



Issues & Strategies for Conflict Transformation at Belfast's Interfaces:

Results from Belfast-Area Workshops
5th – 28th February 2008

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Introduction

During February 2008, the Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium organised workshops in each geographic area of Belfast (North, East, West and South). The aim of the workshops was

- 1) to identify and prioritise issues that have a major impact on the quality of life for people living in interface areas in each part of Belfast and
- 2) to highlight areas of work and methodologies that could be collectively show cased a models of best practice.

The workshops are part of a broader strategy which combines addressing the specific needs of local communities with a complementary citywide approach. The hope is that this process may act as a catalyst for an effective citywide lobbying and advocacy group with the capacity to inform and shape policy design as well as the creation and development of long term, sustainable intercommunity/agency partnerships in the field of conflict transformation and community relations/development.

The geographic workshops were facilitated by Ciaran Boylan (Locus Management) / Martin Snoddon (Northern Spring) along with BCRC staff and included an introduction by BCRC Steering Group and staff representatives.

As part of the workshop introduction, Sean Murray outlined the Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium's approach: 'BCRC seeks to consolidate our peace process at grassroots level, developing relationships and understanding while preserving vital lines of communication when tensions rise and conflict threatens.' Tom Roberts referred to the partnership ethos: 'It is the responsibility of all in our society to address the remaining issues. BCRC proposes to do that on a citywide basis, not by replacing the existing networks, but by enhancing their ability to carry out the work.' Frankie Gallagher explained the challenges ahead: 'We are not here to paint a rosy picture that has no place in reality and we know it won't be easy. We have a new political dispensation but have no real sense that interface issues are a priority, which leads to strong perception that interface communities have been abandoned.'

The BCRC introduction was followed by breakout group discussions where local practitioners were given the chance to highlight key issues and best practice relevant to their specific areas. Each workshop was concluded with a plenary session to summarise the overall findings of the area in question. The participants of the workshops were also asked to fill out a brief questionnaire to complement the result of the workshop discussions. The results from the workshops and the questionnaires show striking similarities between the four areas in terms of key issues identified, as well as some nuanced differences.

The workshops were attended by in excess of 106 people from some 76 organisations which demonstrated good representation of grassroots practitioners from Belfast's different religious and political backgrounds.

Issues

A wide range of topics were covered in the workshops. At times the discussion focussed on an analysis of underlying causes and the need for policy interventions. At other times people talked about specific programmes and services that could be improved. The most pressing issues for communities at interfaces were identified and there was a lot of agreement across the workshops. The main themes included: community safety and policing, youth, education, employment, health, housing and development. Some of the workshops talked about political representation. Some of the workshops also discussed integration of migrant workers and minority ethnic communities. The sometimes negative role of the media in the portrayal of interface communities was also debated. The absence of women in leadership positions was highlighted in some workshops.

Community safety and policing were highlighted as a major concern for communities. The problem of antisocial behaviour was discussed in detail and was linked mainly to young people. There was much agreement that there was a failure of policing including poor response, lack of knowledge about the community and community structures, inadequate communication and feedback. It was felt that the PSNI were not trained to police working class areas.

While there was debate on the problem of antisocial behaviour by young people there was also much discussion about the underlying factors and the need for programmes to support young people. There was agreement that there needed to be more effective and accessible youth provision including youth outreach. This reflected a concern that youth provision was not reaching all young people and in particular those most at risk. The link between sectarianism and anti-social behaviour was examined. It was felt that while sectarianism amongst young people was a serious problem it was not always the main factor in violence at interfaces.

The problem of unemployment was considered at all the workshops. This was clearly linked to poverty and deprivation and was also felt to be a factor in antisocial behaviour. It was noted that unemployment is both long-term and intergenerational. The lack of economic investment in disadvantaged areas was stressed. The link between unemployment and educational attainment was also discussed.

