

District Policing Partnerships Fact Sheet



***District Policing
Partnerships***

Local people shaping local policing

What?

What is a District Policing Partnership?

A District Policing Partnership (DPP) is a partnership set-up between the District Council and representatives of the local community.

The purpose of a DPP is:

- To establish policing priorities for the local policing plan in conjunction with the District Commander.
- To monitor police performance against the policing plan.
- To develop practical ways of gaining the public's co-operation in working with the police to prevent crime and protect the public.

Who?

What types of people are we looking to appoint?

We are looking for people who can demonstrate an interest in the local community, community safety or community policing issues, either through their employment, community or voluntary activity.

Candidates should:

- Be able to show practical experience of decision making and using sound judgement.
- Have experience of working in a team.
- Have the ability to understand and work with complicated information.
- Have very good communication skills.

More information on DPPs can be obtained from our website: www.districtpolicing.com

The role and responsibilities of District Policing Partnerships

The role of a District Policing Partnership (DPP) is to consult with the community, establish policing priorities in conjunction with the PSNI District Commander and monitor police performance against the local policing plan. Full details of this can be found in Section 16 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. Information on how a DPP will carry out its duties is contained in the code of practice on the functions and responsibilities of the DPP issued by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The DPP must consult the community about the policing of the district. The information collected from this exercise should be used by the local District Commander to develop the local policing plan for the district. The District Commander will consult the DPP in setting targets for the local policing plan. The DPP may make arrangements to help the police consult any community within the district.

In summary, the main responsibilities of the DPP are to:

- Provide views to the District Commander on any matter concerning the policing of the district.
- Monitor the performance of the police in carrying out the policing plan.
- Make arrangements for getting the views of the public on matters concerning the policing of the district.
- Obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district.

DPPs must produce an annual report for the council on how they have carried out their duties. A copy should be sent to the Policing Board, who may also ask the DPP to report on any other matter connected with their functions.

Additionally, the DPP must provide the Policing Board with reports on:

- The outcome of the public consultation.
- The strategy developed for gaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime.
- The proceedings of the public meetings of the DPP.
- Audited accounts.
- Any aspect of their work where the Policing Board requires further information.

The role of the Policing Board in relation to District Policing Partnerships

The Policing Board will undertake a number of important roles with regard to the DPP carrying out its duties. Key roles are:

- Issuing a Code of Practice on the Exercise of Functions of a DPP. This sets out the range of duties that the DPP has to undertake and how it should do this work.
- Assessing the effectiveness of how DPPs carry out their duties. The Board will also assess the arrangements made for obtaining the views of the public about policing the district and the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. This will involve a high level of monitoring and evaluation with regards to the operation of the DPPs.
- Assessing the level of public satisfaction with the performance of DPPs.
- On an annual basis the Policing Board will provide funding to each district council to fund the DPP. This will be equal to 75% of the reasonable expenses incurred by the DPP in the financial year with the remaining 25% funded by the district council.

The role of the District Council in relation to District Policing Partnerships

There will be 26 DPPs in total – one for each council district in Northern Ireland. Belfast will have one DPP with 4 sub-groups, one for each police district. The Chief Executive of the council will have overall responsibility for setting up the DPP and ensuring its effective operation.

- The size of a DPP will be decided by each individual district council.
- It must consist of either 15, 17, or 19 members in total.
- The membership will be made up of councillors and independent members.
- The number of councillors will always exceed the number of independents by one, and the chairperson and vice chairperson will always be a councillor.
- In making the decision about the size and make-up of a DPP, the district council must consider the number of councillors it has. The councillors on the DPP must reflect the balance of parties on the council.

The role of the District Commander in relation to District Policing Partnerships

The District Commander will play a key role in providing information to the DPP on matters relating to the policing of the district. It is therefore expected that the DPP and the local District Commander will have a close working relationship.

