



District Policing Partnerships

Local people shaping local policing



reflections

reflections on
District Policing Partnerships



Front Cover Images:

- 1 DPP Members at a planning meeting, January 2007
- 2 Antrim DPP Members at a public meeting, January 2007
- 3 Omagh DPP Member Mark McMackin pictured with Omagh students, October 2006
- 4 Newtownabbey DPP Members at a public meeting, January 2007
- 5 Nurses from the Philippines receive information at a joint Limavady DPP/PSNI multi-cultural event, October 2006
- 6 Banbridge DPP Members, January 2007

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By the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

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NORTHERN
IRELAND
POLICING
BOARD

District Policing Partnerships

Regional Introduction Session

ensuring efficient
and effective
policing

foreword

Foreword by the Chairman and Vice Chairman
of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

“The creation of District Policing Partnerships has been hugely significant for policing in Northern Ireland. They form an integral part of the new policing arrangements and their establishment has been a significant step towards developing real community policing right across Northern Ireland.”

**Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP, former Secretary of State
for Northern Ireland, October 2004**



Professor Sir Desmond Rea - Chairman



Barry Gilligan - Vice Chairman

We welcome you to share in the achievements of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). This is an opportunity to reflect on achievements and some of the success stories of DPPs since they were established in March 2003.

Professor Sir Desmond Rea

Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

I would like to welcome you to this document which reflects on the work of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) across Northern Ireland. It has been produced to showcase the work of the DPPs at the International Policing Conference hosted by the Board and PSNI. It is a tribute to DPPs that they are now viewed, internationally, as a model of good practice for local community involvement and oversight of policing. DPPs have been widely showcased and in recent years they have hosted visitors from a range of countries including Canada, Pakistan and Israel. Closer to home, partnerships in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland have been established around the proven roles and responsibilities of DPPs. It is good to see the progress in policing in Northern Ireland getting the international recognition it deserves.

During the last four years, DPPs have played a unique role in building safer communities and empowering communities to help shape local policing. The quality and variety of work undertaken by DPPs has been impressive and often highly innovative and they have touched many parts of policing in Northern Ireland. But this has only been possible because of the personal commitment from all of the Members although, unfortunately, there have on occasions been incidents of threats and intimidation because members have been involved in DPPs.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Members who have served on DPPs, the staff who have supported them and everyone who has contributed to the DPPs' work over the past 4 years.

Barry Gilligan

Vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

I would like to welcome you to this special record of DPP achievements. The amount and variation of work undertaken by DPPs has been impressive and even a cursory glance through this document will evidence that.

It is the Board's belief that DPPs have made a significant difference to policing in our communities. Through their efforts to monitor local policing and consult with the public, DPPs are making a positive impact on the delivery of policing services. They provide local people with a forum for discussion on policing in their own area. They have facilitated relationship building between the police and local communities and have encouraged a culture of devolution and community involvement in the policing process. This has laid the foundations upon which we can build in the future.

The future will bring significant changes within the public sector in Northern Ireland. DPPs will not be immune to these changes as community planning and the Review of Public Administration will impact on the future structure and role of DPPs. This change is not going to be straightforward or easy and will require considerable clarity of both thought and action. I am confident, though, that DPPs are well placed to react to these changes and will help drive these changes.

There is a great deal of work ahead and I am confident that DPPs - given the significant progress made since their establishment and evidenced in this document - are up to the job.

¹ Members of DPPs at a briefing event hosted by the Northern Ireland Policing Board following reconstitution in December 2005

district

District Policing Partnerships Ensuring Community involvement in local policing



- 1 Craigavon and Banbridge DPP Members engage in a discussion forum with the local deaf community, January 2007
- 2 Antrim DPP Members and community representatives at the 2005 race related crime event 'Engaging Communities, Tackling Crime, Taking Responsibility', Winter 2005
- 3 North Down DPP Members meet representatives from the Police Training & Development Authority, Centrex, Autumn 2006

Providing the opportunity for local people to engage in the new policing arrangements has ensured that District Policing Partnerships have become an integral part of local policing. First established by the Policing Board in 2003, DPPs are statutory public bodies that operate within the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. There are 26 DPPs in total, one for each Council area in Northern Ireland.

