

DRAFT



# **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

## **REVIEW OF THE POLICING BOARD'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**January 2008**

# DRAFT

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>SECTION 1 : Introduction And Purpose</b>	
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Your Role	3
1. 3 Purpose	3
1.4 What is Community Engagement	4
<b>SECTION 2: Background to Consultation</b>	
2.1 Role of the Policing Board	5
2.2 Membership of the Policing Board	5
2.3 Responsibilities of the Policing Board	5
2.4 Consultation	6
2.5 Policing Reform	7
<b>SECTION 3: Current Approach to Community Engagement</b>	
	8
3.1 Development of the Community Engagement Strategy	9
<b>SECTION 4 The Board's approach to Community Engagement</b>	
4.1 Implementing the Community Engagement Strategy	10
4.2 Working with Sector Reference Groups	10
4.3 Awareness raising events	11
4.4 District Policing Partnerships	11
<b>SECTION 5: Review of the Community Engagement Strategy</b>	
5.1 review of the Community Engagement Strategy	13
5.2 Consultation prior to drafting the Strategy	13
5.3 Framework for a future strategy	13
5.4 Section 75 responsibilities	17
<b>SECTION 6: What happens next?</b>	
6.1 Who we are consulting	18
<b>SECTION 7: Questions</b>	19
<b>Annex 1</b> Community Engagement Strategy	22
<b>Annex 2</b> Consultation Events	28
<b>Annex 3</b> Community Engagement And Consultation Standards	32

## Section 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction

The Policing Board has responsibility under Section 3 (3) (e) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, to make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime. In order to fulfil this responsibility the Policing Board has as a key objective in its 2005-2008 Corporate Plan to develop a strategy to encourage public confidence in policing.

A key element of this objective has been the development of an initial Community Engagement Strategy. The strategy aimed to add to the wide range of activities the Board undertakes in relation to its other statutory functions that raise awareness of policing, help build confidence in policing and thereby encourage the public to work with the police in preventing crime.

The Board recognised the need to review progress on this strategy after one year and we are now consulting on how we have progressed and how the Board may further develop and deliver this statutory responsibility.

### 1.2 Your Role

In order to assist the Board in developing and implementing its Community Engagement Strategy you are asked to read this document and respond to the questions contained in it. In doing this please state whether you are responding on an individual basis or on behalf of the community you represent. **While the questions are contained in this text they are also set out in a separate questionnaire at Section 7.**

### 1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide:

- information on the role of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (Board) and its initial work on engaging the community;
- background on the context of wider police reform and the need to ensure that the Board's current Community Engagement Strategy is inclusive of the whole community; and

## DRAFT

- an opportunity for gathering views on how the Board's framework for effective community engagement can be further developed.

### 1.4 What is Community Engagement?

The Board's overall vision for its 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”***

The Board's overall aims for this work are to:

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

**Q1. *In your view, do the above aims form the basis for effective community engagement?***

**DRAFT**

## **Section 2: Background**

### **2.1 Role Of The Policing Board**

The Policing Board is a statutory public body, with responsibility for providing independent oversight of policing. Our main duty is to make sure the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is effective, efficient, impartial and accountable.

The Chief Constable is accountable to the Board for achieving the targets set out in the Annual Policing Plan and for the actions of all police staff. The Board carries out this important aspect of oversight and monitoring the PSNI through its public Board meetings, Committee meetings and working groups.

This means that the Chief Constable must answer to the Board on **any** aspect of policing. However, we cannot and do not direct or control the Chief Constable. He has the right to take independent policing decisions based only on the need to maintain law and order, and he alone has operational responsibility for the PSNI.

### **2.2 Policing Board Membership**

The Board has 19 Members, 10 of these are Political Members of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly (MLAs) made up as follows, the DUP has four places on the Board, Sinn Fein has three places the UUP two places, and the SDLP has one place. The remaining nine places are held by Independent Members appointed by the Secretary of State representing the wider community in Northern Ireland.

### **2.3 Key Responsibilities**

The Board's key responsibilities are to:

- Hold the Chief Constable to account through the work of the Board and its committees.
- Set annual targets and objectives for police and monitor police performance against the targets
- Negotiate the annual policing budget and report on how this money is spent.