There was much concern about the failures of the education system in working class interface areas and the resulting poor educational achievement among children and young people. Participants felt that disparities and inequalities intrinsic to the education system adversely affected working class areas. This was seen as both a historical and ongoing problem.

Health was identified as an issue in all the workshops although most of the discussion centred on mental health. In some discussions, connections were made with the legacy of the conflict. The drug and alcohol culture was felt to be problematic as was addiction to drugs (both prescription and illegal).

There was widespread agreement that housing and development were major issues for all areas. The need for affordable social housing was spoken about in all the workshops. The negative role of developers was also discussed in this context and it was felt that some developers do not have the interests of communities at heart and that it was difficult to get community interest into the planning process. Discussions highlighted the need for a comprehensive and robust consultation between communities and developers and it was stressed that the needs of communities should be paramount in any planning process. It was recognised that the extent of derelict sites at interface areas made these areas particularly vulnerable to private development which did not take community need into account.

Three of the four workshops highlighted the lack of political representation in working class Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist communities. It was felt that political representatives for these areas were not linked into the communities and did not effectively represent their interests. The problem was compounded by the relatively low percentage of residents registered to vote.

Two of the workshops highlighted the issue of integration of migrant workers in their communities. While in some cases this was framed as an issue of competition over housing and employment it was also acknowledged that there was a question of resources to meet the needs of all. There was recognition that migrant worker communities had a variety of needs that should be better understood and that host communities needed to be better resourced to play their part in integration.

The negative role of the media in relation to interface areas was highlighted in two of the workshops. While interface communities are often blamed for the problems, the positive work that is ongoing is largely ignored.

Strategies

Not only did the workshop participants identify a wide range of issues with significance to their local areas, but they also put forward a large number of suggested strategies for dealing with those issues. As the Appendix below shows, the geographic areas share many issues as well as agree on a number of remedies for these.

Suggestions on how to deal with Community Safety issues included: a community driven intercommunity and multi/interagency approach; community policing focussed on community needs; and PSNI engagement and consultation with local communities.

It was further suggested that youth issues could, for instance, be resolved through the following measures: adopting a multi-agency approach; addressing social networking sites (such as 'bebo') and negative intercommunity contact; creating a link between youth work strategies and conflict management/resolution strategies; tackling poor educational attainment by making the education system more inclusive and revising the curriculum; local employment schemes as well as investment in apprenticeships for local youth; addressing the link between sectarianism and antisocial behaviour; addressing the legacy of the conflict with youth; introducing drug education and multicultural awareness programmes; increased youth outreach and improved youth provision; engagement with parents and development of parenting skills; as well as tackling underage drinking through engagement with schools, youth clubs, families and statutory agencies.

It was also suggested that Housing & Regeneration issues could be addressed through: training of local groups on the regulations and their rights; briefing of local communities on planning policies; and ensuring community input and lobbying on an intercommunity basis.

The four workshops highlighted a number of additional recommendations such as: community groups could play a key role in lobbying of statutory agencies/politicians; sharing of information and skills between community groups in order to empower those that are not as far along; increased intercommunity and cross-interface engagement along with empowerment of local communities were seen as essential in tackling the issues identified and holding statutory agencies to account; intercommunity communication was seen as key to addressing rumours, misinformation and tensions; and strategies to promote integration and tolerance should be introduced to help address intolerance toward migrant workers/minority ethnic communities.



BCRC Staff and Steering Group representatives at the North Belfast Workshop Lansdowne Hotel 5th February, 2008

Best Practice

The workshops identified a range of best practice happening in the local communities. Significant emphasis was put on community safety/safer neighbourhood groups, residents groups, youth fora as well as successful interface management fora which were felt to be very effective. Cross-community partnerships with a common interest in community safety and a focus on shared interests were further highlighted. A number of projects spoke about incorporating marginalised groups in management structures, i.e. migrant workers, young people. Social economy projects were discussed. A shared history project was highlighted. Other projects focussed on building parents' ability to support their children in education. Finally, some projects were emphasised that had focussed on filling the gap of the PSNI and government services in the local community and that had subsequently developed a good working relationship with the same.

