (and evaluation) of the risk assessment tool. Stakeholders have agreed to participate in a reference group which will provide organisational views and expertise and provide a quality assurance role during the various phases of the project.

Phase 1 (Engagement and Research) will include in-depth interviews with relevant staff to identify key issues and is expected to conclude in September 2019. Following this, workshops will be held with stakeholders to consider the key challenges facing Northern Ireland in this area, as well as existing relevant risk assessment frameworks and practices. Further phases will see the development and review of a risk assessment toolkit.

| C7 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Panel Recommendation | Summary of Executive Action Plan Commitment | Budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (£k) |
| The Executive, the UK Government and the Irish Government should consider whether there is merit in allowing some of the assets recovered from criminal activity to be used for the benefit of victims, communities and the environment. | The Department of Justice will take forward a review of the Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) to consider whether current arrangements can be improved upon for further benefit to victims, communities and the environment. | 0 |
| <p>From 2012 to date the ARCS scheme has provided significant funding for the benefit of victims and communities to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime. In keeping with this commitment a review was completed with the aim of building on, and improving, existing practice. The resultant recommendations for improvement to the scheme received approval within DoJ on an interim basis for 2018/2019. (This will be submitted for Ministerial approval at an appropriate time, subject to evaluation of the operation of the new arrangements). The revised scheme has seen the introduction of a number of changes to improve its effectiveness, including taking a three year strategic view to the allocation of funding. This will facilitate financial support to a number of projects that span multiple years.</p> <p>The amended ARCS scheme launched in August 2018 and an unprecedented number of applications were received. The ARCS panel completed assessment of the 187 applications, and 50 projects received an initial recommendation of funding, totalling £1.8 million, up to March 2021. The funding will address a range of issues in support of individuals, families, young people, older people and wider communities. The Department will continue to work with finance colleagues and DoF to consider what action can be taken to ensure the effective operation of ARCS..</p> | | |
| Total budget allocated from 2016-17 to 2018-19 for <u>Building Confidence in the Justice System</u> | | 1,702 |

