

The Tim Parry



Johnathan Ball

Foundation for Peace

‘The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future’ Conference Report

November 2007



Inspiring people to lead more peaceful lives



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'The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future' Conference
held on Friday 12th October 2007
The Peace Centre, Warrington

Introduction

The Legacy Project is one of a number of programmes run by the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace (The Foundation), based in Warrington, Cheshire.

The Foundation is a registered peace charity (Reg. No. 1048990) formed by Colin and Wendy Parry after the IRA bomb attack on Warrington in 1993, which killed their twelve year old son, Tim, and three year old Johnathan Ball.

The Foundation works to inspire and enable people to lead more peaceful lives by participating in educational programmes. These programmes enable people to better understand conflict and by doing so help reduce or eliminate violence from conflict situations affecting their own lives.

The activities of the Foundation comprise working with key groups:

- Children and Young People
- Victims of political violence
- Former military and paramilitary combatants, including former adversaries.

In November 2001, the Foundation secured three-years' funding from the Victims Liaison Unit of the Northern Ireland Office, to deliver the Legacy Project. The original aim of the Legacy Project was to identify and meet the needs of victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' who live in England, Scotland and Wales (GB). This includes former soldiers, victims of bombings in Britain, their families, bereaved families of soldiers killed in the conflict, emergency services staff involved in incidents and exiles – those forced into exile in Britain as a result of paramilitary intimidation. At that time the overarching ethos of the Legacy Project was to be a way of validating, recognising and learning from people's experiences.

Based on this report, in 2004 the Foundation was granted further funding from the Northern Ireland Office to implement a number of these recommendations, by piloting a range of support services and activities for victims.

The second phase of the Project developed and piloted a peer support programme, an advocacy group, a signposting service, a website and a regular newsletter. It also established an inter agency group to raise awareness of the long term needs of people affected by critical incidents. In addition, the Project developed a series of residential for victims to come together to share their experiences with each other in a supportive environment. Alongside all of the above, Project staff also carried out networking activities to advocate on behalf of GB victims.

The funding for the Project was due to finish in November 2007, and as part of its final activities, the Project staff wrote a report on the lessons learned over the six years of work. The aim of the report was to share the practices undertaken and consider what might be useful for other organisations undertaking similar work.

The lessons learned report was officially launched at a conference held on the 12th October 2007 at the Foundation's Peace Centre in Warrington, and was attended by

victims and survivors who had been participants in the Project and many organisations from across the UK and Ireland and beyond who had worked in some way with the Project in the six years. A Delegate list is attached in *Appendix 1*.

This Conference Report provides an outline of the Conference, the speakers and the workshops held on that day.

The Conference Programme is attached in *Appendix 2*.

The Conference

Morning session - Sharing experiences

Dame Helen Reeves welcomed the delegates to the Conference and talked of her involvement with the Project and the Foundation. Dame Helen became involved with the Foundation initially as Chair of the Best Practice Conference held at the Peace Centre in 2004, which had reflected on the work undertaken in Northern Ireland and Britain in supporting victims and survivors. Dame Helen referred to the announcement at that Conference of the further funding from the Northern Ireland Office, which led to the 2nd phase of work for the Legacy Project. Following the Best Practice Conference, Dame Helen became involved with the Foundation as a member of its International Peace Commission. Dame Helen then welcomed the Foundation's Founder and Chairman Colin Parry to the stage.

Colin Parry then spoke of the work being undertaken by the Foundation and the impact of the Legacy Project in raising the profile and the credibility of the Foundations' work.

The Keynote Speaker was Paul Goggins MP, Minister of State for Northern Ireland. Mr Goggins spoke highly of the Foundation and its work to address the past and the future in relation to the 'Troubles'. He also spoke of the many achievements of the Legacy Project in the six years and how the lessons could be taken into other contexts. Mr Goggins congratulated the Foundation on its work and talked about the challenges ahead in Northern Ireland in light of the recent progress. Mr Goggins finished his speech by thanking all those involved in the Project, and in particular to the Project participants. The full text of Mr Goggins' speech is available on request.

Following Mr Goggins' speech, Project Manager Jo Dover gave an overview of the work undertaken in the 6 years of the Project. She referred to the first phase and described the research carried out and the impact of the independent needs analysis in informing future work and securing the second round of funding from the Northern Ireland Office. Jo then spoke about the piloting work done in the second phase of the Project and spoke briefly about how the work would be extended beyond the context of the 'Troubles' in the event of securing future funding.