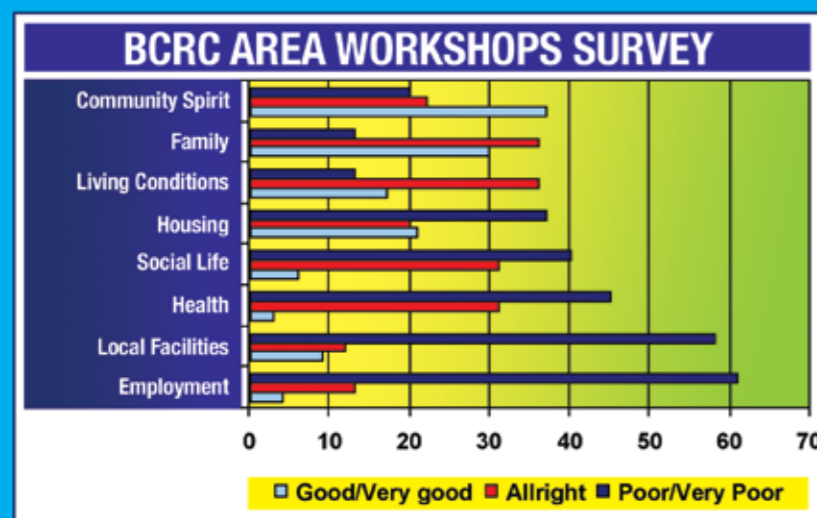
Workshop Survey Results

79 people responded to the workshop questionnaires. The short questionnaires asked people to rate and identify issues and the results supported the findings from the group discussions.

Respondents were asked to rate their areas on a range of topics. Employment emerged as the most important factor and most people scored this as poor/very poor. Local facilities were also rated poorly and this was more obvious in the South Belfast area. Health was mostly scored as poor although South Belfast respondents were more likely to score it as all right. Most people rated social life as either poor or all right and East Belfast respondents were more likely to score all right. There was more obvious disagreement about housing. About half of respondents scored all right or good and the other half scored poor or very poor. In relation to living conditions respondents in general were most likely to score all right while West Belfast respondents were more likely to score poor. Family was rated overall as a strength with most people scoring all right or good. Community spirit clearly emerged as an asset with most respondents scoring this as all right or good.

When asked to identify the main issues for their area respondents referred to a range of issues including those specified in the scoring questions, i.e. employment, health and housing. Community safety, antisocial behaviour and policing clearly emerged as areas of concern for many. The problems of drug and alcohol dependency also featured largely. In addition, many respondents talked about the issue of youth provision.

These results are all depicted in the graph below



North Belfast Workshop:

The North Belfast workshop was held on the 5th February 2008 at the Lansdowne Hotel and was facilitated by Ciaran Boylan (Locus Management) along with BCRC staff. The two breakout group discussions and plenary produced the following overall results:

1. Community Safety/Policing:

It was strongly felt that there was a lack of PSNI support in interface areas and that there was no effective PSNI approach to dealing with interface and community violence. Participants identified the need for effective community policing which would require a completely different approach to policing that puts community safety at the core. Participants also believed that there needed to be a community driven intercommunity / interagency approach to community safety. This would entail communities being able to identify problems and issues and all organisations and agencies working together to come up with solutions.

There was much discussion about the problem of anti-social behaviour and its impact on interface communities. There was also a range of opinions on the underlying causes and issues that were linked to anti-social behaviour. It was felt that there was a link between anti-social behaviour and poor level of education. There was also a view that there is a link between anti-social behaviour and territorial and sectarian mindsets and that this needed to be addressed in a range of ways. Lack of parenting skills was further felt to be a factor in anti-social behaviour. In terms of how antisocial behaviour was organised the issue of social networking sites was identified. Participants felt that the link between social networking sites such as bebo and anti-social behaviour / negative intercommunity contacts at interfaces should be addressed.