DPPs are partnerships between the local Council and the community. They are made up of local councillors, nominated to the DPP by the Council, and Independent Members drawn from the local community and appointed by the Policing Board. The Board has a statutory duty to ensure that the membership of each DPP is representative of the community that it serves. In seeking to make the DPPs representative the Board takes into account the community background, gender and age of those seeking appointment to balance each DPP, as far as possible.

DPPs were established to bring policing closer to the community, to give people a say on local policing issues and to help make communities safer and policing more effective. DPPs have a number of statutory responsibilities across five key areas of work. Their purpose is to:

Consult with the public to find out what issues in relation to policing and crime are of concern within that council area.

Identify local policing priorities arising from the consultation and discuss these with the PSNI District Commander and encourage the District Commander to take these issues into account when developing the Local Policing Plan.

Monitor police performance against the objectives contained in the Local Policing Plan and the Northern Ireland Policing Plan as it relates to the district.

Engage with the community to obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.

Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on all matters relating to the policing of the district.

DPPs ensure that policing is at the heart of the community. They bring policing closer to the community and help provide people with the police service they deserve and need - a police service that makes communities safer for everyone. Accountability to local communities and transparency are central to the operation of DPPs. A public website (www.districtpolicing.com) is a key information source about local DPPs and their work. Everyone can access details of the membership of each DPP, minutes of meetings, key publications, local policing priorities, times of meetings and links to other relevant information.

consult

Consulting with the Community

“The DPP should be the focus of public consultation at district level for the annual Northern Ireland Policing Plan”

Report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (September 1999)



Through their consultation work, DPPs provide an opportunity for people to voice their concerns and understand what the community wants from its local police service. DPPs do this in a number of ways - through formal public consultation surveys, focus groups, community events and other innovative outreach work. The DPP Public Consultation Surveys are the largest public consultation surveys on policing ever undertaken in Northern Ireland. Three surveys have been completed to date - in 2003, 2004, and 2006 - with 60,000 households consulted on each occasion.

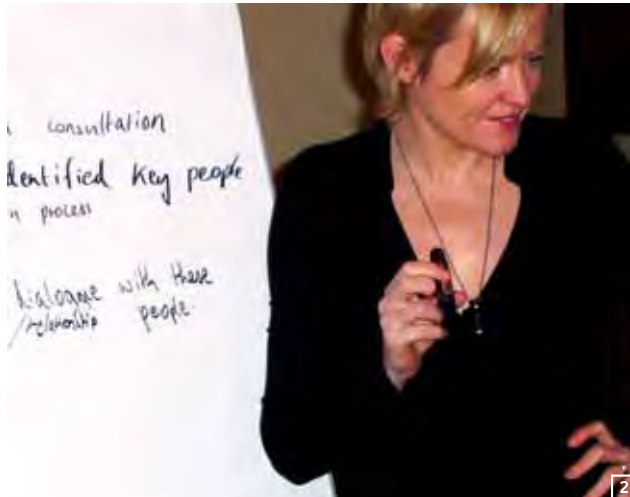
Seeking views on various aspects of the policing service, the survey results have provided local communities with a voice in shaping policing priorities. DPPs and PSNI District Commanders have used this information to address community concerns and reflect these in the development of local Policing Plans. The Policing Board also uses the information to help shape the Annual Northern Ireland Policing Plan.

DPPs have consulted directly with a wide range of interest groups such as older people, faith-based groups, young people, school children, the business community and minority groups to hear at first hand their specific concerns. These unique engagements have gathered genuine concerns within communities and have highlighted local policing priorities. Such consultation events are an essential part of local people shaping local policing.

DPPs have used a variety of innovative approaches to consultation. For example:

- As part of its ongoing Outreach Programme, **Down DPP** made use of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” style interactive voting pads to electronically record the views of people attending their consultation events. The system has been used to great effect and the ability of attendees to see their views recorded on-screen often result in a more stimulating debate.

