

Step four: Use the Community Impact Assessment process

Step four introduces another key part of the system - a logical and systematic way of analysing specific incidents and events, identifying the risks and developing responses. Prior to an event and during an incident Community Impact Assessments need to be updated regularly. This can be as frequently as 2 - 3 times a day during critical incidents. It is also used after an incident to assess the impact, lessons learned and any further potential impact on tensions.

The process can also be used for analysing the potential impact of longer term developments, such as the impact of the Olympic Games regeneration sites on the Gypsy and Traveller population or the impact of the new Eurostar terminal on street activities around St Pancras Station.

The Community Impact Assessment

This should include:

Information and intelligence

What is known about the situation?

What is the problem?

What is about to happen?

Who might be affected and how?

What is the potential impact on different groups within the community?

Legislation assessment

Are there any specific implications particularly with regard to the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Human Rights Act 1998?

Risk assessment

What are the specific risks which might happen?

Risks can be identified using the PPPEM model

- Physical
- Political
- Police and Community
- Legal
- Economic
- Moral

Each risk can be scored by identifying:

Likelihood - 1 Insignificant 2 Low 3 Medium 4 High 5 Almost certain

Impact - 1 Insignificant 2 Low 3 Medium 4 High 5 Critical

Risks with a score greater than 11 for Likelihood x Impact and any risks with a rating of 5 on the impact scale require an Action Plan to be developed.

Intervention options

Community-led
Inter-agency
Policing

Conclusion

Recommended Action Plan

Authorisation

Agreement and authorisation at an appropriate level for the course of action

Action

Appropriate people to be tasked with carrying out authorised actions

Review result

Assess impact of actions and level of tension after action taken.
Reflect on lessons learned

Community Impact Assessments are dynamic

Community Impact Assessments (CIAs) produced nationally, locally and at neighbourhood level should feed, and be dependent on one another to produce a fuller picture and allow analytical findings, risks and options/recommendations to be contextualised.

CIAs should be limited to small number of risks, less than 10. More than this number indicates that the assessment is too detailed, leading to a confusing document and the decision maker, for whom the assessment is being produced, being overwhelmed.

CIAs will often sit within a hierarchy, where a national assessment will inform a locally based CIA which itself may inform a Borough Command Unit based CIA. The same kind of hierarchy could exist along thematic lines. For example, risks may be identified that require a firearms capability. The firearms capability may then raise further community risks that should be addressed in a CIA completed for the officer in charge of that part of the operation.

Tips:

- ▶▶ Use all information available – and be aware of subtleties and nuances and particularly how different sections of the community might be affected or disproportionately affected
- ▶▶ The level of detail needs to be proportionate to the level of risk
- ▶▶ Speed may be of the essence – do what's possible in the time available – but do it
- ▶▶ Involve others who can give different perspectives
- ▶▶ This is a live and practical working document – not something for the files – but it is only valid for the circumstances prevailing at the time. In the event of a material change of circumstances, a further impact assessment should be carried out