

REPORT BY BRÍD RUDDY

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The group proposed the following as their vision for a Shared Future.

VISION

We want to pro actively plan for a peaceful, positive and diverse society

Reasons for this were:

- The vision will not happen unless it is **pro-actively** worked towards
- **Peace** is a necessary part of planning for diversity
- Being **positive** and rather than begrudging is necessary in order to welcome **diversity**
- (Hearts and minds are involved as well as equality legislation)
- **Planning** is necessary for the development of the vision. The problem has been active for 30 years and will require at least the same period of time to be cured

WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION:

- All schools, controlled, maintained and independent, should promote diversity
- There should be more integrated schools also
- There should be a choice of education, work and housing for everyone
- Teacher training colleges should be united-no segregated training
- There should be more equality awareness training for politicians
- There should be more economic investment for more jobs
- Money spent on security should be transferred to building services in local communities
- People should be free to move in safety within all areas and between all areas
- There should be real democracy in local communities where individuals and families would feel free to state their own opinion without fear of local 'leaders' or 'Groups'
- It should be acknowledged that there is a lot of diversity in all local areas but that often people feel constrained in presenting their views
- Community 'markings' should be removed so that there is no threat to local people and those from outside.
- Local statutory agencies should acknowledge their responsibility in removing these markings
- There needs to be more effective local government, with better quality politicians

- There should be a code of conduct for politicians where they would be penalised if they did not represent all constituents and talk to others from all political parties
- *There is a need for grown up politics espoused by grown up politicians*
- There is a marked desire from the community for better political leadership- the group do not accept that politicians are representing their constituents when uttering bigoted politics- the community is much more aware that politicians put across
- Inclusion of everyone should be the guiding value in all aspects of public life
- There should be transparent and fair policies on marches- if necessary banning all or most from all traditions to gain a period of peace
- Religion should be separated from politics with the acknowledgement that labels such as 'Catholics' and Protestants' are only labels of convenience and can be misleading and stereotyping
- There needs to be a way of dealing with the legacy of the past, through education awareness raising, counselling. This is long term
- The community sector need to be resourced in 10 year cycles to deal with these issues, as they have been the pro active group in challenging sectarianism

WHO SHOULD DELIVER THE POLICIES

- There needs to be strong leadership from a central body, independent of government but accountable in every way to the local level.
- **Many in the workshop thought CRC should fulfil this function.**
- This body needs to be a watchdog and to network all strands of strategy and delivery throughout local and central government the community and the independent sectors.
- There should be youth focussed strategies with thought out policies accompanied by adequate resources
- This needs to be combined with parenting classes to assist adult understanding of the needs of young people
- Strategies need to be short, medium and long term
- Churches need to be more positive and active in promoting a shared society and need to be part of the network of agencies overviewed by the independent central agency

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Short medium and long term strategies and comprehensive accountability structures need to be developed by the central body
- These need to be agreed by all parties in a contract arrangement so that there is a unified policy and unified measurement of outcomes
- Objectives need to be clearly identified
- These need to be SMART and consistently monitored.
- Only those actions which show positive outcomes and new learning should be supported in the long term
- International models need to be considered as part of our transition to peace
- There also needs to be better dissemination of local best practice
- Our own best local practise should also be exchanged at international levels to reinforce shared learning