- Young people took centre stage in **Armagh** after the DPP realised that their important views on policing within the district were not being heard. The DPP invited students from all eight post-primary schools within the district to a special meeting. Over 100 students had the opportunity to raise their concerns directly with the PSNI and DPP members.
- **North Down DPP** consulted with over 60 young people from across the Borough at a Karting Competition. For over 4 hours, young people from various youth groups raced against each other, local PSNI Officers and DPP Members. When the young people were not racing, DPP Members engaged in discussions about crime and policing and received some useful feedback for the DPP to consider.
- Hate Crime was the focus for a Sixth Form Discussion Forum held by **Ballymena DPP** in partnership with the Community Relations Section of Ballymena Borough Council. Forty pupils from all the post-primary schools in the borough engaged in a lively discussion with the District Commander. The DPP Vice Chairman reassured the students that the DPP would raise their concerns with the Commander when developing the priorities for the next Local Policing Plan.
- **Lisburn and Newtownabbey DPPs** hosted meetings with members of the clergy and faith-based organisations to get their views on local policing priorities and to explore ways of building better relationships between churches, the DPP and the PSNI.



“Young people are often overlooked in matters of local policy and planning. This is something that we, in the DPP, do not want to happen in Armagh.”

Councillor Pat Brannigan speaking at the Armagh DPP schools meeting

“I am pleased that in partnership with our DPP members we managed to facilitate a constructive cross community discussion with Sixth Formers on a range of difficult issues.”

Ms Jackie Patton, Community Relations Officer with Ballymena Borough Council

“It is obvious that the churches and the DPP share a common objective in trying to make Newtownabbey a better place for all to live and work.”

Councillor Jim Bingham, Newtownabbey DPP



“We are aware of the very active role the clergy and faith based organisations play in the community and it is very important to consult church leaders on policing.”

Councillor Ronnie Crawford, Lisburn DPP

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- 1 Members of 'Hands That Talk' from Dungiven at a Limavady DPP event, January 2007
 - 2 Karen Dolan of Fermanagh DPP facilitating a focus group, 2006
 - 3 Omagh DPP Youth consultation, Summer 2006
 - 4 Ballymena DPP 6th Form Discussion Forum with DPP Members and local DCU Commander, Summer 2006
 - 5 Representatives of local clergy and faith groups at Lisburn and Newtownabbey DPPs' consultation event, November 2006

identify

Identifying Policing Priorities

“Identifying policing priorities from our local consultation is a role which we take very seriously. The community here deserve the best policing service possible and providing feedback to the District Commander on how the community perceive the police service can only help to improve the delivery of the service locally.”

Councillor John McArdle, Newry and Mourne DPP



One of the most important ways DPPs help shape policing in Northern Ireland is through their influence on policing priorities and delivery both at a local and regional level. The impact of Local Policing Plans is one of the untold success stories of policing in Northern Ireland. By identifying local policing priorities and formulating local solutions to local problems, these plans have improved community safety and helped make Northern Ireland one of the safest places to live.

Since their establishment in 2003, the impact of DPPs has gone beyond the policing of their local areas. As a direct result of the findings of DPP public consultations, the Policing Board and PSNI added two new objectives to the Annual Policing Plan for Northern Ireland in 2005 - tackling fear of crime and reducing anti-social behaviour.

This, combined with many examples of DPPs working with local communities, ensures the community are having a direct influence on shaping local police priorities and Local Policing Plans. Last year, many Local Policing Plans included all the policing priorities that had been identified by the community in consultation with the DPP.

Set out below are some examples of just how DPPs have identified policing priorities at local level:

- Local communities within Derry City Council area informed **Derry DPP** about the problem of young people causing criminal damage, assaults and anti-social behaviour incidents throughout the city. In response, the DPP, in partnership with the police, set a local policing priority around the development of a youth strategy for the city council area.

“Other priorities such as a hate crime protocol, increased resources to community policing teams, response times and satisfaction surveys were either introduced or changed in the District Commander’s report as a result of consultation with local communities.”

Alison Wallace, Independent Member of Derry DPP

- Down DPP** met with members of the local community to discuss the crimes that most affected people in the district. As a result of this consultation, Down DPP successfully negotiated with the local District Commander to ensure that car crime featured as a priority in the 2006 Local Policing Plan. This was such a success that car crime no longer justifies a top priority in the 2007 Local Policing Plan.
- The issue of drugs received significant media attention in Lisburn due to local people who publicly voiced their concerns about dealer activity in their area. **Lisburn DPP**, in partnership with the local police, held two public meetings on this issue and the DPP ensured that this was included as a priority in the Local Policing Plan, both in terms of targeting drug dealers and increasing the number and quantity of drugs seizures.



