A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The top circle is light gray, and the bottom circle is a darker gray. The text is centered over the intersection of the two circles.

**COMMUNITY POLICING
and
DRUGS IN DUBLIN**

The North Inner City Community Policing Forum

By Johnny Connolly

October 2002

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Acknowledgements

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"The CPF is a very positive development. The lines of communication have been opened. Trust is being developed between the Guards and the community and vice versa, that we all have a common goal...I think that's the most important thing that has come out of it"
Inspector Frank Clerkin, Garda Síochana, CPF Management Board 2000.

"I think they're doing a great job, the minute they hear anything they are on top of it, people get the right information, the CPF responds quickly, works with the people better, the police and corpo are working better together"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

1

1(a) Executive Summary:

In 1997 the Inter-Agency Drugs Project (IADP) and the Inner City Organisation Network (ICON) proposed the establishment of a *Community Policing and Estate Management Forum* (hereafter the Community Policing Forum or CPF) to the North Inner City Drugs Task Force. It was agreed that the CPF would involve local residents from a designated area in the north-east inner city, public representatives and representatives from the local Drugs Task Force, ICON, an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council. The overall purpose of the CPF would be to enable the Community, an Garda Síochána, and Dublin City Council to develop a co-ordinated strategy in response to drug dealing and drug-related anti-social behaviour in the north inner city.

In April 1999 a Board of management (hereafter the Board) was established to bring forward the proposal. The original Board consisted of a Chairman, Tony Gregory T.D; the Chairman of the local Drugs Task Force, Fergus McCabe; a local community representative, Tony Dunleavy; who is also a member of the local Drugs Task Force and is involved in anti-drugs groups, two Garda Inspectors, Frank Clerkin and Jim Cannon; and a representative from Dublin City Council, Jim Beggan. In April 1999 the Board appointed a co-ordinator, Marie Metcalfe, to liaise between the local community and an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council. The author of this report, a criminologist, was also contracted to assist and advise the Board and the co-ordinator in the performance of their roles and to evaluate the overall process. In June 1999 a part-time Secretary to the co-ordinator, Gillian Collins, was appointed¹.

Following seven months of preparation which included the holding of approximately 17 Board meetings and 52 local community meetings and the distribution of four and a half thousand explanatory leaflets the first introductory meeting of the CPF was held on the 15th December 1999 at Store Street Garda station. Over fifty local residents who were representative of the various streets or local authority complexes in the surrounding area attended this meeting. The area covered by the CPF is from Marlborough Street to the Royal Canal and from Dorset Street to Amiens Street. Also in attendance at the meeting were senior members of an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council.

Between December 1999 and October 2002 there have been a further twenty-eight meetings of the Board of Management. These generally occur on a monthly basis. The Board serves a number of functions; these include overseeing the work of the coordinator, addressing any matters raised at her request in her regular reports; it reviews the ongoing process ensuring that it continues to run smoothly and it makes decisions as to the manner in which the CPF budget is used. The CPF's financial administration, including wages, audits etc., is managed by the Inter-Agency Drugs Project Ltd., a forerunner of the North Inner City Drugs Task Force.

During the same period there have been a further 121 local community meetings. The average attendance at these meetings has been 7. Of the total proportion of local residents at these meetings approximately 61% have been female and 59% male. Members of an Garda Síochána have been in attendance at approximately 65% of these meetings while representatives of Dublin City Council have attended approximately 80% of the meetings². Others in attendance on occasion have included local TDs, City Councillors, Senators, representatives of ICON, a local priest and a local school principal. These meetings provide local residents or other interested parties, with an opportunity to raise matters of local concern to the relevant state agency representatives and for the latter to respond accordingly.

Five further CPF meetings have been held since December 1999; in March, June and October 2000, January, May, and October 2001, and in January and May 2002. CPF meetings generally occur once every three months. Local community attendance at these meetings has averaged approximately 50. Residents from approximately 30 different streets or local authority flat complexes spread throughout the designated area have attended these meetings regularly. It is in this respect that the CPF can be seen as representative of the area as a whole. Local residents generally attend CPF meetings following on from attendance at local meetings.

CPF meetings provide local residents with an opportunity to raise their concerns about ongoing drug-related problems and they provide state agency representatives with an opportunity to respond to these concerns and to account for their activities since the previous CPF meeting. Also, agreement can be reached between the state agencies and the local residents as to future actions to be taken in relation to ongoing drug-related issues. One of the advantages of CPF meetings is that senior members of an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council are in attendance. Therefore matters, which might require a response from senior representatives of the relevant state agencies, can be dealt with at such meetings.

In April 2002, a two-day CPF seminar was convened. The purpose of this seminar was to review the progress made in the establishment of the CPF, to discuss current issues of concern and to formulate a plan for the immediate future operation of the forum.