The first of the presentations by the Project Participants then followed. Annie Bowman and Brian Bethell talked about their personal experiences and how their involvement in the Legacy Project had impacted their lives. Annie spoke of the death of her father in 1973, when she was 3 years old and the impact on her and her family. She talked about how the Legacy Project had given her the confidence to get involved with many different initiatives. Brian spoke of the day he and his wife received the knock at the door to tell them that their son had been killed in 1990. He spoke about how he'd supported his wife and the rest of their family and how the Legacy Project had given him a voice and a chance to articulate his needs.

The next presentation was from the STEPS group (Steps Towards Empowerment & Positive Survival) which had been formed as part of the Legacy Project activities. Evelyn Bitcon (Chair) and Pam White (Secretary) spoke of their experiences and reasons to get involved in advocacy work and then presented the STEPS leaflet to the audience. Evelyn's soldier son had developed PTSD as a result of his service in Northern Ireland and Pam had been a police officer sent to deal with the Harrods bomb in 1983, and had been caught up in the explosion. Both talked about the impact of these events on their lives and how it had led them to want to ensure others

didn't experience things the way they had. The STEPS group created a leaflet called 'If only someone had told me' and launched the leaflet at the Conference. The leaflet is available on the Foundation's website under the 'Resources and Publications' section.

Keith Hudson, a former soldier and Project participant spoke of his experiences as a soldier serving in Northern Ireland in the 1970's and of the day when his married quarters had been bombed. Keith also lost friends in the conflict. Keith came to be involved in the Project through another organisation and has since gone on to revisit Northern Ireland and become a member of the Department of Justice's Victims Advisory Panel.

Seán Coll then gave a presentation about the work of CIRAG, the Critical Incident Response Advisory Group, created by the Foundation as one of the recommendations from the Legacy Needs Analysis. Seán talked about the work of the Group in the area of advising on medium to long term support needs following critical incidents.

The final speaker of the morning was Jo Berry, whose father Sir Anthony Berry was killed in the Brighton bomb. It was the 23rd Anniversary of the bomb on the day of the Conference and Jo spoke eloquently about her experiences. She talked about the positivity she had tried to create after such a difficult loss. She felt that the Legacy Project had supported her and contributed to the positive journey she was making.

The Conference then broke for lunch.

Copies of the PowerPoint presentations are available on request.

Afternoon session - Learning the Lessons

The main aim of the afternoon was to generate discussion and debate around the themes developed in The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future Report, and to enable the conference delegates to engage with each other. Delegates also heard about the future plans for the work.

The afternoon was structured into three specific parts: i) facilitated discussion on themes in the report; ii) workshops; iii) a final plenary session.

i) Facilitated discussion

Sarah Alldred presented the structure and key findings of the lessons learned report, and then facilitated a discussion session where delegates were given two themes from the Report to discuss on each table. A summary of the responses is given below.

1. User Involvement

User involvement had been one of the key parts of the work in the Legacy Project. Delegates were asked to consider the challenges of user involvement.

The discussion included how it is easier to respond in the immediate aftermath of an event and how organisations are better placed to respond. People often self select to services much later and the voice of the minority is left, making it harder to respond. It was also highlighted that exit strategies are vital as sometimes people stay involved longer than they need to when receiving services. Questions arose about when Government institutions should withdraw and allow the community to organise itself.

2. Working with volunteers

Support of volunteers formed a large part of the work in the Legacy Project. Delegates were asked to consider the benefits, drawbacks and challenges in utilising volunteers in their work.

Some of the benefits were how volunteers can develop a more positive self image and feel valued as a result of their volunteering. Additionally shared interests can enhance the experience for both the volunteer and the organisation.

Some of the drawbacks included the use of volunteers as cheap labour, difficulties around commitment and reliability and how some professionals ignore and sideline volunteers because they feel that those people are not 'qualified' to speak.

The challenges covered the shortage of volunteers, how larger organisations attract volunteers more easily, and how the lack of funding to provide training for volunteers. Another challenge expressed was that volunteers have to be involved in the planning and the process in order to legitimise and perpetuate their involvement. Volunteers need to feel valued and as though they are part of the team; it makes it more difficult, but perpetuates commitment. This can be difficult for organisations.

3. Dependencies and Moving Forward

One of the learning points in the Report was how to be mindful of creating dependencies and enabling people to move forward. Delegates were asked to discuss how to overcome dependency on one service, and how services could be beneficial or hinder the recovery process for people.

