

Appendix A

COMMUNITY CRIME IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CCIA)

A Template for Pilot under Strategic Objective 4.1.40 National Drugs Strategy

Including Preparatory Report Template

Rationale

CCIA is an instrument intended to give due weight to the experience of a community of living with drug-related criminality and anti-social behaviour. CCIA's could be adapted to assess the impact of other issues on a community, but the focus in this project is on drug-related issues.

CCIAs are part of the National Drug Strategy Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017-2025. Strategic Action 4.1. 40 aims to:

“Measure the impact of drug related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities”
by:

“Developing and piloting a Community Impact Assessment Tool in order to measure the impact of drug-related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities”.

The initiative is based on Community Impact Statements, used in other jurisdictions including the UK. It was recommended by the Garda Inspectorate that such measures should be introduced to Ireland:

“In some policing jurisdictions, senior police officers can complete a Community Impact Statement on the impact particular crimes are having on the local community... It is a multi-functional tool which can be used across the justice system to enable decision makers to tailor responses to the local issues it describes”

A Community Impact Assessment tool should-

- Give a trustworthy snapshot of the nature and particularly the impact of drug-related criminality on the inhabitants of a specified locality. The tool will provide for *triangulation* in gathering data – collecting information from different sources in order to confirm the veracity of evidence
- Provide data that will be a reliable basis for planning how to tackle such issues and which parties are needed to implement such strategies.
- Monitor through repetition at reasonable intervals the effectiveness of any such strategies
- Be a resource-light and easy to use way of taking an assessment
- Have the confidence of all relevant parties to any solution to the issues

Method

There are five methods which will make up a CCIA tool

1. Speak to residents – a selection of reliable informants using a structured conversation as follows-

Ask the informant about their current and recent experience of community safety issues in the designated area. Try to get a picture of:

The nature of the activity – (public drug-dealing, intimidation, vandalism, late night parties and other public disorder, drug and drinking detritus etc.) Put it in context – is this a pattern that is new to the area, has it always been there or does it happen periodically? How does the experience connect to the drug trade?

The impact on people living nearby – (loss of sleep, general anxiety, feeling intimidated, concern for young people, damage to property, disruption to normal routines such as parking a car or walking certain routes, feeling ashamed of the area etc.)

How they or other neighbours have responded – (talking to perpetrators, complaining to authorities, sharing experiences with services, sharing experiences with neighbours, engaging positively with youth, public spaces etc.)

Their sense of how well authorities and services have responded. (Gardaí, LA, youth groups, drug services)

Their ideas about what needs to happen to address the issue.

2. Structured conversations with relevant non-residents who have a role that gives them insight and whose evidence is trustworthy – such as:

- DCC staff (estate managers, housing officers, anti-social behaviour officers, parks, maintenance,
- Others – priests, elected representatives etc, local businesses

In some cases, it may be useful to ask some of these to research further e.g. asking a Parks Council worker to note how many needles they pick up.

3. **Data research**

From PULSE and DCC complaints figures

Any other local research concurrent with the assessment (e.g.) resident's survey

4. **Unobtrusive observation**

Note any signs of current anti-social behaviour, burnt out cars, graffiti, vandalised property, fires, etc.

5. **Miscellaneous**

Current newspaper articles, other research, social media commentary etc.

Preparatory report Template

A Preliminaries

What is the **geographical boundary** of the neighbourhood to be assessed?

What is the reason for choosing this area?

What is the **time-period** for the assessment?

B Which parties are endorsing this assessment? Give the name of the person in any organisation cited.

Gardaí (mandatory)

Name _____

Rank _____

Local Authority (mandatory)

Name _____

Role _____

Community Groups/Organisations (At least one)

Name of Organisation _____

Name of Organisation representative _____

Role _____

Others

Name _____

Role _____

1. Resident Structured Conversations

As stated there are five methods which make up a CCIA tool:

1a How many residents will be spoken to?

1b What is the reason for choosing these residents?

1c Who will conduct conversations?

1d How will conversations be recorded?

2. Non-Resident Informants

2a Which informants will be spoken to?

2b What is the reason for choosing these informants?

2c Who will conduct conversations?

2d How will conversations be recorded?

2e Will any of these informants be asked to do research/inquiry of their own? If so which informants and what research/inquiry?

3 Data research

3a What data sources will be sought?

3b What period will be sought?

PULSE (mandatory)

How will this data be collected?

C/O Community Garda

DCC complaints (Mandatory)

How will this data be collected?

Others

How will this data be collected?

4. Unobtrusive observation

4a How will observation be conducted by researcher? E.g. Walkabout, photography

4b Planned dates and times of observation?

5. Miscellaneous

Current newspaper articles, other research, social media commentary etc.

What other data sources will be sought?

Are there any important contextual notes for the period of the assessment?

Contemporary Notes/ community safety strategies at Community Safety Groups
