



TEMPLATE FOR INTERFACE INTERVENTION

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FOREWARD

What we have tried to do in developing this document and template is to provide interface communities with the practical mechanism to deal with the various types of violence that might occur.

By its very nature the process must be pragmatic in its implementation and transfer and translate equally well in rural conditions as in the city or urban context

It must also include the methodology whereby we can collate information on incidents, assaults and attacks, for public presentation.

But by far the most important outcome must be, a simple, workable, practical template that will lessen the potential for serious violence on interfaces right across the North.

Any template will obviously work better if it involves co-operation by representatives of the Loyalist/Unionist community. However in the absence of such co-operation it is our belief that this template can provide a valuable contribution to ensuring a peaceful summer in interface areas.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE

ISOLATED INCIDENTS

- Interface incident occurs
- Community Watch and Contact Group respond
- Assess incident and level of damage
- Contact emergency services if necessary
- Phone opposite number on Contact Group
- Where possible, calm situation to allow contact group response
- Fill in Incident Report and log time, date etc
- Report to Core Group to process

MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES

RECURRING INCIDENTS

Community Structure

- Community Watch, Emergency response:
- Emergency procedures for residents
- Liaison with emergency services including, DHSS, Housing Exec.
- N & W, S & E Trusts
- Video evidence
- Testimonial evidence
- Legal representation
- Ombudsman reports etc.
- Media information

Political Structure

- Liase with Irish Secretariat
- N.I.O.
- Amnesty International
- International Observers
- Other Politicians (home and abroad)
- Local and International delegations
- Local residents requirements (S.P.E.D. Scheme, P.O.P.P.I Scheme, emergency repairs, D.H.S.S. etc.)

LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

- Community Structure and Political Structure to engage in partnership initiatives
- Develop single identity and cross community projects to build stability
- Encourage partnerships with Churches, Private Sector, Local Politicians and Community Groups
- Build relationships with mediation organisations
- Develop inter community projects
- Engage all sections in confidence building
- Stabilize and support all structures

Three recommended Modes for Intervention

1. PREVENTION MODE

2. RESPONSE MODE

3. MAINTENANCE MODE

PREVENTION MODE

- Nip situations in the bud
- Allow for reflection (rather than quick reaction)
- Gather and share information
- Explain the situation to respective communities and constituencies (e.g. politicians)
- Keep a record of transactions and events
- Send out positive messages regarding work on Interface
- Send out positive messages regarding preventative work.
- Send out positive messages regarding work in relation to a particular event/issue