2. Housing and Regeneration:

The lack of affordable housing in North Belfast was viewed as a major issue of concern. Affordable housing was felt to be central to growth of communities and the deficiency was seen as preventing the growth of local communities. The negative role of developers was also discussed in this context and it was concluded that developers do not have the interests of communities at heart and that it was difficult to get community interest into the planning process.

3. Youth:

Much of the discussion centred on youth provision. It was felt that centre based youth work did not cater to children and young people most at risk. Participants identified the need for youth outreach programmes and highlighted the lack of trained youth outreach workers to meet the current demand.

Participants also felt that there needed to be a stronger link between interface work and youth work. This was a reflection of the involvement of young people in conflict at interfaces. It was therefore felt that there should be a link between youth work strategies and conflict management and resolution strategies.

4. Education:

The evidence of poor levels of academic attainment among young people at the interface areas was noted and it was stressed that this needed to be tackled. Participants underlined the need for a more inclusive education system and one in which the areas of education, training and re-skilling were more integrated.

5. Health:

Health and mental health needs were highlighted in the group discussions. In this context the issue of DIA dependency was referred to. One specific aspect of health and mental health that was also emphasised was alcohol and drug dependency.

6. Suggested Strategies:

- People felt that there were benefits to be gained from creation of opportunities for cross community and cross interface engagement.
- Lobbying statutory agencies/politicians and holding them to account was seen as a key role for community groups.
- It was suggested that sectarianism could be tackled through sport, for instance in the form of intercommunity sports days.
- Community safety and lack of PSNI support at the interfaces should be addressed through a community driven intercommunity/interagency approach as well as through effective community policing that puts community issues at the core.
- Antisocial behaviour and negative intercommunity contact could be prevented by addressing social networking sites such as 'bebo'.
- Addressing the lack of trained youth outreach workers could help ensure an adequate level of youth outreach.
- Youth involvement in conflict/antisocial behaviour could be addressed by creating a stronger link between interface work and youth work as well as between youth work strategies and conflict management/resolution strategies.
- Poor levels of academic attainment could be tackled through a more inclusive education system and an integration of education, training and 're-skilling'.
- Issues around planning and development could be addressed through the training of local groups on their rights regarding these.
- Joint problem solving could be used to break down territorial mindsets on both sides of the divide.
- It was suggested that all community workers in North Belfast speak with one voice regarding the government's strategic plans to ensure that the 10 recommendations for the area are implemented.
- A sharing of information and skills between community groups (for instance regarding funding packages) would help empower those groups that aren't as far along as other groups. An audit of which groups are doing what in the area could be helpful.
- It was suggested that all the groups in the area should support the implementation of the Anti Sectarian Charter.
- Opportunities for engagement and dialogue should be created.
- Collective empowerment should take place to improve skills knowledge and lobbying as well to ensure that agencies are held to account.
- Securing community buy in, endorsement and participation (at grassroots level) was seen as essential to the process of addressing key issues impacting on local communities.
- The link between sectarianism and antisocial behaviour should be addressed (including the link between football matches and antisocial behaviour).
- Youth issues could be resolved through more youth outreach and it was suggested that more information regarding available youth provision would be helpful.
- It was suggested that the statutory agencies' limited understanding of the complexities that prevail in working class/interface communities could be addressed by them going out to see the dynamics of local communities first hand.
- Relationship building (intercommunity/cross-interface) could be boosted by training, re-skilling and educating together.

East Belfast Workshop:



The East Belfast workshop was held on the 12th February 2008 at the Park Avenue Hotel and was facilitated by Martin Snoddon (Northern Spring) and BCRC staff. The three breakout group discussions and plenary produced the following results:

1. Community Safety/Policing:

There was a strongly held view that the PSNI lacks the ability to efficiently police working class communities and that practitioners are frequently being expected to take on the responsibility of a policing role without recognition. Frustration was voiced regarding the lack of value placed on the prevention/intervention work undertaken by practitioners and there was a general view that it is not being recorded or sufficiently resourced. Related to these issues, it was emphasised that PSNI and other agencies need to conduct consultations with local communities and also be held accountable. There was further agreement that the problems prevailing in interface/working class areas need to be dealt with through a multi-agency approach.