■ **Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP**, in partnership with the local Community Safety Partnership and PSNI, produced information about Neighbourhood Watch in 6 additional languages to help members of ethnic minority backgrounds to understand the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch in the community.

“Throughout my time as District Commander, Omagh DPP has played a vital part in identifying local policing priorities. This has resulted in challenging targets being included in the local policing plan based on real core concerns from both urban and rural communities within the district.”

Superintendent Michael Skuce, Omagh DCU



Local Policing Plans

- 1 Members of Moyle DPP launch the 2006/7 local policing plan with the PSNI District Commander, April 2006
- 2 Members of the Newtownabbey DPP consider local policing priorities for 2005/06
- 3 Discussing local policing priorities in Newry and Mourne, 2005
- 4 Castlereagh DPP launch their Local Policing Plan with the District Commander and Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, April 2004
- 5 Allan Rainey of Omagh DPP discussing policing priorities with the PSNI Rural Sector Inspector Billy Williams, 2006

monitor

Monitoring Local Police Performance

“Meetings in public provide an opportunity for DPP Members and members of the public to question the District Commander on the targets set in the Local Policing Plan.”

Cathy Donnelly - Independent Member and former Vice-Chair of Armagh DPP



The people of Northern Ireland have the right to know what their police service is doing and how it is performing. It is important that the community has real influence over the way it is policed and that effective systems are in place to monitor performance.

At a Northern Ireland level there are extensive accountability mechanisms in place and policing in Northern Ireland is subject to more oversight than any other police service in Europe, if not the world. Undoubtedly one of the most important aspects of police oversight in Northern Ireland is the meetings that take place between the DPPs and local communities where members listen, offer reassurance and agree to take actions on issues of policing concerns. Since their establishment in 2003, DPPs have held over 500 meetings in public, giving local people the opportunity to ask questions of the police service across Northern Ireland's villages, towns and cities. At these meetings the District Commander presents a report on progress made against targets set in the Local Policing Plan and responds to monitoring questions posed by the DPP.

DPPs have made, and will continue to make, a significant difference to policing in communities. Through their efforts in monitoring local police performance, they make a positive impact on the delivery of local policing services. They provide local people with a forum for discussion on policing within their area; facilitate relationship building between the police and local communities and encourage a culture of devolution, local monitoring and community involvement in policing.

¹ DPPs discuss police monitoring, January 2007

- **Moyle DPP** made the trip to Rathlin Island to facilitate an open meeting on the main policing and crime issues that concerned local people. The island's residents had the opportunity to raise concerns directly with police, to consider what the priorities were for the locality and were satisfied with the PSNI's commitment to future policing arrangements for the island.

In order to maximise the opportunity for all sections of the community to attend their meetings, DPPs are required to hold their meetings in different venues and locations and at different times throughout the district. There are many examples of DPPs holding their meetings across a range of locations and venues in Northern Ireland. From the outset, one of the biggest challenges for DPPs has been engagement with communities who are not supportive of policing and, regrettably, there have been occasions where DPP meetings have been disrupted by protest and intimidation.

- **Ballymoney DPP's** decision to hold a meeting in the Parochial Hall in Dunloy followed by a public meeting in the Orange Hall in Stranocum received broad community support and endorsement despite adverse media reports.



The DPP Chairman, Councillor Malachy McCamphill commented:

“In an ideal world you would meet in a neutral venue, however, a lot of villages are single identity and you therefore go to where the people are at. We as a District Policing Partnership are prepared to go anywhere - Parish Hall, Church Hall, Orange Hall, Sports Hall, Council Chamber or Pub.”

■ Members of **Strabane DPP** were the first DPP in Northern Ireland to attend a local accountability meeting between the local DCU Commander and Assistant Chief Constable Rural Region. Accountability meetings are bi-annual reviews where District Commanders account to their senior officer for the patterns of crime and police activity in their District, explain how they propose to address their district’s problems and report on the use of resources.



Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Tom McBride said:

“It was an excellent meeting and indeed deepened our understanding of the accountability and monitoring arrangements within the PSNI. It also provided us with some welcome information as to how our local PSNI are performing.”

- 2 Strabane DPP Members attend a PSNI accountability meeting with local officers, 2004
- 3 Mannix Magee facilitating a monitoring exercise for Fermanagh DPP, 2006
- 4 Strabane DPP hosts a Business Security Awareness Evening in 2006
- 5 Monitoring Braidside Rural Sector in Ballymena, 2005
- 6 Superintendent Alan Todd and Councillor Ignatius Fox launching the Craigavon Local Policing Plan, April 2006



CRAIGAVON
District Policing Plan 2006-2007



SUPERINTENDENT
ALAN TODD
230
CRAIGAVON DCU

 POLICE

Chief Superintendent
District Commander
Craigavon District Command Unit
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A summary of the Plan
can be made available
formats on request

CRAIGAVON
District Policing Plan 2006-2007



Engage

Engaging local communities Gaining the co-operation of the public with the police to prevent crime

The Report of the Independent Commission on Policing made specific recommendations around the need for the police to work in partnership with the community -

“Partnership is a matter of policing style but it is also an attitude of mind both of police officers and for the public and it amounts to a profound shift in police thinking and community thinking.”



The establishment of DPP's signalled a new era for police/community relationships; and in the way the police worked within local communities. Gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime is a significant challenge; but at a district level, DPPs have engaged and empowered local people to help the police to make communities safer.

There are many examples where DPPs have worked to engage with people across Northern Ireland to gain community support for policing...

- In partnership with Cookstown Community Safety Partnership and local police, **Cookstown DPP** hosted a drama illustrating the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to local communities. The drama was attended by a cross section of the local community and the success of the event resulted in a number of people expressing an interest in setting up a scheme within their area.

“The safety of our communities cannot be left to the police alone and it is important that we all share the responsibility for tackling crime, with the support of police, within our neighbourhoods.”

Councillor Ian McCrea, Cookstown DPP Chairman

“The District Policing Partnerships stand as the most conspicuous symbol for community engagement and involvement, and the work they have undertaken to date cannot easily be ignored.”

AI Hutchinson, Police Oversight Commissioner, September 2005

- **Derry DPP** hit the airwaves by sponsoring the local Q102 Crimeline Programme. This weekly programme, delivered jointly by the DPP and PSNI, provides practical crime prevention advice and appeals for support in crime investigation. As part of the package an interview with a different member of the Partnership is aired every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This provides an excellent opportunity for members to promote the DPP and address local crime and policing issues.
- **Strabane DPP** responded to concerns around anti-social behaviour in Ballymagorry by facilitating a multi-agency approach to come up with solutions to the issues. By involving residents, parents, young people and other key stakeholders such as the Council and the Western Education & Library Board, a number of both short and long term solutions were identified. This has led to a reduction in reported cases of anti-social behaviour, primarily by a prevention and education approach by the PSNI and increased community and statutory mobilisation levels.

¹ Councillor Tony Quinn, Chief Inspector Brian Williamson and Councillor Ian McCrea, Cookstown DPP Chairman, at a joint Neighbourhood Watch Event, 2006



- **Antrim DPP** organised and delivered a 'good practice' seminar on behalf of seven other DPPs. The theme of the event was Community Engagement by DPP Members and a range of speakers from across Northern Ireland passed on their knowledge and experiences of community engagement. Members then worked productively through workshops and small group discussions to develop their individual DPP action plans to engage the public.
- **Limavady DPP** used the opportunity of a multi-cultural information event to meet with many of their new neighbours to further understand their culture, rules and regulations and to inform them how to get help. Local police provided crime prevention advice and distributed personal attack alarms, smoke alarms and security time-switches and representatives from Roads Policing assisted those present with regulations relating to driving licences and requirements around ownership of motor vehicles.
- Arising from concerns raised by parents in the district, **Coleraine DPP** hosted a 'Children, the Internet and Mobile Phones' event to inform parents about the possibilities and dangers of the internet and mobile phones for children.



Community Safety initiatives from Coleraine and Limavady DPPs.