1(b) Community Policing Forum Aims and Objectives:

The general purpose of the local and CPF meetings is to provide the community and the state agencies with an opportunity to identify and address the local drug problem and related anti-social behaviour in a co-ordinated way.

The precise aims of the CPF are;

- **To ensure that the law is effectively enforced against those involved in the supply and trafficking of illegal drugs especially heroin.**
- **To reduce local fears and address concerns in relation to drug dealing and associated anti-social behaviour.**
- **To improve communication between the Community and an Garda Síochána in relation to drug dealing.**
- **To assist in the resolution of difficulties between the Gardaí and the Community in relation to drug dealing.**
- **To improve communication between Dublin City Council and local residents groups and to encourage the development of new residents groups.**
- **To promote community development, particularly in relation to the drug problem and to improve the quality of life for local residents.**

1 The current Board consist of Tony Gregory T.D (Chairman), Fergus McCabe, Inspector Jim Cannon, Donal Barron (Dublin City Council) who replaced Jim Beggin in December 2001 and Tony Dunleavy. The Co-ordinator is Marie Metcalfe and the Secretary to the Co-ordinator is Cathy Power, who replaced Gillian Collins in April 2001.

2 It should be noted that sometimes the nature of the meetings does not require the attendance of representatives of both state agencies.

3 Connolly J. (2001) *Community Policing Forum Panel Survey* Copies of the Community Policing Forum Panel Survey can be obtained from the NICDTF or from the author at johnny@historicalinsights.ie. Acknowledgements to Deirdre McCarthy, Marie Metcalfe, Dr Mick O'Connell and to the survey respondents for assistance with the survey.

SECTION TWO – Methods of Evaluation

2

In evaluating the process, the following methods were used;

- a) **Performance Indicators:** A series of performance indicators were identified. These included Input, Process, Output and Impact measurements.
- b) **Semi-structured interviews:** A series of interviews were conducted with the Board members to ascertain their views on the process.
- c) **Meeting Minutes:** Minutes have been taken at all meetings conducted under the auspices of the CPF. These minutes have served as a useful tool by which to monitor the progress of the CPF and to identify any difficulties, which have arisen during the process.
- d) **Incident Reports:** The various incidents raised at local meetings and at CPF meetings have been monitored and any progress made in relation to them was recorded.
- e) **Panel Survey:** A local survey was conducted in order to assess the views of local residents who had participated in the process. Forty local residents from 29 different streets or flat complexes throughout the designated area were interviewed for the survey³. Survey

"Its been helpful information wise. Before the CPF there was nowhere to turn to. Before I wouldn't be a person to speak out but now I would at meetings. I like it very much. It gives local people a say as to what's happening in the area. I hope they keep up the good work and that it continues"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

respondents were asked whether the Community Policing Forum had, in their view, led to an improvement in local Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council service provision, whether it had had any impact upon their willingness to report crimes to the Garda Síochána or relevant estate management issues to Dublin City Council, whether it had an impact upon their fears and concerns about drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour and whether they wished to see it continue. Also, the survey incorporated a more semi-structured dimension, which enabled respondents to comment further on the process 'in their own words'⁴. Respondents were asked to identify what they regarded as the most positive aspect of the CPF and to offer any comments or suggestions from which the process might benefit in the future. These comments are incorporated throughout this report.

"What I have learnt is that if you give a promise or you say you're going to do something, you'd better do it. In terms of deploying resources, or to tackle a problem, if you say you're going to do it, you must do it. The second thing is to say that...there's only a small minority of people in the community keeping the other people down, they're giving the area a bad name and the vast majority of people can't lift themselves above it"

**Inspector Frank Clerkin,
Garda Síochána,
CPF Management Board 2000.**

⁴ The survey also incorporated questions about local crime priorities, local victimisation rates, fear of drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour, local perceptions as to the changing nature of the problem, attitudes to the Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council, willingness to report crimes etc.

⁵ Connolly J. (2001) *CPF Panel Survey* Page 37.

3

3(a) Establishment of the CPF:

The purpose of this process was to establish a CPF. In light of prevailing local alienation and scepticism in respect of official responses to the drugs problem, which the Management Board and the Co-ordinator had to overcome at the beginning of the process, the large and sustained community attendance in Store Street Garda station for the CPF meetings held thus far is in itself a significant achievement. Furthermore, it is important to note that as part of the CPF survey, respondents were asked for reasons as to why they might not report a crime to the Gardaí and the most common response was fear of reprisal from those involved in the drug trade⁵. The difficulties encountered by many local residents through engagement in a process such as the CPF, in such a context, should not be underestimated. The Board members all regard the regular and consistent attendance at CPF meetings as extremely positive.

