

# REASSURING THE PUBLIC PROGRAMME

24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

# THE HYPOTHESIS

“That an increase in community cohesion  
reduces community disorder and leads to a reduction in the fear of crime”

# Action Research Approach

No preconceived ideas or methodology of approach

Develop research methods with community

Identify appropriate interventions with community

Involve community at every step of the way

Report back to the community

# Identification of Communities

- Strong Partner Organisations
- “Buy in” from organisations important
- Similar size
- Strong Community Identity
- Similar degree of deprivation

# PROCESS

Initial meetings

Referrals on to other community organisations – discussion

Mapping exercises

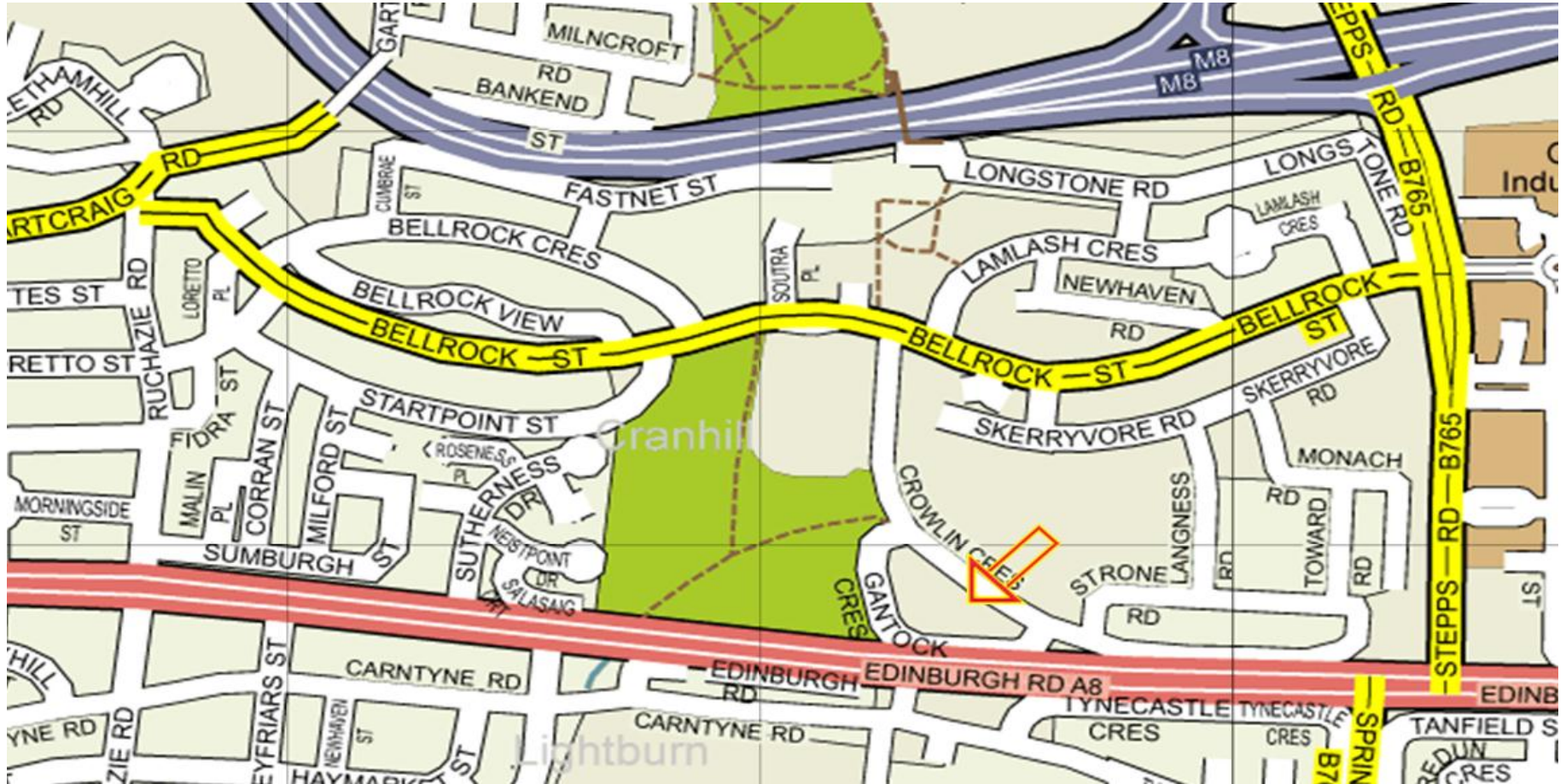
Questionnaires

Focus groups

Referral back of findings

Involvement in deciding interventions

# Cranhill: Glasgow



# Cranhill

## Intervention

Youth diversionary work (Music:  
Rap about Cranhill)



# Cranhill: Outcomes

Immediate and significant decline in vandalism to

Community Centre specifically

Neighbourhood in general

Drop in number of exclusions from the centre for “bad behaviour”

Uptake of other activities provided by the centre from those involved in

Music workshops

“I didn’t expect them to get a “sensible head on” so quickly, the change in attitude from doing something they enjoyed was quite remarkable”

Community Centre Manager

“I used to feel intimidated but feel better now vandalism has gone down”

Older Person



# Cranhill



Intergenerational project  
(Photography)

Follow up exhibition –

Polish migrants, and Asylum  
Seekers specifically  
invited

Used event as a basis for  
discussing future engagement

# Cranhill: Outcomes

## Intergenerational

Greater understanding and connectedness reported  
by both old and young.

Shouting their names and saying hello in the street etc.

