



# Section 75 Screening Form

## **Part 1. Policy scoping**

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

## **Information about the policy**

### **Name of the policy**

Promotion of Lawfulness – Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership – Strengthening Futures

### **Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**

Revised

### **What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)**

As part of the Department's work to implement Fresh Start policy the DfC Fresh Start team is working with Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership, to deliver a community based education and action citizen programme aimed at young adults who feel disconnected from their communities, that their voices are not being heard, who have been drawn into street disturbances, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol use and who have been or are in danger of being recruited by paramilitary organisations. It will provide the opportunity for young people to build a better understanding of the 'Troubles' and the current issues

impacting communities so they can make informed decisions and are more confident to challenge negative voices within their community. This will aim to divert them away from risk taking behaviours. The project will also provide young people with the opportunity to increase their employability through completing accredited training. It will also provide support for young people at a family level through a holistic family support programme.

The project intentions are to contribute to bringing about positive change into the lives of participants. The project will engage with participants from the identified area which are at particular risk from on-going paramilitary activity. The proposal aims to recruit young people, young women and their families.

The project will contribute to Work Stream Two of Phase Two of the Tackling Paramilitaries Programme (TPP) –

People and communities are more resilient to paramilitary influence and involvement in paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime

It will be delivered as one of DfC's Fresh Start in the Community projects which aim to promote lawfulness and active citizenship to individuals, and build capacity and relations within communities.

The project addresses the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme key objectives to tackle criminality and supports other Programme projects and its areas for targeted intervention.

All three elements of the programme will be delivered between 1st September 2021 and mid-March 2022. As part of all three elements, WNP will work with the local PSNI Policing Team to deliver a workshop to address the current lack of trust in the PSNI amongst young people and the rise of drug and alcohol misuse in the Waterside.

It is intended that the programme will continue for the duration of Phase Two of the TPP, subject to funding, with new participants each year.

The programme has 3 key elements:

1. Active Citizenship/Enhanced Employability:

This will provide training that promotes active citizenship develops capabilities in good relations and enhances employability.

2. Girls Voices:

This involves the delivery of an active citizenship, confidence building and employability programme aimed at young women aged 14 – 18.

3. Family Support – Families Achieving Change Together (FACT):

The FACT programme operates on an early intervention model, working systemically to support families to meet positive and achievable changes.

Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership's (WNP) Strengthening Futures project will contribute to the aims and outcomes of The Executive Action Plan to achieve a society:

- where citizens and communities feel safe and confident
- where paramilitarism has no place
- where the public support and have even more confidence in the justice system
- where those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures are supported to do it

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

Yes

**If Yes, explain how.**

The project will impact on young people aged 12 – 25 years old, located in the Waterside Area of Derry/L'Derry (Waterside Neighbourhood Renewal Area) where paramilitary activity and organised crime is prevalent. The Independent Reporting Commission (IRC) set up to monitor the progress of the Executive's Tackling Paramilitarism Programme noted in their 2<sup>nd</sup> report, released in November 2019, that paramilitary activity is most prevalent in communities which also suffer serious social and economic deprivation. The Waterside DEA has been identified as one such location. The location aligns with the geographic areas that have already been identified for focus by wider Tackling Paramilitarism Programme elements and based on academic research that assessed the number of paramilitary attacks, levels of intimidation and other factors.

The project interventions aim to reduce the number of young people who are likely to be drawn towards the path of paramilitarism and/or organised crime and providing support for their families and community. It will educate the young people on active citizenship, develop capabilities in good relations and enhance employability by providing them with OCN accredited personal development training. The young people's families will participate in an early intervention model, working systematically to support families to meet positive and achievable changes. Providing a listening ear, support and guidance for families and helping them connect to their community. A specific programme aimed at young women aged 14 - 18 will be delivered involving active citizenship, confidence building and employability.

### **Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

[\*A Fresh Start: The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan\*](#) was signed off by the Executive and the British and Irish Governments. The [\*Executive Action Plan\*](#) to tackle Paramilitarism and organised crime is the government's response to the Fresh Start Agreement.

The WNP, Strengthening Futures project will help identify the issues and advise on a viable policy response. It will contribute to addressing the issue of tackling paramilitarism and organised crime as part of the Department's commitment to promote a culture of lawfulness under Action A3 of the Executive Action Plan.

### **Who owns and who implements the policy?**

Whilst the policy for the overall Tackling Paramilitarism Programme is owned by the NI Executive, individual Executive Departments own and are responsible for implementing individual measures contained within the Executive Action Plan. The commitment to promote a culture of lawfulness currently falls under the remit of DfC Community Empowerment Division (CED). The outcome of the pilot will help develop a fuller programme and effective policy response.

## Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

No

If yes, are they

- financial
- legislative
- other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

## Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- staff
- service users
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary/community/trade unions
- other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

## Other policies with a bearing on this policy

### What are they and who owns them?

The wider Tackling Paramilitarism Programme is the over-riding policy intention. This Programme is co-ordinated by DoJ with input from Executive Departments.

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**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence/information</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	<p>Evidence has been gathered primarily from The Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme Data Dashboard – September 2020 which includes up-to-date information on factors including: number of paramilitary attacks, levels of intimidation and security incidents across all wards of Northern Ireland</p> <p>The most recent figures (2019) provided from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show that there were 126 young people in custody, 1,631 Youth Justice Service (YJS) referrals, and 957 young people involved with YJS. This project will act as an early intervention aiming to support identified young people who are on the cusp of entering the YJS.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA):  <a href="https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=9817&amp;lh=73&amp;yn=2008-2018&amp;sk=131&amp;sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&amp;yearfilter">https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=9817&amp;lh=73&amp;yn=2008-2018&amp;sk=131&amp;sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&amp;yearfilter</a></p> <p>It is evident that areas that suffer from high deprivation are also susceptible to paramilitary influence.  <a href="https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017">https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017</a></p> <p>The Neighbourhood People &amp; Place Strategy identifies the most deprived 10 percent of wards across Northern Ireland, identifying 36 areas of which The Waterside is one.  <a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/neighbourhood-renewal-people-and-place">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/neighbourhood-renewal-people-and-place</a></p> <p>This area is 55.97% catholic and 42.56% protestant according to the Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profile.</p>

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence/information</b>
	<a href="https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Neighbourhood%20Renewal/KS07b%20(NRA).ods">https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Neighbourhood%20Renewal/KS07b%20(NRA).ods</a>
<b>Political opinion</b>	<p>Evidence has been gathered primarily from The Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme Data Dashboard – September 2020 which includes up-to-date information on factors including: number of paramilitary attacks, levels of intimidation and security incidents across all wards of Northern Ireland</p> <p>It is evident that areas that suffer from high deprivation are also susceptible to paramilitary influence.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017">https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017</a></p> <p>The Neighbourhood People &amp; Place Strategy identifies the most deprived 10 percent of wards across Northern Ireland, identifying 36 areas of which The Waterside is one.</p> <p>Paramilitarism impacts both PUL and nationalist areas of the community and as such varying political opinion.</p>
<b>Racial group</b>	None identified
<b>Age</b>	<p>The most recent figures (2019) provided from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show that there were 126 young people in custody, 1,631 Youth Justice Service (YJS) referrals, and 957 young people involved with YJS. This project will act as an early intervention aiming to support identified young people who are on the cusp of entering the YJS.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA):  <a href="https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=9817&amp;lh=73&amp;yn=2008-2018&amp;sk=131&amp;sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&amp;yearfilter">https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=9817&amp;lh=73&amp;yn=2008-2018&amp;sk=131&amp;sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&amp;yearfilter</a></p> <p>The Youth Engagement Statistics for Northern Ireland (April 2019 – March 2020) show that over half (52%) of cases were in relation to those aged from 10 – 15 at the time of their offence. This programme has targeted an age group of 12 – 25 in an effort to provide intervention to all those in need.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/ye-engagement-statistics-ni-19-20.pdf">https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/ye-engagement-statistics-ni-19-20.pdf</a></p>

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence/information</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	None identified
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	None identified
<b>Men and women generally</b>	<p>The Youth Engagement Statistics for Northern Ireland (April 2019 – March 2020) show that the majority of young people (76.8%) coming into formal contact with the justice system in 2019-20 were male and 23.2% were female. Of all those adjudged suitable for the YE process, males made up 75.2% (918) while females made up 24.8% (303). The proportion of males adjudged not suitable for the YE process was slightly higher, at 78.0% (1,113) whilst 22.0% (314) of females were adjudged not suitable for YE. (Appendix 1, Table 2). Proportionately, males were more likely (53.2%, 1,113), to be assessed as not suitable for YE, in 2019-20 compared to females (49.7%, 314). Conversely, the proportion of females (47.9%, 303) assessed as suitable for YE was slightly higher in 2019-20 than that for males (43.9%, 918). In September 2020, males made up 80.0% (60 out of 75) cases where a PPS decision on how those cases were to proceed had still to be taken.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/ye-engagement-statistics-ni-19-20.pdf">https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/justice/ye-engagement-statistics-ni-19-20.pdf</a></p> <p>This piece of research highlights a greater need to target males however feedback obtained from the voluntary and community sector in the Waterside Area advises that there is a specific need to target young females in this area which is why the policy caters for both males and females with an element of the programming tailored specifically for young females.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	Limited availability of research
<b>Dependants</b>	Engagement and feedback provided by voluntary and community groups working with young people involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour and who are at risk of entering the justice system or being influenced by Paramilitarism, clearly indicates that an element of family support is required for the parents/carers/siblings of the young people