3(b) Input Measures:

- i) *Total expenditure on Project by source April 1999 - October 2002*
€170,000 (Approx)
- ii) *Number of staff employed;*
 - 1 Full-time
 - 1 Part-time
- iii) *Number of volunteers involved;*
 - 1 Community Volunteer on management Board

Attendance at all Local and CPF meetings was voluntary. Attendance by representatives of the state agencies at Board meetings or CPF meetings is often unpaid.

3(c) Process Measures:

i) Number of Residents Groups established;
One of the stated aims of the CPF is to encourage the development of new residents groups. An average of thirty residents groups representing distinctive streets or local authority complexes have been interacting with the process and attending CPF meetings thus far. At least five new residents groups have been established. A principal factor undermining the establishment of new groups in some areas relates to prevailing fears felt by some resident's about being seen to be associated with anti-drug initiatives and the possible reprisal from those involved in drug-related crime which might result. Therefore, the five new groups established maintain contact with the Co-ordinator on a confidential basis. Similarly, numerous personal contacts have been established and maintained on a similar basis throughout the course of the process.

ii) Linkages between the CPF and other relevant initiatives;

Other groups or initiatives with which the Co-ordinator has worked, or where she represented the CPF, include the Adventure Sports Project (ASP), Blackrock Garda station, the Dublin Inner City Partnership, the Family Support Service (FSS), an Garda Síochána Quality Service Initiative at Store Street Garda station, the Inner City Organisation Network (ICON), the Integrated Services Project (ISP), the National Crime Council, the North Inner City Drugs Task Force (NICDTF), the Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP), North Inner City Keeps On Learning (NICKOL), North City Centre Community Action Project (NCCCAP), RAPID, Saint Agatha's, Womens Aid. The co-ordinator has also participated in relevant training projects such as 'Managing Conflict' held at University College Dublin and one on 'Participatory Appraisal'. She has also assisted in Community Garda training programs in Store Street and The Bridewell Garda stations.

3(d) Output Measures:

i) *Number of meetings held;*

45 Board meetings

173 Local Community Meetings

6 Community Policing Forum meetings

ii) *Number of Local Residents in Attendance;*

Local Meetings; Total Attendance 714,
Average Attendance 7⁶.

Community Policing Forum Meetings; Total
Attendance 354, Average Attendance 50⁷.

iii) *Number of Local residents Contacted
personally by the Coordinator;*

Approximately 3000.

iv) *Number of Newsletters Distributed;*

Approximately 4500.

v) *Increase in Number of Gardai and City
Council officials involved in anti-drugs
activity;*

The establishment of the CPF involved an increase in co-operation between senior representatives of the relevant state agencies and also involved their presence at Board meetings, Local Community meetings and CPF meetings. There is some evidence that the CPF has had an impact on Garda deployment in response to incidents, which have been highlighted at meetings organised under the auspices of the CPF, and in response to information, which has come to the attention of the Gardaí as a result of the process.

There has been no indication thus far that the CPF has led to an increase in Gardaí and City Council officials regularly involved in anti-drugs activity in the local area. The consistent local view is that a greater Garda presence is required in the area.

3(e) Specific Impact Measures:

i) *Number of Drug-Related Incidents
Addressed;*

The incident reports reveal that, under the auspices of the CPF, significant progress has been made in relation to a number of local drug-related incidents. While these incidents have not in most cases been fully resolved, we can identify an improved co-ordination in the approach being adopted in relation to them. For example, there has been a significant input into the resolution of

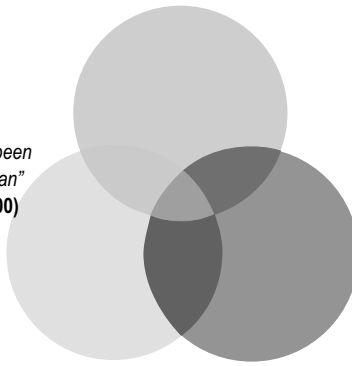
problems associated with the budget accommodation at Portland Row for example. This has come about as a result of numerous local meetings organised by the CPF co-ordinator and the local residents group. In January 2002, 'the Steps' at Seán O'Casey Avenue, a location associated with drug dealing and severe anti-social behaviour, was blocked off⁸. Numerous local meetings were held under the auspices of the CPF in relation to this issue.

Many of the incidents being dealt with on an ongoing basis by the CPF relate to both housing estate management and drug-related crime. Often however, it's difficult to make a distinction between the two. A number of specific drug-related problem locations are being addressed on an ongoing basis by the Co-ordinator in liaison with the relevant state agencies and local residents.