The DPP is required to hold six public meetings a year and at these meetings the District Commander's main role will be to present a report on:

- a:** a summary of recorded crime and detection rates within the council area,
- b:** specific issues about the policing of the district that may have raised the public's interest or concern.

At these meetings, members of the DPP may question the commander on any issue of concern about the policing of the district. This should include asking the police questions that may have been sent to the DPP by members of the public.

As well as this, every six months the District Commander will present a report setting out the progress that the police are making in meeting their published targets and objectives. To achieve this the DPP should ask the commander to produce information that will help them to assess police performance in the following areas:

- a:** The steps that are being taken to develop policing with the community as the main function of all police in the district.
- b:** The contribution that the police are making to any community safety projects in the district.
- c:** Progress in achieving the targets set out in the local Policing Plan and in the Annual Policing Plan.

Frequently asked questions

Where and when will meetings be held?

Each DPP will hold at least six public meetings a year. They should be held in different places and at different times throughout the district to make sure that as many people as possible can take part. These public meetings should be widely advertised within the district council's area.

How will the DPP benefit the local community?

The strength of a DPP is that it will provide a unique opportunity, through a partnership between elected members and the community, for local people to shape local policing. The DPP will also facilitate dialogue between the police and the local community.

How will the DPP gain the co-operation of the local community in preventing crime?

Within 12 months of being set up, the DPP should produce a report setting out their strategy for gaining the co-operation between the public and the police in preventing crime. This strategy will set goals and targets for a four-year period, which will be in line with the DPPs term of appointment.

As part of the consultation process, each DPP will hold a number of public meetings so people can present their views on policing of the district and on the issues that they would like to see the DPP deal with. In addition the DPP should seek to co-ordinate its work with other community safety organisations and work in partnership with them where appropriate.

For how long will a DPP be appointed?

Members are appointed to the DPP until the date of the next council election following their appointment.

Who can apply to be an independent member of a DPP?

The DPP should be inclusive of the entire community however the following people cannot apply to become an independent member of a DPP:

- Police officers.
- Members of the police support staff.
- Members of the Policing Board.
- Council employees.
- Anyone who has been convicted of an offence and has been given a sentence of imprisonment, whether suspended or not.

How will independent members be recruited?

External consultants have been employed by the Policing Board to recruit independent members onto the DPPs. The consultants will advertise the posts in a wide range of papers to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to apply.

The recruitment consultants are responsible for shortlisting applications against the published criteria. Application forms for those candidates who meet the criteria will then be sent to the relevant council. A panel made up of either two or four councillors and an independent member will consider the applications and prepare a short list for interview.

Following the interview, each District Council will send a list containing at least twice the number of suitable candidates as there are vacancies, to the Policing Board. The Board will make the final appointments and notify the council of their decision.

The Role of a DPP Member

Appointment as an independent member of a DPP is a public appointment. It should not be viewed as employment.

During the initial set-up phase, each DPP member will:

- undergo training on the roles and responsibilities of the DPP, the new policing structures within Northern Ireland and any relevant policing legislation;
- help the DPP to set up procedures in line with the Policing Board's code of practice for DPPs; and
- help the DPP draft a future work programme.

Time commitment

As DPPs are new organisations, we are not yet able to say exactly how much time DPP members should commit, but we estimate approximately 2 to 3 days per month. Members may have to commit more time for public and private meetings over the initial set-up period.

We expect that meetings are likely to be held in the evening and in council offices, but there may well be a need for meetings at other times and in other places throughout the local community.

Allowances

Standard Allowances for Members of a DPP

1. Chairman (per annum)	£4800
2. Deputy Chairman (per annum)	£3600
3. Member (per annum)	£2400

Allowances payable to members of the Belfast DPP

1. Chairman (per annum)	£8400
2. Deputy Chairman (per annum)	£6300
3. Chairman of Sub group (per annum)	£4700
4. Deputy Chairman of Sub group (per annum)	£4500
5. Member (per annum)	£4200



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