The discussion included the availability of multiple services to offer the right support, empowering people to make their own decisions and take responsibility for themselves and exit strategies to ensure people can be supported well. It was noted that long term dependencies can easily develop, as on the path to 'recovery' there may be steps backwards. Some people may have had needs that they had prior to an incident but use other services to help with those, e.g. they may have joined the service for needs from the incidents but have moved on with these needs and have other needs unrelated to the incident. Because they are used to and like the service they may seek to have these needs also met, when they may get more benefit moving onto a different service. There are also impacts when staff move on.

4. Working with Partner Agencies

The Legacy Project's success was largely dependent on its collaboration with other agencies. Delegates were asked to consider the benefits, drawbacks and challenges of working with other organisations.

Discussion took place around the perception that some organisations want to create 'empires' – i.e. people have some information that they want to keep it to themselves. This can be due to funding or client competition. It is important to leave politics at the door. One of the benefits of all these people coming together today are that the experience of these organisations combined would be phenomenal. It allows sharing of best practice etc. It is vital to have a code of practice in place and that the roles of all partners are clear for accountability.

5. Care for Staff

From the six years of working on the Legacy Project, staff have had to be mindful of the personal impact of working in this particular field. Delegates were asked to discuss the benefits, drawbacks and challenges of working in the field of Trauma Care.

Delegates talked about the support that is in place, with inbuilt care for staff being important. Expectations should be clear for users and staff. Comments were made about Emergency Services workers never being properly 'off duty' and impacted by work.

ii) Workshops

Four workshops were organised for the second session of the afternoon. Below is a summary of what was discussed in each workshop:

1. The contribution of storytelling to the Northern Ireland Peace Process

Sara Cook presented an overview of the work undertaken in her organisation, 'Towards Understanding and Healing' in relation to storytelling and dialogue work happening in Northern Ireland. The workshop participants discussed the benefits of many agencies involved and the importance of safe spaces. Storytelling can be used to prevent exacerbation of the trauma, grief and difficulties facing family members. People who had experienced storytelling talked about the value of being looked after, for example just being able to share their experience and not have to worry about cooking and cleaning whilst they were away. Some people felt the Legacy Project and others provide a place for victims and survivors to express their feelings and grief rather than retaining it and ultimately 'blowing' at loved ones which creates further separation.

2. Holistic approaches to meeting the long-term needs of victims

Seán Coll and Clare White presented an overview of the timeline created by CIRAG, identifying the reactions and needs of people in the immediate, medium and long term, following critical incidents. The workshop participants then discussed the longer term needs and the benefits and drawbacks of a holistic approach when meeting needs. Discussion included the impact of legal cases on meeting needs, as often cases take a long time. The role of the media was also discussed. Questions were raised about whether responding agencies were on the right track, where the co-ordination is coming from and who addresses identified gaps. Other points discussed included the continuum of care, confidentiality, boundaries, competition, leadership, advocacy, funding and sustainability.

3. Hidden victims and how to reach them

Roberta Bacic and Sarah Alldred's workshop attempted to identify who the hidden victims were and their location, and consider the ethics of organisations approaching people and raising awareness of services so that people can access help. Discussion points included the difficulties in defining who are the victims and in what way were they 'hidden' i.e. in prisons, not attending services etc. It was discussed that the label 'victim' needs unpacking in terms of how people perceive themselves and the complexity of the situation. It was also asked 'are they labels imposed from the outside?' From this questions were also raised about who identifies people as 'victims', 'whose benefit is it for? A long discussion then followed about how organisations need to be creating opportunities to approach people. There needs to be a difference between 'awareness raising' so that people can choose, and appropriate ways need to be found to approach people. i.e. advertising that we are here but not telling people that they should be involved, but create an option for them. Ideas discussed included advocacy, education and marketing, word of mouth etc.

4. Shared experiences of victims of terrorism

The group was facilitated by Jo Berry and Jim O'Neill who began by sharing a little of their own experiences. The workshop participants included many direct victims and

survivors as well as support organisations and workers. Workshop participants expressed their individual experiences, including how good it was to meet people who were "not scared of my pain". Some people had found it difficult to hear people talking about people being murdered by soldiers and others had found it difficult to meet other ex-combatants. One person commented that "people shouldn't go in to these programmes if they are looking for apologies, you won't get it. You'll get dialogue." Another person observed that "It's what people choose to do in terms of their pain that defines where they go and how they deal with that." Discussion then took place around common themes and issues such as trying to understand what created a certain situation and trying to understand other's actions. A question was raised on who is there to listen to soldiers coming back from Iraq? Coping mechanisms and memorials were also discussed in the group. A final comment was made that empathy is hugely important in validating and understanding people's experiences.