The local issues addressed include;

- 1) Reports of drug dealing at Charleville Mall Flats.
- 2) Reports of drug dealing and drug use on railway line at North Strand Bridge.
- 3) Reports of drug dealing and anti-social behaviour at the budget accommodation on Portland Row.
- 4) Reports of drug activity at Avondale House.
- 5) Reports of drug-related activity at Summerhill.
- 6) Complaints about anti-Social behaviour at Alfie Byrne House
- 7) Estate Management issues at Mountainview Court.
- 8) Reports of drug-related activity at the steps at Sean O'Casey Avenue⁹.
- 9) Reports of drug dealing in Railway street.
- 10) Reports of drug dealing in local public houses.
- 11) Reports of drug dealing at Dorset street.
- 12) Complaints about anti-Social behaviour at North Clarence street
- 13) Complaints about anti-social behaviour at St. Mary's mansions.
- 14) Reports of drug dealing at St.Mary's mansions.
- 15) Complaints about anti-social behaviour at Healy Street.
- 16) Complaints about anti-social behaviour in relation to Temple street disco.

"the turnout of the cops...has been very good, every cop has been there from the Chief Superintendent down to the local patrolman"
Tony Gregory T.D, Chairman CPF Management Board, 2000)



" I would most definitely see the CPF continued and expanded to deal with all issues affecting the community"

**Inspector Frank Clerkin, Garda Síochána,
CPF Management Board 2000.**

3(f) General Impact Measures:

i) Improvement in relations between Community and State Agencies;

Anecdotal evidence from Local and CPF meetings suggest that there has been an improvement in this area. The views expressed by community members at meetings organised throughout the year have generally been positive and encouraging. The consistent attendance of local residents at local and CPF meetings are also positive indicators in this respect. Comments made by local residents as part of the CPF Panel Survey, reproduced throughout this report, also suggest an improvement in this respect. Finally, the Community Policing Forum Seminar (See Below), held in April 2002 to review the process thus far heard many positive comments from local residents in relation to the CPF.

ii) Improved co-ordination between Community and State Agencies;

The incident reports indicate an improved co-ordination between the state agencies and the local community in relation to specific incidents, facilitated by the Co-ordinator. The stakeholders have also

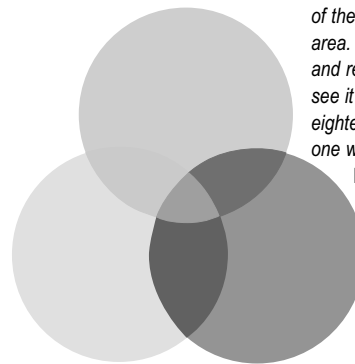
commented favourably in this regard in the CPF Panel Survey.

iii) Reduction in Anti-Drug street activity;

During the course of the pilot year there has been a significant lessening of street level anti-drugs activity held in the area. While there may be numerous reasons for this, it is possible that the development of a co-ordinated approach to the drugs problem under the auspices of the CPF has helped reduce the perceived need locally for such activity. It is also possible that the CPF has operated as a 'safety valve' at times of tension when required.

"I've learned more. Its made me more aware of the drug problem and happenings in the area. Its very good. I'd like to see it continue and remain as strong as it has been. I'd like to see it reaching a wider group. There's eighteen houses in my street but I'm the only one who knows about the CPF"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.



"All the local blocks have been visited, some issues have been addressed... there's been three Community Policing Forum meetings which have been well attended...so far so good"

**Fergus McCabe,
Drugs Task Force, CPF Management Board, 2000.**

⁶ Some of these figures might represent repeat attendance.

⁷ Some of these figures might represent repeat attendance.

⁸ For an account of this issue see Connolly (2002) *Drugs, Community and Crime - Monitoring Quality of Life in an Urban Area*. North Inner City Drugs Task force.

⁹ In January 2002, following a series of complaints about and drug-related incidents at this location, 'the Steps' were blocked off by Dublin City Council.

¹⁰ CPF Panel Survey (2001) Page 52.

4

4(a) Perceived improvements in Local Services:

Anecdotal evidence from meetings, suggest an improvement in local perceptions of service delivery. Also, there has generally been a positive response in those areas where specific drug-related incidents have been addressed on an ongoing basis by the co-ordinator in liaison with the state agencies. These general findings have been supported by the findings of the CPF panel survey, conducted between

November 2000 and January 2001.

Forty local residents from 29 different streets or flat complexes throughout the designated area were interviewed for the survey. As part of the Survey respondents were asked a number of questions to ascertain their views on the CPF. In particular, these related to whether the CPF had made a difference in terms of the relationship between the local community and the state agencies.

Question 1) Do you think that the service provided by an Garda Síochána/ Dublin City Council has improved as a result of the CPF?