## **DRAFT**

- Monitor how the police work and meet their responsibilities in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and how they comply with the standards of behaviour as set out in the Code of Ethics for police officers
- Monitor police recruitment, the Board reviews the trends and patterns in recruitment of police and support staff to the PSNI
- Through the Custody Visiting Scheme, ensure that people in police custody are treated fairly and with dignity
- Appoint, discipline and dismiss, if necessary, the Chief Constable and senior police officers (Assistant Chief Constable and above) and senior civilian police staff
- Monitor the trends and patterns of crimes.
- Assess the effectiveness of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).
- Engage with the public in order to gain their co-operation with the police in preventing crime.

The Board does not deal with complaints against police officers. This is the responsibility of the Police Ombudsman. For more information on the Board, visit our website at: [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

### **2.4 Consultation**

Each year the Board contributes to policing priorities and to the way policing is delivered locally. It is important that the views of the Northern Ireland community are reflected in these priorities. To this end the Board:

- Surveys a representative sample of the Northern Ireland population twice each year (Omnibus Survey)
- Commissions research into specific issues such as the experiences that different groups in society have with policing.
- Promotes public engagement in policing at a local level through the operation of the 26 District Policing Partnerships, (DPPs). Once every two years the DPPs undertakes major research into policing issues in each of their local areas and provides input to the annual Policing Plan.
- Promotes specific crime prevention messages through events and interactive workshops.
- Engages with a range of groups in society.

## **2.5 Policing Reform**

Recent political agreements and the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly means that for the first time there is support for policing across all political opinions. This provides a tremendous opportunity to address crime and general disorder more effectively than was possible before.

Greater involvement of, and engagement with communities is also one of the key platforms for police reform in England and Wales. Effective engagement with local communities is recognised as a critical element in making communities safer. Such engagement requires the local community, the police and other key partners to work together to address the issues of concern. A Home Office White Paper 'Building Communities. Beating Crime', (2004) recognised the need for continuous dialogue and two-way exchange of information and views to address crime. The paper also recognised the importance of communities understanding and seeing how their views are used to affect how policing services are delivered and further recognised the importance of the local democratic link with policing.

Northern Ireland now has a recognised world class policing framework; there is a police service and accountability arrangements in place that are of considerable interest to many countries. The accountability and monitoring arrangements in the form of the Board and the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) provide a unique framework for linking policing into the community both at a strategic level and in a way that tackles local issues. These arrangements are designed to ensure that there is a democratically elected element and communities participate at both these levels. Visitors from many countries are now coming to Northern Ireland to learn from our experiences.

## **Section 3: Current Community Engagement Strategy**

### **3.1 Development of the Community Engagement Strategy**

In recognition of the importance of ensuring that the Board was able to consider the range of views across Northern Ireland on policing issues it was decided, in February 2006, that priority should be given to developing its community engagement and outreach role. An initial Community Engagement Strategy was developed in June 2006 to build on relationships with key individuals and groups across Northern Ireland.

The Board's current Community Engagement Strategy, a copy of which is attached for information at Annex 1, aims to:

- establish contact with a range of key groups in Northern Ireland society,
- build knowledge of the work of the Board,
- enhance the influence communities have on policing, and
- enable the Board to understand the policing needs of the whole community.

The strategy acknowledges the growing diversity of Northern Ireland society and has, initially, identified a number of key groups including:

- Young people
- Older people
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)
- Minority Ethnic and Language Groups
- Business Community
- Women's groups
- Communities traditionally disengaged from policing, for example people living in Loyalist or Republican areas.

In identifying these groups the Board acknowledges that rarely is any individual solely a member of just one of these groups. We can all identify with more than one of these groups. As such, while people with a disability are members of one or more

**DRAFT**

of the above groups this is an area in which the Board will be initiating specific action to engage with this section of society.

**Q2. *In your view are there any other communities that the Board should include in the strategy?***

## **Section 4: The Board's Approach To Community Engagement**

### **4.1 Implementing the Community Engagement Strategy**

Over the past year the Board has been meeting with key individuals and organisations to establish the best approach for meaningful and ongoing engagement.

The approach has been based on a number of key principles including:

- building on good practice from elsewhere,
- providing support for DPPs,
- sponsoring key events involving different communities and partnering with PSNI on some of these,
- supporting the development of Neighbourhood Watch, and
- having an effective communication strategy.