- **Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP** helped address the concerns of older people in the district through a Senior Citizen Day to hear directly from older people about their concerns and to provide them with safety information. Speakers included representatives from Help the Aged, Armagh and Dungannon Good Morning Scheme and PSNI. A local drama group took centre stage to perform a drama production on bogus callers.
- **Magherafelt DPP** launched a new texting service to allow members of the public to contact the DPP. Local people can text the questions they would like the DPP to put to the District Commander the at quarterly monitoring meetings.

Former Chairman of Magherafelt DPP, Councillor Paul McLean, stated,

“This is a new and important way to reach out to the public and to give them a quick and easy way to put forward their views.”

- **Ballymoney DPP** organised a school quiz for local children and their parents in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre. This provided an opportunity for DPP Members to tell the children and parents about the work of the DPP. The local Police Community and Schools Liaison Officer talked to the children about staying safe in the Ballymoney district.

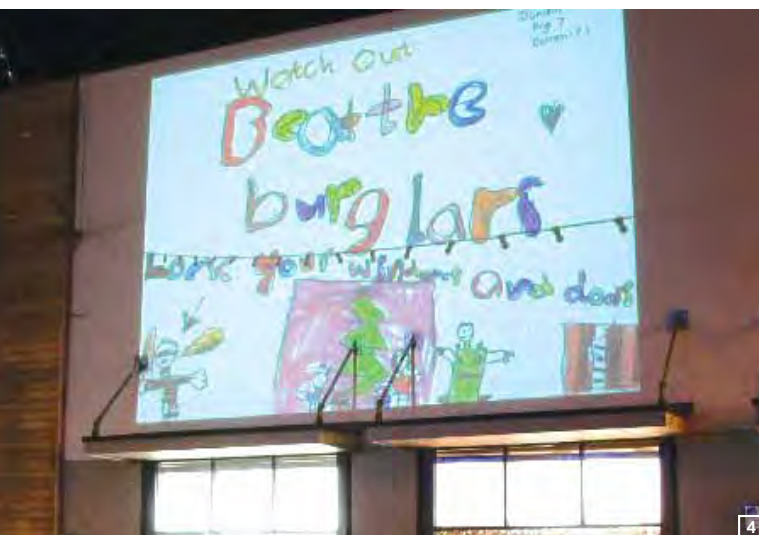
- 2 Ballymoney DPP Chairman Alderman Frank Campbell presents prizes to winners of the schools quiz, 2006
- 3 Fermanagh DPP Anti-Social Behaviour Drama Competition for Post Primary School children, 2005

engage

Engaging local communities
Gaining the co-operation of the public
with the police to prevent crime

“DPPs have greatly assisted us in understanding policing priorities at a local level by asking the community what the priorities for policing should be. The reduction in the number of burglaries and violent crimes and the increase in the amounts of drugs seized is indicative of the results that can be achieved by a partnership approach.”

Sir Hugh Orde, Chief Constable of the PSNI, March 2004



- Anti-Social Behaviour was the theme when **Fermanagh DPP** sponsored a Drama Competition for Post Primary Schoolchildren. The competition provided an excellent way for young people to understand what anti-social behaviour is and to grasp the impact it can have on others in our community.
- In the two weeks before Christmas, **Larne DPP** in conjunction with the local Police displayed an anti-crime message on a wall in the town centre. The DPP invited local schoolchildren to produce posters to display on the building which resulted in 300 school children submitting posters. Posters from all the participating schools were displayed and not only added colour to the centre of the town but also grabbed the attention of local shoppers.
- **Carrickfergus DPP** showed their support for the arrival of two police bicycles for use as an additional method of patrolling the borough allowing officers to approach calls by using lanes, paths and alleyways not accessible by car. The DPP Chairman welcomed this innovation and commented: “Bicycles are one of the fastest growing trends in policing and they bridge the gap between police cars and foot patrols.”
- **Craigavon DPP** in conjunction with the local PSNI Crime Prevention Team launched an innovative campaign which displays a range of crime prevention messages on Portadown Post Office’s SubPostmaster TV. This campaign helped to raise awareness of policing concerns and seasonal issues to people visiting the Post Office designed to make their community a safer place to live.
- With domestic violence accounting for over 16% of violent crime in the city, **Lisburn DPP** and PSNI came together to organise a major conference to raise awareness of the issue, highlight the enforcement aspect of policing domestic violence and share international experiences of dealing with the problem.
- **Fermanagh DPP** played a part in developing an integrated Night-Time Economy strategy for the town of Enniskillen. With 48% of all criminal damage reports in the district occurring on Friday and Saturday nights, the DPP was instrumental in taking forward such ideas as the provision of a taxi rank, a voluntary code for hot-food outlets and a schools drama competition.