Table 16: Impact of CPF on Service Provision

	Yes	No/No Change	Total Sample
Garda Síochána	28 (70%)	12 (30%)	40
Dublin City Council	24 (60%)	16 (40%)	40

Respondents were asked whether the CPF had any impact on their willingness to cooperate with the local state agencies. Positive responses in this respect might justifiably be interpreted as resulting from perceived improvements in local service provision. For example, survey questions were designed to ascertain whether the CPF had any effect on respondents' willingness to report drug-related crime, non drug-related crime or anti-social behaviour to an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council.

4(b) Impact of the CPF on Willingness to Report Crime:

The questions asked were as follows;

Question 2) Since the CPF was established do you think you would be more open to providing information to the Gardai about drug-related crime?

Question 3) Since the CPF was established do you think you would be more open to providing information to the Gardai about non drug-related crime?

Question 4) Since the CPF was established do you think you would be more open to providing information to the Gardai about anti-social behaviour?

Question 5) Since the CPF was established, would you be more willing to approach Dublin City Council about your concerns in relation to estate management issues?

Table 17: Impact of CPF on Willingness to Report Crime

	Yes	No/No Change	Total Sample
Drug Related Crime	28 (72%)	11 (28%)	40
Non Drug Related Crime	23 (59%)	11 (41%)	39
Anti-Social Behaviour	32 (80%)	8 (20%)	40
Estate Management Issues	29 (76%)	9 (24%)	–

4 (c) Impact of CPF on Concerns about Drug-Related Crime:

Question 6) Would you say that you are less worried now about drug related crime and anti-social behaviour than you were prior to the establishment of the CPF?

Table 17: Impact of CPF on Concerns about Drug Related Crime

	Yes	No/No Change	Total Sample
Less Worried	18 (45%)	22 (55%)	40

4 (d) General Commentary on Survey Findings:

Seventy Per-Cent (70%) of the respondents believe that the service provided by an Garda Síochána has improved as a result of the CPF. Thirty Per-Cent (30%) of respondents believe that it has not or that there has been no change. Sixty Per-Cent (60%) of respondents believe that the service provided by Dublin City Council has improved as a result of the CPF while forty per-cent (40%) believe that it has not or that there has been no change.

Forty-five Per-Cent (45%) of respondents stated that the CPF has made them less worried about drug related crime and anti-social behaviour, while fifty-five per-cent (55%) stated that it had not or that there has been no change in this respect.

Regarding the impact of the process on the willingness of respondents to report drug related crime, 72% responded that they would be more willing to report such matters as a result of the CPF. It should be borne in mind that reporting levels were already quite high in respect of these types of crime. However, if we consider the possibility that although people might state a willingness to

report such matters, when the opportunity to do so arose they might not. This statistic suggests that the CPF might have contributed to reducing the room for ambiguity or doubt in respect of peoples’ willingness to report.

What is also significant is that the CPF appears to have had an impact on people’s willingness to report non drug-related matters. This is significant from the perspective of the overall Garda crime control mandate and, although the CPF was established to focus on drug-related matters, it is clearly having a more general impact also. Clearly we can begin to see a connection between level of service and willingness to report.

Perhaps the clearest endorsement of the process was the response to the question as to whether respondents wished the CPF to continue. All of the sample respondents stated that they wished to see the CPF continue into the future.

“when dealing with the police and corporation when you mention the CPF there is a better response (but) it has to be mentioned to be effective”

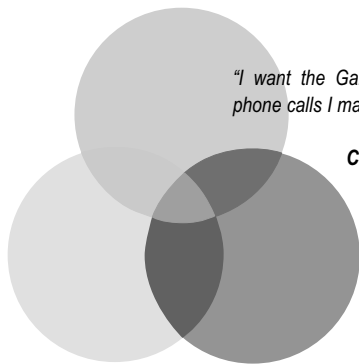
Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

“I think the very fact that so many of them (members of the community) are prepared to turn up at a meeting in Store Street, I think the very fact that so many of them were prepared to let themselves be photographed in Store Street is something that’s unprecedented”

Tony Gregory T.D,
Chairman CPF Management Board, 2000)

The Community Policing Forum seminar took place in the Arklow Bay Hotel, County Wexford, on the evening of Friday 12th April and on Saturday 13th of April 2002. The purpose of the seminar was to review the progress made to date in establishing the Community Policing Forum (CPF), to discuss current issues of concern to the participants – local Residents, an Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council - and to formulate a plan for the future operation of the CPF.

Attendance at the seminar included 23 local residents, 11 members of an Garda Síochána, 6 representatives of Dublin City Council and representatives of the North Inner City Drugs Task Force and of the Probation and Welfare Service.