### **4.2 Working with Sector Reference Groups**

One of the key elements to the Board's approach to engaging with communities has been the establishment of Reference Groups and the Board is currently setting up the groups to reflect each of the areas identified by the Board's Community Engagement Strategy as detailed on page 8 above. The Reference Groups have a membership of 10 – 20 people, each member representing an organisation or network, or having some specialised knowledge.

The remit of the Reference Groups is to:

- Give communities better access to information and understanding of the role of the Board and their relationship with PSNI.
- Help the Board better understand the dynamics of the communities they are working with.
- Help the Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Community Engagement Strategy.
- Provide feedback to the Board on issues or concerns that may affect particular communities such as hate crime and crimes against older people thereby enabling the Board to more effectively hold the Chief Constable to account.

## **DRAFT**

- Work with police to prevent crime and contribute to community problem solving.
- Provide networking opportunities for the Board at a Northern Ireland and a local level.
- Support the development and sustainability of such Reference Groups.

To date Reference Groups for Older Person's, Minority Ethnic, Women, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans (LGBT) have been established. Each group has drawn up their Terms of Reference which is specific and tailored to each group. At present the Board has appointed an independent facilitator to help each of the groups draw up an Action Plan. It is anticipated that these groups will meet on a quarterly basis.

It is anticipated that a Reference Group will be established with the business community. Work is ongoing with youth groups and organisations within Republican and Loyalist communities on how best to take forward future engagement and during this year work will begin with groups representing people with disability.

### **4.3 Awareness Raising Events**

The Board has organised a number of events, which aimed to raise awareness, increase knowledge on the work of the Board and to encourage partnership working. A key partner in some of these events has been the PSNI, in others the Board has linked into other programmes such as Community Relations Week. A summary of the events sponsored and attended by the Board is attached at **Annex 2**.

The Board also undertakes a range of other activities that aim to enhance the effectiveness of police performance, ensure fairness and provide means for views to be gathered. Research and statistical work has been referred to above and details of all of this work is available on the Board's website [www.nipolicingboard.org](http://www.nipolicingboard.org). Other areas include the Custody Visitor Scheme that aims to ensure that people detained in police stations are treated fairly; and the Independent Community Observer Scheme which monitors fairness in the PSNI recruitment process.

### **4.4 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)**

District Policing Partnership (DPPs) were established to bring policing closer to the community, to give people a say on local policing issues and to help make

## **DRAFT**

communities safer and policing more effective. DPPs and Belfast sub-groups also have a responsibility to engage with the community to obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime. In order to fulfil this DPPs develop a Strategic Plan and annual operational plans setting out how they will engage with communities in their locality to facilitate dialogue and partnership working between the police and community.

There are many examples where DPPs and Belfast sub-groups have worked to engage with people across Northern Ireland to gain community support for policing. These include amongst other things, problem solving with the community or the promotion of partnership working between the police and the public, such as through Neighbourhood Watch schemes. In developing this role DPPs and Belfast sub-groups work in partnership with the Policing Board and other relevant agencies such as the local Community Safety Partnership, community and police liaison groups; community and voluntary organisations and other statutory agencies.

The Board is taking forward its work on community engagement with DPPs through a working group. This is at an early stage and in developing this work the Board is conscious to ensure that the strategy does not duplicate work that is currently underway by DPPs and ensures greater benefit for the community. It is anticipated that this arrangement, as part of the strategy, will provide the DPPs with a platform to share their experiences and their examples of good practice to others.

**Q3. *In your view is the development of Reference Groups and events an effective means of engaging with a diverse range of communities?***

**Q4. *In your view are there other approaches that the Board could use to further develop engagement with these communities?***

**Q5. *In your view how best can the Board and DPPs work together to further develop effective community engagement?***

## Section 5: Review Of Board's Community Engagement Strategy

### 5.1 Review of the Community Engagement Strategy

The Board is seeking to build on the good work developed over the last year and to apply the lessons that have been learned. A review of the strategy at this stage provides the Board with an opportunity to strengthen its engagement work so that the overall aims set out in Section 1 can be achieved.

The overall aims of the strategy are to:

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

### 5.2 Consultation Prior To Drafting The Policy

The Board has engaged in a process of consultation with local groups since June 2006. These engagements have informed the process in taking forward the initial Community Engagement Strategy and identified the range of key questions for this review. The Board is grateful for the generosity of the people who have engaged with us and given of their time so that our job can be improved. The views and the advice on the questions to ask have been incorporated into the draft strategy document.