4 Larne DPP poster competition

5 Introduction of the Police Bikes to Carrickfergus, 2006



- 1 Pictured at the knife disposal scheme at Down District Council's Drumnakelly site are (from l-r): Director of Down District Council's Technical Services Mr Canice O'Rourke, Councillor Anne McAleenan, former DPP Chairman Councillor Eamonn O'Neill, Chief Inspector Peter Loughins and Councillor Peter Craig, 2006
- 2 Young people from Armagh at a youth consultation event in October 2004
- 3 North Down DPP in partnership with PSNI help raise road safety awareness at Bangor Cruise, September 2006
- 4 Strabane DPP and Include Youth discuss the implications of anti-social behaviour with local young people, October 2004
- 5 Lisburn DPP's 'Keeping Well and Safe' event, April 2006
- 6 Banbridge DPP Members help welcome the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, June 2006
- 7 Local students give the Translink Safety Bus the thumbs up at a Banbridge DPP event, September 2006

act

Acting as a Discussion Forum on Policing Issues

DPPs across Northern Ireland have been facilitating discussion between members of the public, the DPP and District Commanders on policing issues that are of particular concern to local communities. General Forums for discussion, or 'themed meetings' as they are often called, provide an opportunity for the public to participate in meaningful discussion with the police and the DPP. They also form an important part of the DPP's community engagement strategy and in assisting the DPP in gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.

Each DPP is required to hold two General Forums for Discussion, or 'themed meetings', per year. The primary purpose of these meetings is to allow members of the local community to come together with DPP Members and local police and have an open discussion on policing and crime issues that the public are specifically concerned about. Themed meetings allow the public to express their concerns in an appropriate forum, in the presence of the DPP and the District Commander, so they can be given careful consideration during the local police planning process. They provide an ideal opportunity for local people to shape local policing and DPPs have facilitated General Forums for Discussion on a wide range of issues from parades to domestic violence, CCTV to police station closures, and crimes against older people to road safety.

- **Belfast DPP East Belfast Sub-Group** facilitated a discussion with nearly sixty pupils from Ashfield Boys' and Girls' schools on the subject of anti-social behaviour. A frank and open discussion took place and many of the pupils expressed the view that the police should seek to engage more closely with young people in the area. Following the meeting, DPP Members met with local police to discuss and agree ways to address the concerns raised by the young people.
- **Newtownabbey DPP** supported a study by the Bridge Youth Club about anti-social behaviour by young people, the attitudes of young people towards senior citizens and vice versa. As a follow up to this study, the DPP hosted a seminar for secondary school students and senior citizens and facilitated discussions in joint workshops. This seminar has led to a greater understanding and awareness between the groups in terms of how anti-social behaviour can create fear and on the other hand, how young people can be mistakenly stereotyped as troublemakers.





- **Banbridge DPP** worked in partnership with the local police and the NIO Community Safety Unit to host a Northern Ireland-wide conference called 'It's Your Business - Keep Crime Out!'. The conference provided an ideal forum for representatives of the business community to discuss the problems associated with crime in town centres and to share good practice in addressing these issues.

- **Limavady DPP** hosted a discussion forum for older people on the subject of 'Crime Against the Older Person' and this emotive subject attracted many interested and concerned people. The local Crime Prevention Officer offered practical advice and took the opportunity to encourage participants to use crime prevention tools, such as door chains, alarms, spy holes and property marking pens.

- With anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance being consistently identified as key policing concerns in the district, **Ards DPP** facilitated a discussion forum with over 100 6th form pupils from Regent House School, Newtownards. The DPP Chairman commented: "To simply view young people as a problem is to do them an injustice. The DPP recognise our young people as a significant group that we need to talk and listen to."