"I want the Gardaí to respond to the phone calls I make"

**Local resident
CPF Panel Survey 2000.**

"we're not making great claims but we're saying that against reasonably difficult odds the structures have been set up, the people involved in that structure have an opportunity at a very local level to look at the issue and its explained to them what the story's about (and) they've responded"

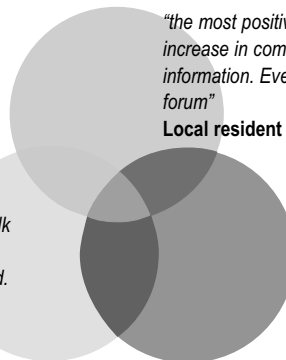
**Fergus McCabe,
Drugs Task Force,
CPF Management Board, 2000.**

"crime has dropped a little and friends and neighbours have been seen on a one to one basis with police. Before, you didn't talk to or get involved with the police. You can now say hello to police without being afraid. You can see changes for the better and I think its going to continue for the better"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

It was agreed at the seminar that the following issues would be addressed by the CPF in the coming months;

- 1) The state agencies would clarify the procedures by which complaints and reports of drug dealing and related anti-social behaviour are recorded.
- 2) The internal communications procedures of the CPF would be reviewed.
- 3) A regular newsletter would be produced.
- 4) A series of public information seminars would be hosted by the CPF. The initial ones would focus on the Criminal Justice Process/ the operation of Housing Legislation in relation to drug dealing and related anti-social behaviour/Responses to Juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5) The issue of Garda training would be explored.
- 6) Further research into best models in relation to housing legislation and eviction processes would be commissioned.
- 7) The CPF would consider formulating appropriate responses to juvenile crime.
- 8) The operation of CCTV locally would be reviewed.
- 9) Priority housing maintenance issues related to anti-social behaviour would be formulated.
- 10) Dublin City Council would explain the Tidy Flats initiative at the next upcoming CPF meeting.



"the most positive thing is that there has been an increase in communication and the sharing of information. Every chance should be given to this forum"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

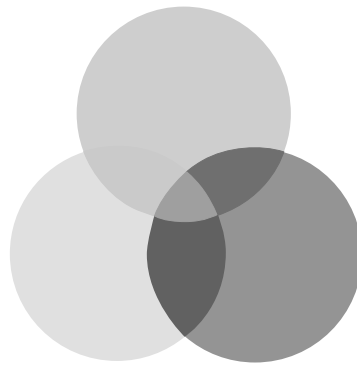
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RECOMMENDATION ONE – A DEFINITE FUTURE:

In light of the positive developments thus far and in order to build upon the progress made to date it is recommended that the CPF be mainstreamed within the Department of Justice. In order to maintain community confidence and support the CPF should be clearly defined as a permanent process as soon as possible.

A number of issues will need to be considered in the context of mainstreaming of the CPF. At present most of the members of the CPF Management Board are also on the Supply/Control Sub-Committee of the Drugs Task Force. However this might not always remain the case. The Co-ordinator of the CPF regularly reports to the meetings of the Supply/Control Sub-Committee. There does not appear to be any formalised reporting back procedures between the Supply/Control Sub-Committee and the Board of management. Also, the Management Board does not have direct responsibility for financial administration. Issues of managerial responsibility need to be addressed in the context of the mainstreaming process. Furthermore, it is likely that, upon the mainstreaming of the process, there will be a need for further recruitment. This will also heighten the need to address issues of managerial responsibility.

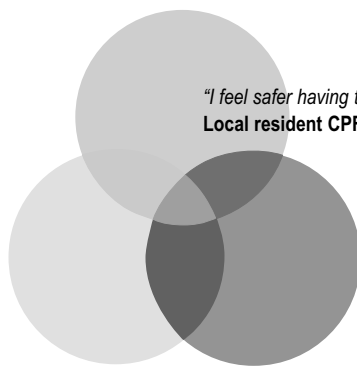
Rec 1) The Department of Justice, as the relevant Government department, should facilitate the mainstreaming of the CPF. In order to maintain community confidence and support this should occur as soon as possible. The CPF Board of management and the Supply/ Control Sub-Committee of the NICDT, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, should now formulate proposals in this respect.



RECOMMENDATION TWO – INCREASING THE PROFILE OFF THE CPF, A PERMANENT PREMISES AND NEWSLETTER:

As part of the CPF Panel Survey, respondents were asked if they believed that the wider community, their friends, neighbours etc., were aware of the CPF. Sixty Per-Cent (60%) of respondents stated that they did not believe that such awareness existed amongst the wider community¹⁰. In a later separate study conducted by the author in the local community, respondents were asked if they were aware of the existence of the CPF. Of the 44 respondents, only twenty-two per cent stated that they were aware of the existence of the CPF¹¹. At present, the premises in which the CPF is located is not suitable for easy public access or visibility. While the public launch of the CPF should raise the profile of the CPF in some respects, a more suitable premises and a regular newsletter would also greatly improve matters in this area.