### 5.3 Framework For Future Strategy

The following will inform not only what the Board does but also how we engage with Northern Ireland society in the future.

Key Issues	Board Response
Enhance the knowledge of the work of the Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is confusion about</li></ul>	The Board will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly communicate opportunities to engage and explain how systems</li></ul>

**DRAFT**

<p>the difference between the role of the Board and the PSNI.</p>	<p>work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide accessible “fit for purpose” information</li></ul>
<p>Communities and groups have differing needs and expectations in regard to policing and the work of the Board.</p>	<p>The Board recognises that engagement works best when communities and groups have a part to play in how the engagement is taken forward. A ‘one size fits all’ approach is not going to be effective, for example a method of engagement that works best of the minority ethnic and language communities may not be the most effective approach for young people.</p> <p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• continue to work with the Reference Groups to develop effective approaches that are durable and work best for them</li><li>• develop clear action plans; and</li><li>• develop and build on systems and processes which allow communities to engage with the Board in accessible ways</li></ul>
<p>In order to develop effective engagement there needs to be organisational leadership and commitment to value such work and that the work should be supported by a set of standards.</p>	<p>The Board is committed to ensuring that its community engagement work is informed by a set of clear standards.</p> <p>The Board’s work in relation to community engagement will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• set out clearly its commitment to the importance of this work and provide the necessary leadership.</li><li>• be informed by a set of standards, and a copy of these is to be found at <b>Annex 3</b>.</li></ul>

## DRAFT

<p>It takes considerable investment and time to develop effective relationships and recognise that the engagement should be mutually beneficial.</p>	<p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• continue to develop its work with the Reference Groups</li><li>• sponsor and attend events</li><li>• continue to develop contacts with a range of communities and groups</li><li>• continue to work in partnership with others</li><li>• establish and maintain structures to support engagement</li></ul>
<p>Communities and groups wish to see how their views are affecting policing.</p>	<p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ensure that the key issues and priorities identified by groups are fed into the process for determining the objectives and targets for the Annual Policing Plan</li><li>• Further these issues will inform Members of the Board in their role in holding the Chief Constable to account.</li><li>• provide feedback to groups on a regular basis</li></ul>
<p>There is a desire and an ambition within local communities for effective policing.</p>	<p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• further develop its links with DPPs and other partners to enhance police performance and community confidence in policing.</li></ul>
<p>Progress against the aims and objectives of the strategy should be monitored and evaluated.</p>	<p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a future monitoring framework which will be based on the four aims, lessons learned and the associated objectives; and</li><li>• the Board will report on progress annually, and</li></ul>

**DRAFT**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Board will provide for the implementation of the Community Engagement strategy.</li></ul>
Whilst there are differences on issues and priorities across the groups there are also many similarities.	The Board will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate information exchange and sharing across groups.</li></ul>
The Board's approach to community engagement will take account of best practice from other organisations and jurisdictions.	The Board will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify best practice in Northern Ireland and elsewhere; and</li><li>• Implement recommendations from Best Value Reviews.</li></ul>

**Q6. In your view does the framework provide an effective model for the monitoring and evaluation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy?**

**5.4 Responsibility under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

The Community Engagement Strategy was developed and implemented in line with the Board's responsibilities as set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to promote equality of opportunity and to promote good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups from diverse backgrounds and communities and will be a significant contribution to the Board fulfilling its duties under this section of the 1998 Act.

**Q7. In your view are there any adverse equality impacts of this approach to community engagement?**

**Q8. In your view will this strategy contribute to the promotion of good relations?**

**DRAFT**

## **Section 6: What Happens Next?**

### **Who We Are Consulting**

The Board is consulting a wide range of stakeholders including the Sector Reference Groups, the various organisations involved in representing various groups across Northern Ireland. We will also be consulting with the District Policing Partnerships.

The draft strategy will also be available to download on the Board's website at [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

The Board is allowing 12 weeks for consultation on this issue and on this basis your response should be returned to the Board by 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

You can respond by completing the attached questions and emailing them to the Board at

[information@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:information@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

or you can respond by sending us your completed questions addressed to:

Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Community Engagement Branch  
Waterside Tower  
31 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG

After the closing date the Board will consider all of the responses that have been sent in and use the information to revise its Community Engagement Strategy.