Local East Belfast practitioners stressed that the problems now prevailing at the interfaces can be more accurately described as 'recreational rioting' by youth rather than sectarian/paramilitary violence and it was clearly emphasised that there is a need to address rioting organised through internet chat rooms such as 'bebo'.

2. Housing and Development:

Participants highlighted the contradictions between the need for social /affordable housing and the interests of private developers. There was a general view that private developers do not have the interests of local communities at heart and that local community need is not taken into account when new builds/developments are taking place. In addition, concern was raised regarding the housing allocation of already vulnerable families at the interfaces.

3. Youth:

Participants expressed concern regarding the lack of youth provision/leisure facilities as well as youth engagement. It was further argued that not only should there be provision for youth, but there also needs to be engagement with parents.

One view that emerged was that there is a need to address the legacy of the conflict with young people at the interfaces. This came from a discussion that young people are affected by and act out the legacy of the conflict but have little understanding of the history, experience and causes.



4. Education:

The impact of the education system was discussed in terms of the lack of educational/academic attainment among youth. It was emphasised that this was a major issue which has long term implications for young people and their future life chances.

5. Employment:

Attention was drawn to the lack of training opportunities and training facilities and the employment skills deficit. There was some concern expressed about perceived competition between local people and migrant workers over employment and resulting tensions.

6. Health:

It was stressed that drug misuse (including prescription drugs) is a major issue in the area. Connected to this was the recognition that the alcohol culture is not only a youth issue but rather an intergenerational problem which it was suggested could be partly connected to the legacy of the conflict.

7. Political representation:

The lack of effective political representation of Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist working class communities was highlighted in discussions. This was felt to be a significant barrier to creating social and economic change in PUL communities as the lack of political representation means that there is no strong advocate for PUL communities and in particular for community/interface work which is therefore at risk of a cut in funding.

8. Media coverage:

It was felt that media coverage of interfaces is mostly negative and sometimes has the effect of increasing tension. The media coverage rarely draws attention to underlying issues of social and economic disadvantage.

9. Suggested Strategies:

- Lack of academic attainment could be addressed by revising the education curriculum.
- The skills deficit could be addressed by investing in apprenticeships for local young people.
- Education/empowerment of children at the interfaces was suggested as a solution to recreational rioting.
- Ex-combatants could act as positive role models for young people (visit schools etc).
- Issues of community safety and lack of efficient policing should be addressed through a multi-agency approach and PSNI/statutory agencies conducting consultations with local communities.
- Rioting/antisocial behaviour could be prevented by addressing social networking sites such as 'bebo'.
- Youth issues could be addressed through adequate youth provision as well as through engagement with parents.
- The legacy of the conflict should be addressed among youth at the interfaces as a means to prevent sectarianism and antisocial behaviour.
- Intercommunity communication was suggested as a way to address rumours, misinformation and tensions.
- Community input and lobbying on an intercommunity basis is one way to address issues related to planning/development.
- A spread of the workload of interface workers could help ensure more efficient mobile phone networks.

West Belfast Workshop:



The West Belfast workshop was held on the 19th February 2008 at the Millennium Community Outreach Centre and was facilitated by Ciaran Boylan (Locus Management) along with BCRC staff. The two breakout group discussions and plenary produced the following overall results:

1. Community Safety/Policing:

It was stressed that there is a clear need to address the link between the legacy of conflict and the problems of prevailing antisocial behaviour/sectarianism in interface areas.

There was consensus that the PSNI lacks the ability to police working class areas effectively. Participants felt strongly that the police 'sit back' and let the community workers do the policing. The discussions emphasised the need for more engagement between the PSNI and local communities in order to resolve these issues.