More detailed information about each workshop is available on request.

iii) Final plenary session

The final session of the afternoon included a presentation by the Foundation's Chief Executive, Clare White, on the proposed future of the Foundation's work in this area, and a question and answers session to a panel of the day's speakers.

Clare spoke of the Foundations' three primary areas of work: 'Children for Peace', 'Communities for Peace' and 'Survivors for Peace'. The Foundation had planned five areas of work under the 'Survivors for Peace' heading. These areas were Storytelling & Dialogue, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, Archive & Testimony, Advocacy & Awareness Raising and Leadership Development. Clare explained that the Foundation had submitted a bid to the Big Lottery Fund and that the decision should be received by the 1st December 2007. Clare thanked the staff and the participants of the Legacy Project for their hard work over the six years.

The audience were invited to put questions to a panel consisting of Colin Parry OBE, Seán Coll from CIRAG, Evelyn Bitcon from the STEPS Group and Jo Dover & Sarah Alldred from the Legacy Project. Dame Helen chaired the session and then officially closed the Conference, thanking everyone for their contribution and making the effort to attend a very important day.

'The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future Conference'**Delegate list**

Sarah Alldred	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Ted Aubertin	Legacy Project Participant
Roberta Bacic	Legacy Project Advisory Group
Val Barlow	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Zoë Barnes	Legacy Project Participant
Jo Berry	Legacy Project Advisory Group / Participant / STEPS
Jo Best	7th July Assistance Centre
Brian Bethell	Legacy Project Participant
Evelyn Bitcon	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Annie Bowman	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Seán Coll	Western Health & Social Care Trust
Sara Cook	Towards Understanding & Healing
Lesley Daniels	Greater Manchester Victim Support & Witness Service
Jacinta De Paor	Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation
Laura Dick	Northern Ireland Office
Jo Dover	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Stephen Gargan	Gaslight Productions
Paul Goggins MP	Minister of State for Northern Ireland
Sue Hanisch	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Lynn Hitchen	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Kerry Hosken	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Phil Howlett	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Keith Hudson	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Dominic Hudson	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Simon Keyes	St. Ethelburgas Centre for Reconciliation & Peace
Jim Keys	Gaslight Productions
Martine Lafargue	Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation
Margaret Lockwood Croft	Marchioness Action Group
Maria Lozano	Asociación de Ayuda a las Víctimas del 11 Marz
Frances MacLeod	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
Chanel Martin	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Phil Maslen	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Lynne McCadden	Northwest Vision & Media

Tracey McRory	An Teach Ban - Centre for Peacebuilding
Iñigo Molero	Asociación de Ayuda a las Victimas del 11 Marz
Glynn Morgan	Greater Manchester Victim Support & Witness Service
Jim O'Neill	Legacy Project Advisory Group
Wendy Parry	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Colin Parry	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Jane Price	Royal Gwent Hospital
Liz Prosser	7th July Assistance Centre
Dame Helen Reeves	Conference Chair
Helen Southworth MP	
Andrew Robinson	
Kelly Simcock	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
David Stratford	Essex County Council Social Care EDS
Karl Toohar	
John Walters	Ceredigion County Council
Clare White	Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Pam White	Legacy Project Participant / STEPS
Janet Williams	Partnership At Work

'The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future' Conference

Programme

- 10.30: Registration, tea and coffee
- 11.00: Conference Chair Dame Helen Reeves
Colin Parry Foundation Chairman – Welcome Address
- 11.10: Paul Goggins MP, Minister of State for Northern Ireland and Q&A session
- 11.35: Legacy Project Overview – Jo Dover
- 11.50: Testimonies from Annie Bowman and Brian Bethell – Legacy Participants
- 12:00: STEPS Presentation – Evelyn Bitcon & Pam White
- 12.10: Testimony from Keith Hudson – Legacy participant
- 12.15: CIRAG Presentation – Seán Coll
- 12.25: Testimony from Jo Berry – Legacy participant
- 12.30: Lunch
- 13.30: The Legacy: Learning the lessons Discussion session – Sarah Alldred
- 14.15: Workshops:
- 1. The contribution of storytelling to the Northern Ireland Peace Process*
Facilitator: Sara Cook
- 2. Holistic approaches to meeting the long-term needs of victims*
Facilitators: Seán Coll & Clare White
- 3. Hidden victims and how to reach them*
Facilitators: Roberta Bacic & Sarah Alldred
- 4. Shared experiences of victims of terrorism*
Facilitators: Jim O'Neill & Jo Berry
- 15.15: Tea / Coffee
- 15:45: The future work – Clare White
Question and Answer session
- 16.30: Close of Conference