If you need further information or would like to discuss any aspect of this document or of the work the Board is doing by way of Community Engagement contact David Jackson, Director of Community Engagement either in writing at the above address, by email at [david.jackson@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:david.jackson@nipolicingboard.org.uk) or by phone on 90408517 .

**SECTION 7: QUESTIONS**

**Q1. In your view, do the above aims form the basis for effective community engagement? (Page 4)**

**Q2. In your view are there any other communities that the Board should include in the strategy? (Page 8)**

**Q3. In your view is the development of Reference Groups and events an effective means of engaging with a diverse range of communities? (Page 9)**

**Q4. In your view are there other approaches that the Board could use to further develop engagement with these communities? (Page 11)**

**Q5. In your view how best can the Board and DPPs work together to further develop effective community engagement? (Pages 11-12)**

**Q6. In your view does the framework provide an effective model for the monitoring and evaluation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy? (Page 13)**

**Q7. In your view are there any adverse equality impacts of this approach to community engagement? (Page 17)**

**Q8. In your view will this strategy contribute to the promotion of good relations? (Page 17)**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A STRATEGY FOR GAINING THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC WITH THE POLICE IN PREVENTING CRIME**

### **Purpose**

The Policing Board has responsibility under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, as amended (the Act) Section 3 (3)(e) to make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.

In order to fulfil this responsibility, the Board has agreed a primary objective within its Corporate Plan for 2005–2008 to develop a strategy to encourage public confidence in policing.

This strategy sets out how the Board may fulfil its statutory responsibility to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime. In doing this the strategy takes account of the wide range of activities that the Board already undertakes in relation to its other statutory functions that contribute to raising public awareness in relation to policing, that enhance public confidence in policing and thereby ultimately contribute to the public's willingness to co-operate with the police in preventing crime. These contributory factors include:

- Developing public confidence in policing through holding the Chief Constable to account,
- Promoting public engagement in policing at a local level through the operation of District Policing Partnerships, (DPPs)
- Promoting specific crime prevention messages and practical steps that local communities can take to support the police in preventing crime,
- Consultation with the community and hard-to-reach groups to identify policing issues and to act on feedback from the community,

## **DRAFT**

- Support for the development of Neighbourhood Watch as a means of developing positive engagement between local communities and the PSNI, and
- Raising awareness through hosting conferences with specific crime prevention themes.

## **Background**

This strategy addresses the specific process which the Board may adopt in order to implement its Community Engagement Strategy and in particular considers how an integrated approach may be developed to enable the Board and the DPPs to successfully fulfil their common statutory requirement to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.

While this is a specific statutory requirement on the part of the Board and the DPPs the need to gain the co-operation of the public with the police is a priority issue to be addressed in all regions if policing is to become truly effective. A recent Home Office White Paper entitled "*Building Community, Beating Crime A better police service for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*" identifies as a priority the need to develop a new relationship and build trust and confidence between the police and the public. Measures identified to develop this include effective and meaningful consultation, input of local community to local policing priorities, positive engagement between local communities and the police through educational programmes and advice on crime prevention as well as better information on policing processes and guidance on the practical steps local communities take to support the police in preventing crime. While it is encouraging to note that the Board has already made significant progress in a number of these areas.

In identifying that the Board and the DPPs should seek to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime there is an acknowledgement that this involves working to bridge the gap between the community and the police. To achieve this will involve developing and strengthening the ability of the community to engage and co-operate with the police. The challenge inherent in this task cannot be

## **DRAFT**

overlooked and this is an area where progress will come through many small incremental steps as opposed to dramatic breakthroughs.

### **The DPP's Responsibility**

Section 16 (c)(ii) of the Act states that one of the functions of a DPP shall be to:

“Make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.”

In fulfilling this role, DPPs are required to develop their Strategic and Operational Plan under this heading to ensure that the community priorities and issues concerning policing within the district are recognised and to identify the opportunities for the public and the police to work together to address specific issues.

To date much of the focus by DPPs in terms of gaining co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime has been on the delivery of promotional activities – promoting the DPP concept, what it is and how it can benefit the local community and secondly, promoting specific crime prevention messages.