Rec 2) In order to increase public knowledge of the CPF, a more visible and accessible premises should be obtained. Also, a regular newsletter should be produced by the CPF.



"I feel safer having the CPF to call upon"
Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

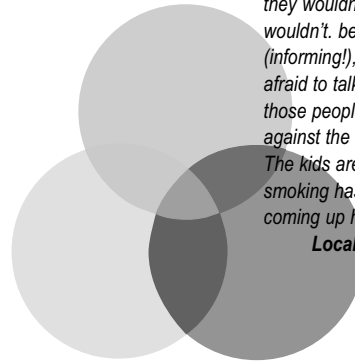
RECOMMENDATION THREE – EXTENDING THE CPF TO OTHER TASK FORCE AREAS:

It is clear that the many problems being confronted in the north inner city in relation to drug dealing and related anti-social behaviour, although extremely serious, are not unique to that area. Many other areas throughout the country suffer similar problems and might benefit from the establishment of a Community Policing Forum.

Although it might not be possible for many reasons to duplicate the north inner city Community Policing Forum in other areas, the model developed as part of this process contains a number of principal features, which it is suggested, have contributed to its success thus far. These include;

- a) A Management Board representative of sufficient seniority within the state agencies and which contains people with clear knowledge of the local community and who command respect therein.
- b) A co-ordinator with an intimate knowledge of the local community and who commands respect therein.
- c) External consultancy, particularly in the formative stages.
- d) Realistic Aims and Objectives
- e) A thorough preparatory stage to ensure the aim of the process is clear and widely disseminated in the relevant local area.
- f) Consistent attendance at all meetings by representatives of the relevant state agencies.
- g) An in built monitoring system to facilitate ongoing evaluation of the process.

Rec 3) The Department of Justice should assist in extending the Community Policing Forum model to the other Task Force areas.



"People are now informing the drug squad and they wouldn't have before the CPF. Well, I wouldn't. before, I didn't know how it worked (informing!), I'd probably be afraid...People are afraid to talk, the CPF should reach out to those people. I'd like to see more action against the drugs...More police in the area. The kids are now more barefaced about smoking hash..12, 13 year olds. The youth coming up have no fear whatsoever."

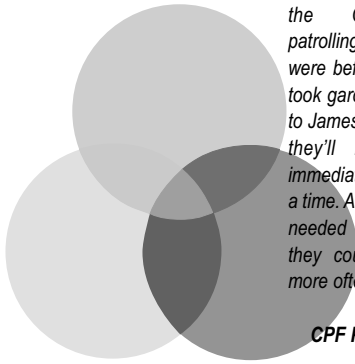
Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR – MAINTAINING A COMMUNITY-BASED ETHOS:

Although there are many variations in community policing models, it is useful to identify the philosophy or core principles, which underlie and inform the model.

A principal reason for the success of the CPF thus far has been that a careful equilibrium has been maintained between the state agencies involved and the local community and the process thus far has largely been community driven. In this respect, it has reflected the policing priorities of the local community. It is essential that this equilibrium and this general community-led ethos be maintained. All further reforms of the process or activities undertaken by the CPF and any process of mainstreaming of it should seek to ensure continuity in this respect.

Rec 4) Future mainstreaming of the Community Policing Forum should maintain the community-led ethos of the forum.



"We're after getting in with the Gardai. They're patrolling where they never were before. A month ago it took gardai two hours to get to James Larkin house. Now they'll be down almost immediately and they'll give a time. A few more police are needed in the area and if they could be seen a bit more often"

**Local resident
CPF Panel Survey 2000.**

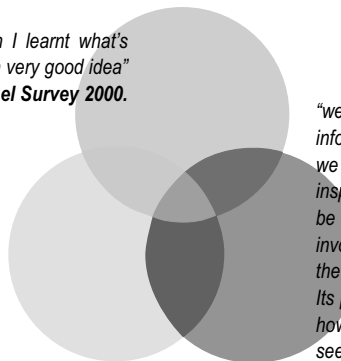
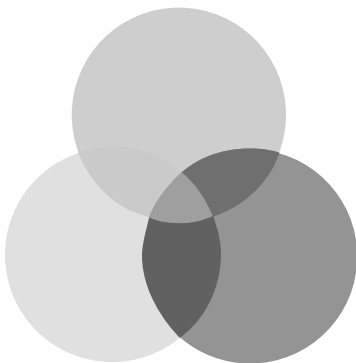
both within the local community and between the local community, the relevant state agencies and other community-based organisations should be considered. On many occasions, the CPF has operated successfully in this manner. Appropriate resources and training would need to be provided to those involved with the CPF for it to fulfil such a role.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE –
THE CPF AS A FORUM FOR NEGOTIATED
SOLUTIONS TO ONGOING LOCAL
PROBLEMS:**