1 Students from Belfast schools question local DPP Members on policing issues, 2005
 2 Newtownabbey DPP Intergeneration Forum, Summer 2005
 3 Banbridge DPP joined forces for the Town Centre Business Crime Conference, 2006
 4 Limavady DPP - 'Crime Against the Older Person', 2004
 5 Ards DPP discussion forum with local schools at Regent House School, February 2005



- 1 Participants at Armagh DPP's 'Keep Well Keep Safe' event, 2006
- 2 Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP at Clogher Agricultural Show, Summer 2006
- 3 Glastray High School and Strangford Integrated College students at the Ards DPP interactive youth consultation, October 2006
- 4 DPP Members at a good practice seminar in Antrim, January 2007
- 5 Ards Independent Member Liam Braniff MBE at a road safety event, Christmas 2006
- 6 Independent Members of Newry and Mourne DPP, Noel Doherty and Cathy Fagan, launch the 'Domestic violence is a crime' campaign with DCU Commander, Bobby Hunniford and Constable Ciara Miller, Spring 2006
- 7 A section of the audience at Cookstown DPP's 'Keep Cool Stay Clear' event on tackling anti-social behaviour through sport, March 2006

future

The Challenges Ahead

Since their establishment in 2003, DPPs have become an important part of the policing architecture in Northern Ireland and a critical element in the evolution of policing. Much has happened in the last four years, but the months and years ahead are likely to bring even greater change. The positive contribution of DPPs to community policing in a relatively short period of time has been well documented in a range of independent reports but, in the same context, DPPs must be responsive to changes in the political and governance arrangements within Northern Ireland.

The Review of Public Administration (RPA), for example, will lead to significant changes across the public sector in Northern Ireland. This will have an impact on DPPs. The introduction of community planning also provides an opportunity to move towards more inclusive partnerships that are responsible for a wider range of duties.

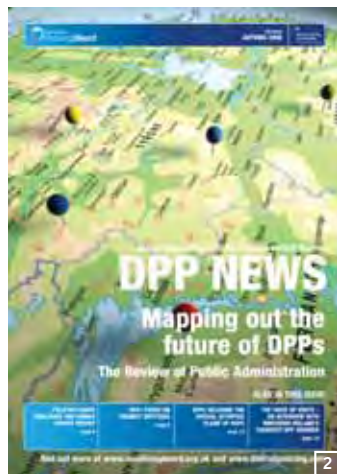
The Board has recognised that DPPs must reflect the new public administration structures and has just completed a consultation exercise on the future roles and functions of DPPs in the context of the RPA. A number of principles that would ensure safer communities were proposed. These principles would in turn inform the scope, functions and structure of any new partnership arrangements.

The evolving political context in which DPPs came into existence and continue to operate within may dramatically change with broader political and community support for policing in Northern Ireland. If achieved, this will lead to a reconstitution of the Board and DPPs. Restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly may also result in the devolution of policing and justice which could potentially generate further challenges for DPPs.

Although the future may be uncertain, the important work of DPPs will continue to be supported by the Board to ensure that there is connection with communities and neighbourhoods to support effective delivery of policing at a local level.



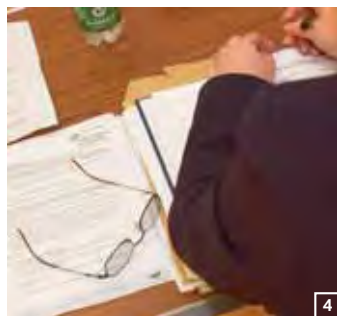
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- 1 Amanda Mulholland, Banbridge DPP Manager takes note of best practice in communication, June 2004
- 2 DPP News considers the challenges ahead, Autumn 2006
- 3 Students from Friends School in Lisburn pictured with former DPP Chairman Alderman Seamus Close and former DCU Commander Chief Superintendent Ken Henning at one of a series of consultation events during Spring 2006
- 4 Taking notes at a DPP meeting, 2006

find out more

To find out more about District Policing Partnerships contact your local DPP Office or visit www.districtpolicing.com

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District Policing Partnerships

Local people shaping local policing



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