### **DEFINING THE STRATEGY**

In developing community engagement strategy, the unique role of the Board in gaining the co-operation of the public with the police lies in raising awareness with a wider audience. This can be across Northern Ireland as a whole or within specific regional areas. To achieve this it is recommended that on an annual basis the Board should respond to issues in a way that raises public awareness, enhances public confidence in the work of the police and creates a platform upon which the DPP can build a more detailed or specific local response.

The Board's response may be developed in two main ways.

#### **1. Board Events**

## DRAFT

Under the heading of what is broadly termed “Board Events” the Board should stage events that raise awareness, set out best practice challenge perception, increase knowledge and encourage partnership working. In this context an event might be the Hate Crime Conference that the Board held in March 2005. The trigger to hold such an event would primarily, but not exclusively, be as a result of information being received by the Board from surveys, from PSNI crime figures or from issues being raised by the DPPs. In general this type of information will be indicative of a trend as opposed to evidence of an immediate crisis. This will allow the Board to identify the issue and clarify exactly what is entailed before embarking on any action.

This initial period of clarification would also be the point at which the Board would seek to engage the DPPs with the view to do work at a local level at a later date.

Depending on the nature of the issue that the Board is responding to, the Board may consider generating some wider publicity. As the ultimate goal is to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime it would be appropriate to co-ordinate publicity with the police. To do this, the Board would need to produce succinct messages, using various mediums, containing three main elements, the problem, what is being done to address it and how local people can contribute reducing or eliminating the problem.

Such an approach not only demonstrates that the Board is addressing major issues of concern but through the wider publicity starts to build the platform for further work by the DPPs.

In taking this forward, Board staff would work with the DPPs in developing an appropriate and specific response to address issues at a local level. In this context the Board has already issued guidance to the DPPs as to how they might gain the co-operation of the public.

The second way in which the Board may respond would be in relation to specific events or incidents.

## **DRAFT**

### **2. Incident Based Response**

This differs from Board Events in that the trigger for the response will not be analytical data but is more likely to be what is being reported in the press or perhaps in performance reports from the PSNI to the Board.

If the Board becomes aware of high profile incidents that are causing concern it may choose to respond by meeting with those individuals or groups who have relevant insight or experience of the situation. Examples of the Board taking this approach are the meetings with representatives of older people following a number of attacks on older people. The meeting with representatives of different ethnic groups following a spate of racial attacks would also fall into this category.

As a quick response approach to a perceived critical situation, the Board will not be able to generate publicity in advance or to signpost what it intends to do. Instead the follow up will be in conjunction with the police to engage with the DPPs to address the issues within the locality where they are occurring. This follow up, the commitment to taking action will be a critical step in demonstrating to the public that not only listens but will take appropriate steps to see the problem resolved within a local context.

As with the approach identified after a Board Event it will be the role of Board staff to work with the DPPs in developing an appropriate local response.

### **Implementing the strategy**

In developing a response suitable to obtain the co-operation of the public, the Board should plan to hold an agreed number of “Board Events” on an annual basis. In addition provision should be made to allow the Board to make appropriate rapid response to critical incidents as they arise. To ensure that this strategy is integrated into the Board’s planning cycle, an annual operational plan will be produced setting out the action the Board will take to implement this strategy.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**DRAFT**

Further information on the development and implementation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy can be obtained by contacting David Jackson, Director of Community Engagement at:

[David.jackson@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:David.jackson@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

## Annex 2

Event/Project	Category	Organisations involved
Anti Knife Campaign	Children and Young People	PSNI NIO
Youth consultation March/April 2007		NI Youth Forum The Blind Centre NI Headliners Project, Belfast St Columb's Park House, Londonderry Drumcree Community Centre (Cabin Club), Portadown Craigavon District Youth Council Armagh Youth Council Banbridge and District Youth Council Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, Bangor Chinese Welfare Association, Belfast
Youth Residential February 2007		NI Youth Forum Various young people
Young Peoples Forum Education & Library Boards September 2007		Various young people NI Youth Forum Representative Youth Workers Western - Education & Library Board
Presentation: St. Cecilia's College, L/Derry November 2006		St. Cecilia's College.
A Taste of Northern Ireland Event. An opportunity to experience, celebrate and sample different cultures and support integration. June 2007	Minority Ethnic Communities	PSNI Belfast City Council Representatives from : Lithuania Ulster Scots Society Philippines Poland Latvia Afro Community Support Organisation Indian Community Centre Foras na Gaeilge Chinese Welfare Assoc Romania

