

The weaknesses and constraints faced by the LCTIs

However, the research also highlights a range of organisational weaknesses of the LCTIs. These include the lack of a paper culture which makes evaluation difficult; and weakness at raising the organisational profile of the network, especially with regard to public relations activities.

A number of the external constraints are also explored. These include the problematic relationship between LCTIs and statutory bodies, issues surrounding funding; the destabilising effects of criminality on perceptions of loyalism; and the limited scope of the LCTIs' work due to the fractured nature of loyalist community infrastructure.

Conclusions and issues arising from the research

On the basis of the research, a number of conclusions are drawn. It was found that the main barriers to the work of the LCTIs are issues surrounding legitimacy, funding and the fractured nature of community infrastructure within which they work. On the other hand, factors facilitating the work of the LCTIs' work are their credibility, expertise and commitment, the flexibility of the funding they have received to date, and the strong interlinked nature of their network. On the basis of these findings, a variety of suggestions are made for consideration by the LCTIs and Government Departments.

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Appendix 1 Research Methodology