**Note to reader** - If you are aware of and would like the Department to take into account any further evidence or information relevant to this policy, please send this to:



**Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
Religious belief	None identified for these groups
Political opinion	None identified for these groups
Racial group	None identified for these groups
Age	There is evidence of vulnerable young people entering the Justice System, investment is needed to provide intervention and support to these young people.
Marital status	None identified for these groups
Sexual orientation	None identified for these groups
Men and women generally	The primary need of this policy is to target young people at risk of paramilitary influence, providing early intervention to avoid the risk of them engaging in criminal activity. Evidence suggests that young males are more likely to enter the justice system than females however feedback obtained from the voluntary and

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
	community sector in the Waterside Area advises that there is a specific need to target young females in this area which is why the policy caters for both males and females with an element of the programming tailored specifically for young females. The gender makeup of the participants will be captured at PPE stage.
<b>Disability</b>	Research available on this group is limited however any issues identified will be addressed via the family support element of the policy
<b>Dependants</b>	Engagement and feedback provided by voluntary and community groups working with young people involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour and who are at risk of entering the justice system or being influenced by Paramilitarism, clearly indicates that an element of family support is required for the parents/carers/siblings of the young people and this is reflected in this policy provision

## **Part 2. Screening questions**

### **Introduction**

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

### **In favour of a 'major' impact**

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;

- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

### **In favour of 'minor' impact**

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

### **In favour of none**

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

## **Screening questions**

### **1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none**

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Political opinion	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Racial group	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Age	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Marital status	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Sexual orientation	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Men and women generally	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Disability	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None
Dependants	It is not considered that this policy will have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category	None

### **2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

Section 75 category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief		Not expected to better promote equality of opportunity for this target group
Political opinion		As Above
Racial group		As Above
Age		The project's interventions aim to reduce the number of young people who are likely to be drawn towards the path of paramilitarism and/or organised crime. It will educate them on active citizenship and lawfulness, provide them and their families with personal development accredited training and the young people and their families will be provided with support and guidance from family support workers and assisted in connecting with their communities
Marital status		Not expected to better promote equality of opportunity for this target group
Sexual orientation		As Above

Section 75 category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide reasons
Men and women generally		As Above
Disability		As Above
Dependants		As Above

**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none**

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	The primary objective of the Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership Strengthening Futures Project is about providing support and opportunities for young people at risk and their families. Measures to tackle paramilitary activity and community confidence including opportunities to participate on programmes together, may help to promote improved cross-community relations. The evaluation is expected to capture any such impact.	Minor
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

**4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Good relations category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief	There are potential opportunities to link to related programmes on Good Relations, however this is not the primary aim of the pilot, it is about encouraging young people to make more positive decisions and reducing the risk of becoming involved in paramilitarism or ASB.	Minor
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None



## **Additional considerations**

### **Multiple identity**

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

*(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).*

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

Age, in particular younger catholic/protestant/men and younger catholic/protestant women

Impacts of the project on the above mentioned multi identity groups are, at this stage, expected to be positive however the project delivery may identify potential impacts on people with multiple identities.

### **Part 3. Screening decision**

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one)

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA**
2. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
3. **Be subject to an EQIA**

**If 1 or 2 (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:**

The Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership Strengthening Futures Project is about providing support and opportunities for young people at risk and their families. The project will support young people aged 12-25 (who are at risk of being influenced by paramilitaries) and their families and community, providing accredited personal development training and support for the young people and their families and building community relations in the Waterside Area.

The projects primary aim is to prevent vulnerable people from becoming involved or recruited into paramilitary activity, organised crime or criminality. It is expected that any impacts will be positive. The project evaluation is expected to capture any impacts.

**If 3. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:**

## **Mitigation**

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

N/A

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## **Part 4. Monitoring**

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.


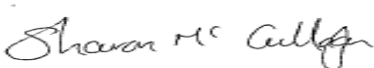
You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The project will be monitored on a quarterly basis via the completion of progress reports. A Post Project Evaluation will be completed within 6 months following completion of the project.

## **Part 5 - Approval and authorisation**

<b>Screened by:</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
 Marie Gallaher	Fresh Start Programme Manager	11 August 2021
<b>Approved by:</b>		
 Sharon McCullagh	Head of DfC Fresh Start Team	16 August 2021

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