**DRAFT**

<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Organisations involved</b>
Polish Picnic A sharing of culture July 2007		PSNI Polish Community
Polish Community Conference July 2007		Polish Consul and community
Meeting with Polish Vice Consul and others July 2007		
Article in Glosik Magazine June 2007		Connect Polish Association
Message in a Bottle April 2007	Older People	Community Safety Unit PSNI Ambulance Service Prison Service
Older Person's Sub Group – Indian Community Centre February 2007		Presentation to Group
Board meeting in Public: December 2006 Board Members: "Face to face" meeting		Help the Aged Senior Community Safety Policy Group.  Members representative of various older people's organisations.
Women in Power and Public Life presentation May 2007	Women	Indian Community Centre Community Relations Council Politicians Parades Commission
Women's European Parliament Conference - presentation January 2007		
Business and Retail Event Ramada Hotel January 2007	Business Community	PSNI, Down DPP. Target audience – Business community.

**DRAFT**

<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Organisations involved</b>
<p>Raid Control Launch (Raid Control is a nationally recognised crime prevention initiative) Pilot Launch in North Belfast May 2007</p>		<p>PSNI, NIO Community Safety Unit and North Belfast Business Community.</p>
<p>Organised Crime Task Force Event in L/Derry September 2007</p>		<p>Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce; Confederation of British Industry; Federation of Small Business; PSNI; Assets Recovery Agency; HM Revenue &amp; Customs; Serious Organised Crime Agency; NIO; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Home Office.</p>
<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans (LGBT) Event in L/Derry. Awareness raising. Invitation to join Reference Group June 2007</p>	<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans (LGBT)</p>	<p>Rainbow Project &amp; Belfast Butterfly Group.  Target audience – LGBT groups in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans (LGBT) Event in Belfast. Awareness raising. Invitation to join Reference Group June 2007</p>		<p>Rainbow Project &amp; Belfast Butterfly Group.  Target audience – LGBT groups in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>Cheshire Police Service &amp; Police Authority Visit  Information Gathering Visit on Restorative Justice February 2007</p>	<p>Loyalist/Republican communities.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Alternatives; Community Restorative Justice Ireland.  (Others: Criminal Justice Agency;</p>

**DRAFT**

<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Organisations involved</b>
		Youth Justice Agency; PSNI; University of Ulster)
Cheshire Police Service RJ Team.  Information Gathering Visit on Restorative Justice July 2007		Northern Ireland Alternatives; Community Restorative Justice Ireland.  (Others: Criminal Justice Agency; Youth Justice Agency; PSNI; University of Ulster) (Statutory Bodies also visited)
Publications – development and distribution of new Community Engagement leaflet Ongoing	Information Sharing.	
North West Community Engagement network. April 2007		(Police Authorities in North West region of UK)
Delegations from overseas – Pakistan, Kazakhstan October 2006		

## **Community Engagement And Consultation Standards**

The Board is fully committed to promoting equality of opportunity and good community relations in all its policies and in all of our engagement and consultation activities we will adhere to the following standards:

### **Partnerships and Sharing Resources**

- Seek to co-ordinate engagement activities with partners to avoid duplication and make best use of resources

### **Access and Inclusion**

- To take into account the particular needs of groups, for example section 75 groups
- To work in partnership with groups to overcome any difficulties and enable them to participate in the Board's engagement process.

### **Clarity of Purpose**

- To be open and honest about the aims of any engagement activity and what we hope to achieve
- Ensure that any engagement activity is realistic and achievable
- Establish clear processes for feedback on engagement activity to let people know what they agreeing to take part in and how any information is used

### **Confidentiality**

- Ensure awareness of confidentiality issues in engagement activities, with particular regard to the Freedom of Information Act and the Data protection Act.

### **Integrity**

- Ensure that engagement activities are voluntary and that participants can withdraw any time
- Ensure that the rights and dignity of all participants are respected at all times
- Respect the rights of participants to decide how much to reveal about

## **DRAFT**

themselves

- Give careful consideration to activities, information and questions to ensure that they do not offend, cause distress or embarrassment

## **Visibility**

- To ensure that those most directly affected by plans and decisions are aware of opportunities for engagement and consultation
- Engage with key stakeholders and/or representative groups in advance of specific consultations or engagement activities and to seek views on the most effective means of publicity