2. Housing and Development:

A lack of social housing was highlighted and the impact of private developers was discussed. There was a shared awareness that private developers do not consult local communities or build/plan on the basis of community need and that this was having detrimental effects.

3. Youth:

Although there was some debate as to whether or not there were enough youth clubs, it was clearly stressed that the existing youth provision is not fully utilised and does not have sufficient opening hours (as youth clubs are usually closed in the evenings and at weekends). It was further agreed that there is a great need for effective youth outreach, to address underage drinking and to address the feeling of detachment from society among youth. Participants felt that this was connected to the disproportionately low educational attainment among youth at the interfaces. In addition to targeting youth directly, it was also stressed that parenting skills need to be developed.

4. Education:

As noted above, there was general consensus that young people at interfaces are likely to leave school with low educational attainment levels. It was felt that the education system is failing young people and that this needs to be addressed.

5. Employment:

Unemployment was felt to be a key issue and the lack of employment opportunities for young people was emphasised. An important factor in this was the lack of large industrial employers in West Belfast and the failure to attract investment in the west of the city.

6. Health:

Major concerns were raised in terms of dependency on illegal/prescription drugs and social issues related to these. Although alcohol is still a problem, the general sense was that drugs are increasingly 'taking over' from alcohol and the government and PSNI lack efficient ways to deal with these issues.

7. Representation and attitudes:

As at the East Belfast workshop, attention was drawn to the lack of political leadership in Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist working class communities.

It was further felt that there was a need to change mindsets among grassroots level working class communities. Equally there was a need to change the mindsets of government, statutory agencies, political parties and funders in relation to working with class/interface communities. Related to this, it was stressed that there was a need to hold statutory agencies to account for the fulfilment of their responsibilities.

8. Suggested Strategies

- The lack of efficient policing should be addressed through engagement between the PSNI and local communities and the development of a long term plan.
- Joint problem solving within local communities.
- Briefing of local communities on planning policies would better equip them to deal with planning/regeneration issues in their local areas.
- Increased opening hours at youth clubs could help prevent antisocial behaviour.
- Youth issues could be tackled through more efficient youth outreach and addressing underage drinking as well as through development of parenting skills.
- The legacy of the conflict and myths around it should be addressed in order to tackle antisocial behaviour/sectarianism.
- Meetings with schools, youth clubs, families and statutory agencies could help resolve issues of underage drinking.



South Belfast Workshop:

The South Belfast workshop was held on the 28th February 2008 at the Malone Lodge Hotel and was facilitated by Martin Snoddon along with BCRC staff. The three breakout discussions and plenary produced the following results:

1. Community Safety/Policing:

There was a strong feeling that there was a failure of community policing in interface communities in South Belfast. There was a specific issue around poor police response times. There was also felt to be a lack of communication between the PSNI and local communities and a lack of PSNI accountability towards local communities. The overall view was that community representatives have extra responsibilities without resources in terms of community safety and communicating with residents. In some areas people also felt that there was a failure of the PSNI to deal with anti-social behaviour from groups within the community including migrant worker communities and that this had a knock on effect for integration.

2. Housing and Development:

Many areas have a poor standard of social housing and there is also a shortage of social / affordable housing. There is a lack of consultation by private developers with the local community when new development is being introduced which means that frequently private development runs counter to community plans and interests.

There is a lot of rented accommodation in South Belfast communities and this presents a problem when private landlords fail to do 'back checks' on potential tenants. Whereas the Housing Executive and housing associations have regulations which facilitate more accountability towards the local community, this is more or less absent within the private housing sector.

3. Youth:

There was general agreement about the lack of youth provision and both the scale and type of youth provision was seen as problematic. People felt that youth clubs and centres have limited opening hours and are frequently not open when they are most needed, i.e. at night and during weekends. Existing youth centres are also not fully utilised.