Greater cohesion

Spin offs

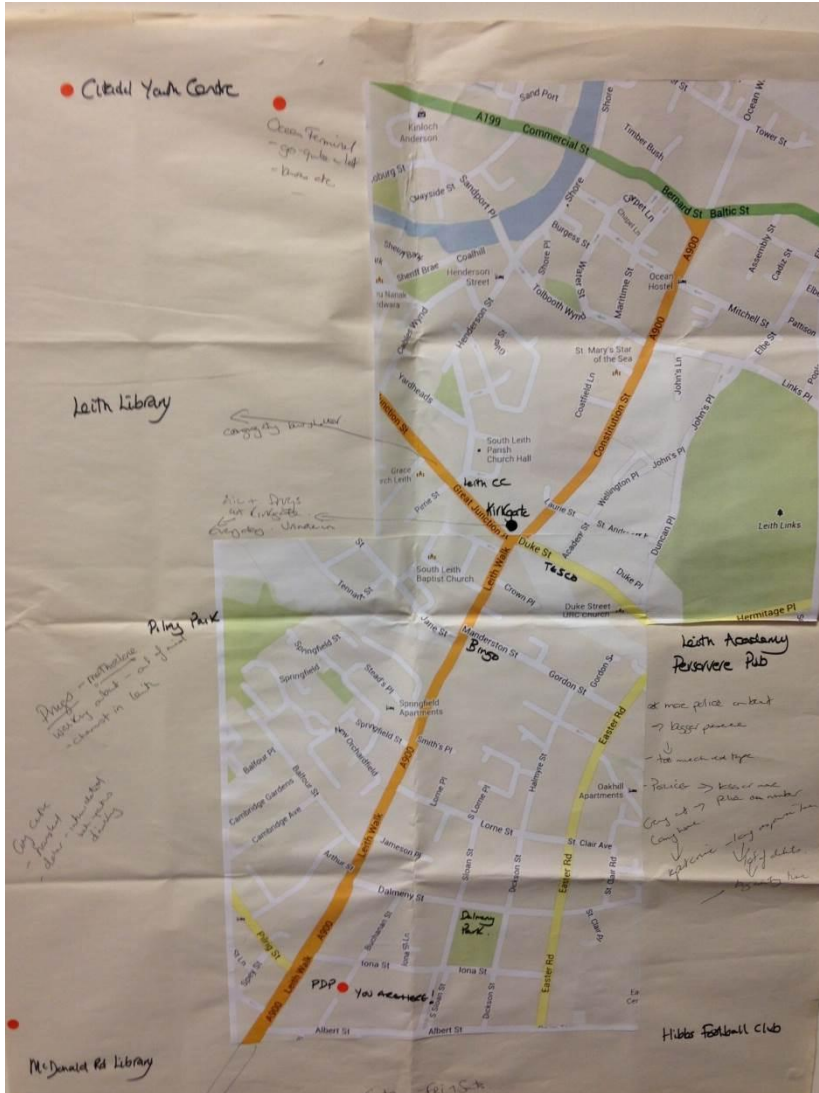
**Partners-**

- Pilmeny Development Project
- Port of Leith Housing Association
- Inspiring Leith (Link Up)

**Initial scoping focus groups**

- Group of young people identified as being vulnerable and exhibiting the potential for anti social behaviour
- Older Men's Health and Wellbeing Group
- Older Women's Health group
- Leith Drop in Group
- Leith Time Bank Volunteer group

# Focus groups



## Focus:

- How they felt about living/working in Leith
  - What they like
  - What they would change
- Mapping the area to identify
- Issues concerns around safety
  - Involvement in community activity
  - Feelings of connection to their community.

# Findings

- People like living in Leith – have a sense of identity and belonging in the area.
- Good shops/cafes/projects/transport links

Physical cues that they would like changed

- Pavements/ tarmac/ litter/ dog poo/ seagulls in bins/ street lighting
- Low level vandalism that makes them feel not in control of their community
- People hanging about Kirkgate, drinking
- Young people fearful of drunks outside pubs.
- Split between top and bottom of Leith Walk. Fears over the gentrification of the area – split in community
- Fears over the other – elderly people with young people/ settled community with new groups.

# Intervention



Intergenerational work between  
Leith Academy and  
Hermitage Sheltered Housing  
facilitated by  
Pilmey Development Project and  
SCDC



# Activities



- Getting to know you game - Pre and post intervention evaluations
- Living memory association visit
- New Age Curling
- Pamper day – massage, yoga
- Ceramic experience
- Tea party

# Learning



- Shared feeling of safety day and night in both groups
- Greater sense of loneliness amongst elderly people.
- Similar increase in being more confident in going out in Leith
- *‘A little: I feel safer in Leith knowing it has a strong community’* (young person)
- *‘I’m finding it more difficult with age’* (older person)





- Both groups reported that their sense of being part of the community had increased by the end of the programme.
- Young people more aware of the needs of older people and have changed their attitude towards them.
- “I don’t think of them as the elderly so much as ordinary society members”
- “I’m now more confident around young people

# Analysis

- Varied outcomes sought : us, partner organisations/ projects, community organisations and participants: doesn't matter if they are compatible
- Concerned over lack of time to carry Action Research Cycle forward. Limited ability to do this in Cranhill.
- How embedded are the changes in attitude? Will they be sustained?
- Need to embed at least some element of capacity building in the community – if not ? over lasting impact
- Need to be able to finance “off the wall” interventions. Take risks
- It worked! – but with the above reservations



Please take 5 minutes to discuss what you have heard

What surprised you?

Anything you'd like to hear more about?

# Provocative Question

There has been increased community cohesion which has led to a decrease in the fear of crime in communities across Scotland

What has happened?

Who has been involved?

How has your organisation contributed to this?