Although the Community Policing Forum is still at a developmental stage, its potential as a forum through which to develop negotiated responses to drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour,

Rec 5) The potential of the CPF to operate as a forum through which to develop negotiated solutions to ongoing problem, both within the local community and between the local community, community-based organisations and the relevant state agencies should be considered. The forum has functioned in this manner on a number of occasions. Appropriate resources and training would need to be provided to assist the participants to the forum to develop this potent

"I feel more informed. I'm surprised when I learnt what's going on in other areas. I think the CPF is a very good idea"
Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

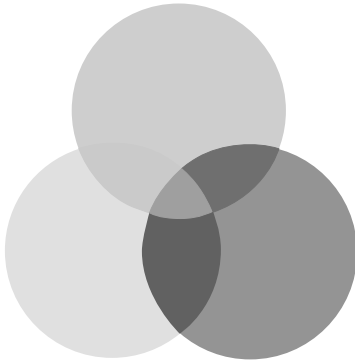


"we're now talking to each other, but I'd give information informally, I'd be afraid of reprisal...now we feel we've somebody definite we can approach, inspector Clerkin etc. many of my neighbours would be afraid to go to Store street, some have relations involved with crime. The access we have through the forum is a definite improvement. Its marvellous. Its private, you're in the station. We'll wait to see how it develops but its off to a good start. We don't see very many police on the beat (or in cars) at night time. I'd like to see more. Before you were ringing 999, now we can get to the source"
**Local resident
CPF Panel Survey 2000.**

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Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.

- 11 Connolly J (2002) *Drugs Crime and Community in Dublin - Monitoring the Quality of Life in the North Inner City*. NICDTF Forthcoming.
- 12 It was made clear by the Inspector that, although the general identity could be given, the details could not be talked about for reasons of confidentiality. This raises the sensitivities which can arise when information begins to be exchanges in such public forums.

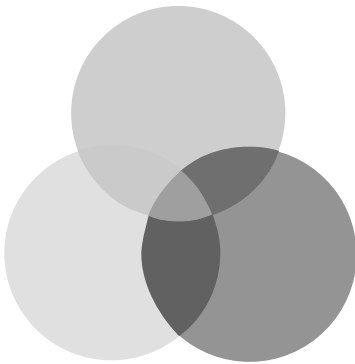


"I had no problem providing information but for many people...it (the CPF) has changed things for them, they feel they have a voice. Only those who are involved (active!) in the community know about it, there are others who don't have a clue. There needs to be a more open approach to jobs in the CPF, should be notices regarding addresses and phone numbers, maybe a fridge magnet, maybe more staff and local people are better informed. People feel they can contact someone who will help them out. Its like building a bridge between the local authority, Gardai, different projects and the community"

**Local resident
CPF Panel Survey 2000.**

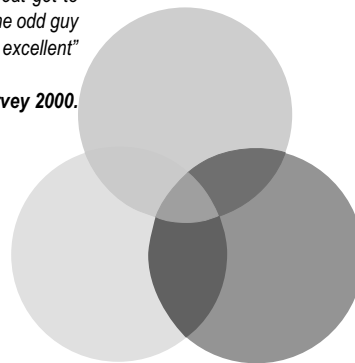
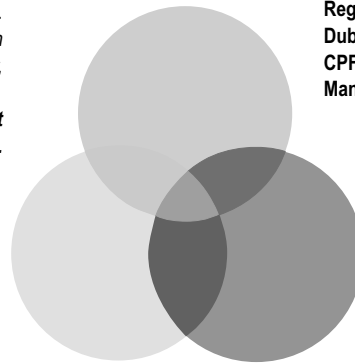
"there have been logistical benefits...we know gardai, we know individuals, we know tenants better...we see who wants to participate in the process so that we can go to them if we need help or information about what's going in the area...in terms of a relationship with the gardai anything that furthers that relationship in a positive way is beneficial to both organisations and the CPF furthers that relationship"

**Jim Beggan,
Regional Manager,
Dublin City Council,
CPF Board of
Management 2000.**



"There's direct communication rather than letter/telephone. Issues can be discussed. You have a direct input. Its face-to-face and you know who you're dealing with. You have to be careful at big meetings. With a lot of people at the meetings you'd be restricted in what you could say. Maybe there's a need for local meetings. The policy in Store street over the last year has been excellent. The same people on the beat have been left. No matter what technology you bring in, people on the beat get to know things. Three years ago you'd see the odd guy or squad car. Its no use. Tony Mulligan is excellent"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.



"Some good will come of it at the end of the day. When the CPF started and we were talking about the drug problem, the police promised they'd patrol two/ three nights. They did it for three nights. After the fourth it was back to square one. I want to see more police in the avenue on an ongoing basis"

Local resident CPF Panel Survey 2000.