Concern was expressed about sectarian attitudes amongst young people. It was felt that conflict resolution work was necessary in order to address this including work which explained or discussed the conflict. It was also felt that there was increasing racism amongst young people.

Some people felt that there were links between parenting skills and the behaviour of young people, i.e. that if there was greater support for developing parenting skills then this would also support young people.

Underage drinking was identified as a particular problem that needed to be focussed on.

Overall there was a view that that there needed to be a multi-agency approach to youth issues.

4. Education:

Participants felt that disparities and inequalities intrinsic to the education system adversely affected working class areas. This was seen as a historical and ongoing problem as low educational attainment in working class areas is an intergenerational issue.

Participants also spoke about specific programmes for young people that they would like to see in schools. These included drug education programmes and multicultural awareness.

5. Employment:

Attendees felt that there was a need to address unemployment amongst young people so that they could have a stake in their communities and societies. In the discussion about unemployment the link with poor educational attainment was identified.

On a practical level it was felt that there was a lack of funding and resources for unemployed people. Some people identified the need for local employment schemes to enable local people to have access to employment.

6. Health:

A lot of concern was expressed about mental health and addiction. Participants agreed that there was a link between poverty deprivation and mental health and that this needed to be addressed. The problems of addiction to prescription drugs and other drugs were seen as very acute and needed to be focussed on.

7. Integration

It was recognised that there was a problem of intolerance towards migrant worker communities and minority ethnic communities. Some felt that this was due to competition over housing and employment while others agreed that all communities needed more resources. There was agreement that there needed to be strategies to promote integration and tolerance.

8. Political representation

There was a feeling that political representatives needed to be held to account for their work, or lack of work, on behalf of local communities. There was also a strong feeling that working class PUL (protestant, unionist, loyalist) communities suffered from a lack of political representation.

9. Media coverage

It was felt that the media could take a role in promoting positive events rather than focussing on negative events or issues.

10. Suggested Strategies

- A multi-agency approach was emphasised as a means to deal with community safety.
- Empowering communities in order for them to hold agencies to account.
- A joined up approach to lobbying.
- Sectarian attitudes among youth could be tackled through conflict resolution work as well discussions regarding the legacy of the conflict.
- Development of parenting skills could be used as a means to help support young people.
- Youth issues could be tackled through a multi-agency approach.
- Youth issues could be tackled by addressing underage drinking.
- Drug education and multicultural awareness programmes, along with communication between schools, could assist in addressing youth issues.
- Poor educational attainment among youth should be addressed by outreach to those young people who are failed by the education system.
- Local employment schemes could help address unemployment amongst young people.
- Intolerance toward migrant workers/minority ethnic communities should be addressed through strategies to promote integration and tolerance.
- The lack of political representation could be addressed by ensuring that elected representatives are held to account.
- Positive reporting in the media, rather than a focus on the negative, could assist in promoting positive events and issues at the interfaces.



Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium

The Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium (BCRC) was set up in April 2007 to combine the creation of a city-wide practitioner network with the write up of good practice and lessons learnt using a practitioner perspective. The BCRC is made up of grassroots and practitioner organisations which are specific to particular groups, explicit problems and to specific areas of the city. The BCRC will support these efforts, provide training opportunities, enable the sharing of best practice and raise the profile of conflict resolution activity above seasonal and local issues for Belfast as a whole. The project will also have an identifiable international component which will allow reciprocal transfer of learning from the international arena to Belfast's community of practitioners.

BCRC Project Aims:

- To Prevent Interface Tensions and Violence through Empowerment
- To Improve the Quality of Life for All of Belfast's Interface Communities
- To Assist in the Process of Transforming Belfast into a Post-Conflict Society
- To Work with Communities to Ensure Participation and Endorsement of a Citywide Community Development Approach to Conflict Transformation
- To Internationalise Belfast's Experience and Expertise, Establishing It as an Exemplar of Best Practice in the Field of Conflict Transformation

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