

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



## THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

The Policing Board is responsible for overseeing policing in Northern Ireland and we hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing on behalf of the entire community. We are also responsible for making arrangements to obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime. In developing both of these important aspects of our work, the Board is committed to engaging with the community.

## ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Community Engagement is about giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions that affect them, their community and their neighbourhood. At the heart of Community Engagement is the development of relationships, open and clear communication, networking and listening and building understanding of the diverse people and places within our society.

The Policing Board has developed a Community Engagement Strategy which acknowledges the growing diversity of Northern Ireland society and which aims to ensure that the needs of the whole community are identified when setting targets and developing policing policy.

Our Vision for our Community Engagement work is:

*“To support and enable all communities in Northern Ireland to meaningfully participate in shaping the police service they use and thereby contribute to a reduction in crime, enhanced confidence in policing and an improved quality of life.”*

## WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING

In developing the Strategy, we consulted with a wide range of groups and individuals. Some of the responses are highlighted in italics below.

Our new Strategy sets out our commitment to you. We will:

- **Share information**

We will ensure that you have access to information that is accurate, relevant, appropriate, easy to access and easy to understand to enable you to be better informed about policing and the role of the Policing Board.

- **Consult**

We will consult with you through a variety of surveys and research projects in order to seek and receive your views on issues that directly affect the community or which may have a significant interest. We will provide feedback as to how your input has contributed to the final outcome.

### **Community Response to Strategy**

*“We welcome the development of the Reference Groups and feel that they are a very effective means in engaging with a diverse range of communities.”*

### **Community Response to Strategy**

*“We support the bottom up approach being developed by the Board in regards to community engagement.”*

- **Participate and work in partnership**

We will work directly with you to ensure that your community's voice is heard and that issues of concern are identified and addressed. We will work to gain your community's co-operation in working with the police to prevent crime and encourage the police in engaging with the community. In doing this we will develop relationships that enable the Board and the community to share in agenda setting and meaningful dialogue. We will respond to issues in a way that raises public awareness and enhances public confidence in the work of the police.

The Board will work with and support the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) in developing appropriate responses to engage with local communities and address issues at a local level. At a strategic level we will work with the diverse communities within our society to ensure that the Board listens to them and considers the issues they raise.

At present the Board is actively involved with the following communities:

- Minority Ethnic and Language
- Older People
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)
- People with Disability
- Women
- Young People

### **Community Response to Strategy**

*"We believe that the test for this strategy is not so much the framework which is appropriate but the actual commitment that the Board gives to this work."*

The Board is committed to building its relationship with those communities who would identify themselves as Republican or Loyalist and will seek to develop structures that will enable the voices of these communities to be heard in a way that is appropriate for them.

### **SUCCESS**

We will judge this Strategy to be successful if it:

- enhances the means by which communities can impact on policing priorities;
- enhances the relationship between the community and the police;
- enhances the work of the Board in holding the Chief Constable to account;
- enhances police performance and confidence in policing;
- enhances the knowledge of the work of the Board.

Each year we will publish a Work Plan which will detail what we will do and will include specific and measurable objectives.

More detail about our Community Engagement Strategy can be found on our website at **[www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)**

### **Community Response to Strategy**

*"This strategy has potential to contribute to the promotion of good relations, however, there could be ways to develop it further to ensure wider engagement."*

More detail about the role and work of the Northern Ireland Policing Board can be found on our website at [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

## **CONTACT**

If you would like to know more about the Board or have an issue which you want to bring to the Board's attention there are a number of ways in which you can contact us:

You can write to us at:

**Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Waterside Tower  
31 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG**

You can contact us by phone on: **028 9040 8500**

If you are contacting us by phone, please note our staff are not multi lingual and will not be able to respond to calls in languages other than English. However, we would be happy to receive a letter, fax or email from you. If this is in a language other than English, we will get it translated and reply to you.

You can send us a fax message on: **028 9040 8544**

You can send us an email to: [information@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:information@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

You can text us on: **028 9040 7668**