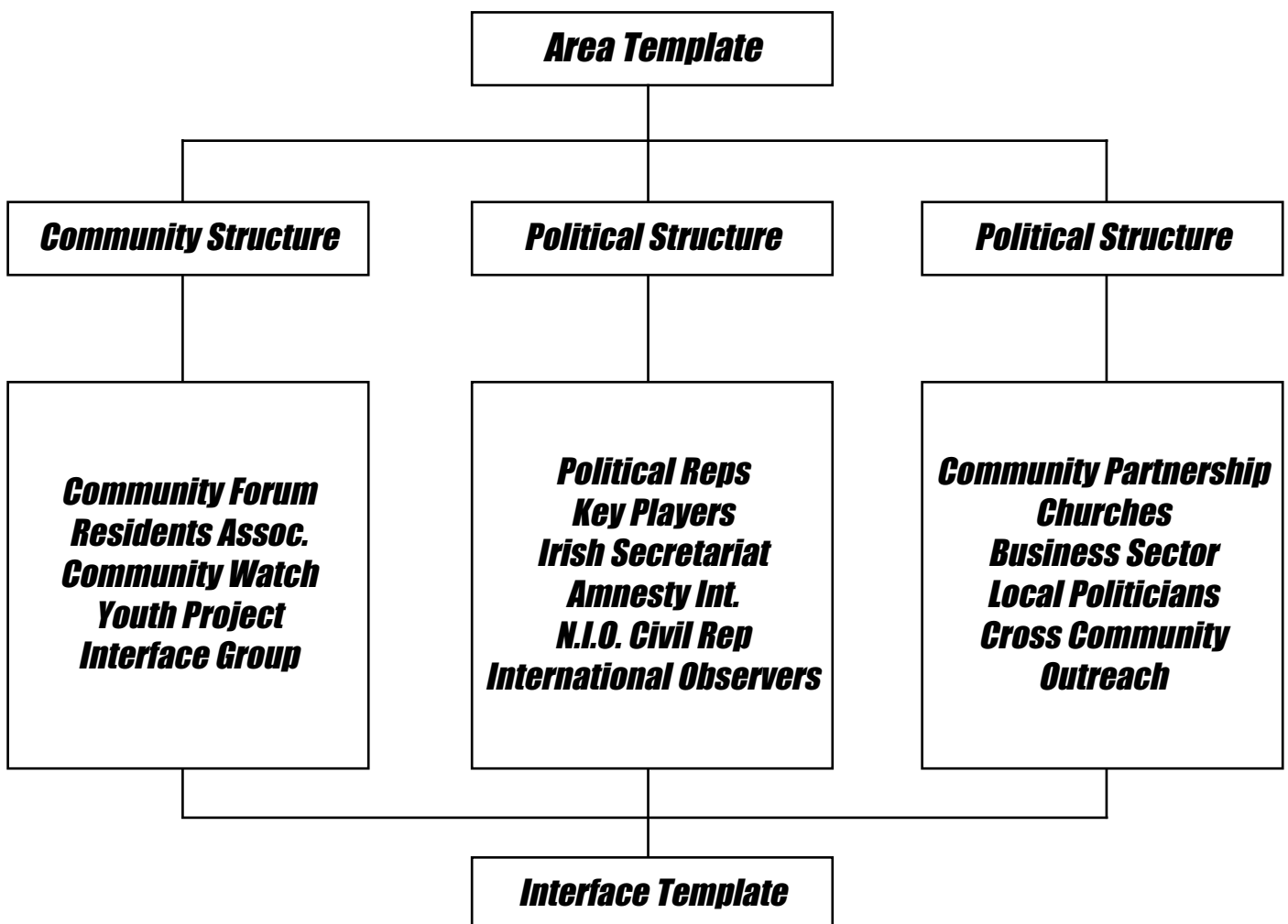
RESPONSE MODE

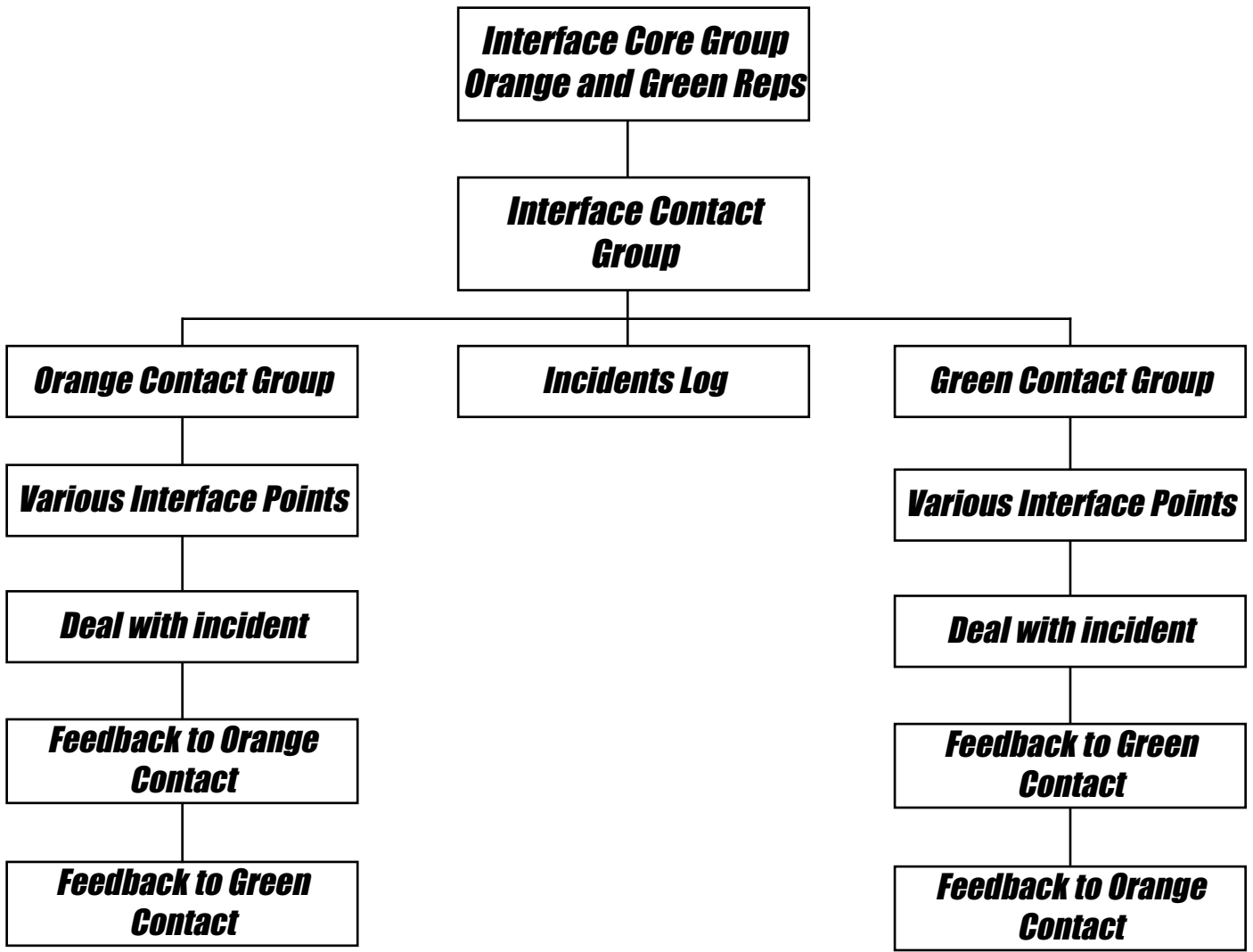
- Calm the situation
- First response should be open to line of communication: "we're dealing with it"
- Monitor response of other agencies
- Ensure public statements regarding incidents are jointly managed
- Promote reassurance across both communities and main key players
- Evaluate and log response, separately and with back-up team
- Face to face meetings to review situation and renew relationships, as soon as possible, in a neutral venue
- Have the means to argue restraint on these involved

MAINTENANCE MODE

- Communication
- To clarify situations on the ground
- To build trust
- To keep the mechanism in good condition
- To develop networks

- Future planning
- Promote access
- To evaluate that the situation is working well
- Keep a record of transactions and events
- Need to meet, with an agenda
- Share information, updates
- Capacity-building, training - using peace to develop capacity to address conflict
- Create clear and known lines of communication re - incidents and concerns
- Develop a recognition of alternatives to violence
- Promote the positives





Contact Procedure for Interface Group

Contact Procedure

CONTACT ELEMENT

There will be a small group of people who will take turns to act as points of contact for communication across the interface. The choice of individual contact people would reflect an awareness of the sensitivities on both sides.

RESIDENT/LOCAL PRESSURE ELEMENT

Each group will identify a number of people who live in or near each focal point (as identified on the above diagram). They liaise with the contact person as required.

BACK-UP ELEMENT

These meetings of a number of people who act, as contacts will be convened weekly. The contact person can call upon the assistance of a number of key individuals who can organise a more comprehensive response, when required.

CONTACT MEETINGS

Must take place on regular basis regardless of whether there are ongoing levels of violence. This is important for the maintenance of the overall process.