

Annual Report Nov 2000 – Feb 2002

Objective 1: To identify the components of a regeneration strategy

BIP has:

- Drawn up a position paper outlining member community representatives' views in relation to the proposed review of the remit and operational effectiveness of the Interagency Working Group on Displaced Families.
- Participated in an evaluation of the Outer North Interface working Group, in order to assess the effectiveness of this inter-agency group in meeting its key aim of reducing tension and violence in the Outer North Belfast area.

Objective 2: To enhance and develop the knowledge base

BIP has:

- Produced a number of articles for publication: 'Peacelines or Battlefields?' and 'Young People, interface areas and violence' (both with Neil Jarman), and a short 'Scope' magazine article on our experiences of the Promoting Social Inclusion initiative.
- Designed a module: 'Dealing with Diversity', to be delivered as part of the University of Ulster's pre-vocational certificate in Community Youth Studies'.
- Chaired the board of the newly-formed Institute for Conflict Research, an agency committed to participative action-research in relation to conflict and division both locally and internationally.
- Carried out a number of interviews with community groups in order to provide a community perspective on the findings of Dr Pete Shirlow's 'Mapping the Spaces of Fear' research, which we also helped to design.
- Liaised with a number of individuals, agencies and groups in arranging contacts/visits to interface areas of Belfast, including the Housing and Environmental sub-group of North Belfast Partnership Board, the Northern Ireland Bureau (Washington), and others.
- Produced, collaboratively, a draft resource pack for single identity work with young people.

Objective 3: To influence change that is of practical benefit

BIP has:

- Helped to design an evaluation of the operational effectiveness of the summer mobile phone networks.
- Been represented on the panels of NIVT's Peace II measure 'Developing weak community infrastructure' and the 'Communities in Transition' funding programme.
- Been represented on the Executive of Community Dialogue.
- Been represented, as an independent director, on the Board of the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project.

- Supported the development of the Outreach Youth Initiative, North Belfast.
- Made representations in relation to the Noble review of deprivation, the Community Relations Council's strategic plan, the Canadian High Commission's application process for grant-funding, the Violence Research Project, the Belfast European Partnership Board's development of its interface support programme, INCORE's Flashpoint Management conference, and the North Belfast Community Action Project (with CDC).
- At management committee request, successfully applied for membership of the Community Relations Council.

Objective 4: To consult, develop and support the membership of BIP

BIP has:

- Operated a mobile phone network over the summer of 2001, covering a number of areas outside the other existing networks.
- Supported the Inner East Interface Group in a process of regrouping, following the violence of summer 2001.
- Similarly, supported the further development and consolidation of the Suffolk/Lenadoon Interface Group.
- Fielded a range of requests and contacts from the media, statutory and voluntary organisations, referring these to appropriate interface area groups and agencies.
- Through the management committee, developed a strategic plan to be implemented over the next three years.

Objective 5: To become an independent project:

BIP has:

- Reorganised the office filing systems.
- Drawn up a range of operational procedures.
- Created new bank accounts.
- Liaised with the Greater Belfast Community Network and the Breaking the Silence project, regarding the possibility of sharing new premises with these agencies.
- Contacted an independent financial advisor in arranging alternative pension provision to accompany our transition to an independent project.
- Drawn up new draft staff contracts, currently with the Labour Relations Agency for scrutiny.