



Policing & Community  
Safety Partnerships

making our community safer



# Annual Effectiveness Report 2023-2024



Department of  
**Justice**  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

 Northern Ireland  
**Policing Board**

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## 1 Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the effectiveness of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), in line with the requirements of Section 34 of the Justice Act (NI) 2011.

This 2023-24 PCSP Effectiveness report, produced by the Joint Committee, highlights the work undertaken by the 11 PCSPs and 4 District PCSPs<sup>1</sup> (DPCSPs) during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. PCSPs play a vital role in engaging with local communities and they are reliant on the coordinated efforts of several agencies and designated partners: the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Youth Justice Agency (YJA), Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNi), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Education Authority (EA), and the Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCT).

Effectiveness is measured against the Strategic Priorities set by the Joint Committee which underpin all PCSP Action Plans, these can be found on pages 10 - 12.

In addition to focusing on the three Strategic Priorities outlined above, PCSPs were required to address six themes within their annual Action Plans as detailed below. Where these themes were not addressed in Action Plans, PCSPs were asked to provide evidence as to why the theme did not need to be prioritised in their area. In 2023-2024 the key themes included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- Drugs and alcohol abuse;
- Hate Crime;
- Domestic and sexual abuse;
- Cybercrime; and
- Vulnerability from organised crime (including paramilitary linked criminality).

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<sup>1</sup> There are 11 PCSPs – one for each of the Council areas in Northern Ireland. Belfast has one overarching PCSP and four DPCSPs, one for each of the police areas commands of Belfast – North, South, East and West.

During 2023-24 PCSPs continued to utilise public engagement events to raise the profile of their work. A total of 308 public engagement and consultation events were held or attended, attracting over 18,000 members of the public. In addition, the use of social media remained imperative in keeping the public informed about local initiatives, PCSPs posted on Facebook, Instagram, X and other social media platforms, reaching almost 3 million users.

Although it cannot be said that a reduction is solely due to PCSP activities, it is reasonable to suggest that PCSP action has contributed to a 4.1% reduction in recorded ASB incidents when compared to 2022-23. There were 561 education & awareness sessions, 213 youth diversionary projects, and over 34,000 community warden and street pastor patrol hours contributed throughout the year.

PCSPs worked hard to reduce the impact of illegal and prescription drug use. Drug awareness sessions were offered to schools and youth clubs with 11,346 participants attending 1,050 sessions. Additionally, PCSPs continued to support the Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs (RAPID) bin scheme with 224,708 drug items removed from 100 RAPID bins.

Hate Crime remained a priority for PCSPs with an increase in asylum seekers during 2023-24. Initiatives were supported, and aid granted to victims of Hate Crime, which included the provision of home security equipment. In addition, there were 49 awareness raising events delivered to over 3,800 members of the public.

Many districts saw a decrease in the number of domestic violence incidents and crimes reported during 2023-24, with an overall decrease of 10.6% when compared with 2022-23. However, when compared with figures over the past 20 years, crime levels remain twice as high as those reported in 2004-05. In partnership with key organisations, PCSPs delivered a significant number of projects to raise awareness and support victims of domestic violence. 273 awareness raising sessions were delivered to over 9,000 participants. 190 victims of domestic violence were supported through counselling.

Cybercrime continued to be a significant and increasing issue throughout 2023-24, the rapid development of and current focus on Artificial Intelligence highlights the global opportunity and threat it presents. PCSPs actively supported media campaigns delivered by the PSNI and by the ScamwiseNI partnership. In addition, PCSPs funded the delivery of 233 cybercrime awareness raising sessions for 6,553 young people, older people and those identified as vulnerable to online crime.

Fatalities due to road traffic collisions increased in comparison to 2022-23, for the second consecutive year. PCSPs continued to provide a variety of educational resources to help address anti-social and dangerous driving. Road safety projects were delivered in schools, and a total of 134 awareness raising sessions provided to members of the public. In addition, over 150 Speed Indicator Devices were deployed across Northern Ireland roads to remind drivers to be aware of their speed and slow down, with the number of road deaths and collisions remaining a concern.

PCSPs continued to address the fear of crime within local communities by delivering a range of projects and initiatives. In addition to the 252 awareness raising events delivered, 4,217 pieces of home security equipment were distributed to potential victims of crime. Property marking events assisted to protect over 300 trailers and bikes at 52 PCSP led marking events.

This report aims to provide greater detail of the wide range of initiatives progressed by PCSPs throughout 2023-24, with a number of cumulative PCSP outcomes outlined below.

### Community engagement

- 308 community engagement & consultation events held with over 18,000 attendees;
- 37 Public Relations (PR) campaigns launched;
- 2,824 social media posts;
- 63 press releases;
- 23,400 posters & leaflets distributed;
- Approximately 3,000 likes on social media; and
- Social media post reach of almost 3 million.

## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- 561 education/awareness sessions delivered to schools and youth groups;
- 213 diversionary initiatives provided;
- 41,372 participants engaged in diversionary initiatives; and
- Approximately 1,976 'On Street' patrols by the Community Safety Wardens, Street Pastors, and similar programmes; contributing over 34,000 hours and engaging with over 26,155 members of the public.

## Drugs and Alcohol

- Over 100 RAPID (Remove all Prescription and Illegal Drugs) bins in place, removing 224,708 drug items from the community;
- 1,050 drug and alcohol awareness events held across Northern Ireland with 11,346 participants; and
- 3 community wellbeing events attended by 186 people.

## Domestic Violence and Abuse

- 273 domestic violence awareness raising events held with over 9,000 participants;
- 190 victims of domestic violence supported through counselling;
- 29 outdoor media placements supporting 2 domestic violence awareness campaigns; and
- Almost 200 pieces of security equipment provided to potential or previous victims of Domestic Abuse.

## Hate Crime

- 49 awareness raising events attended by over 3,800 members of the public; and
- 3 Billboard campaigns delivered.

## Fear of Crime/Vulnerability/Home Security Programmes

- 4,217 pieces of home security equipment provided as a result of referrals under Safer Home schemes;

- 252 awareness events attended by over 11,000 individuals;
- Over 300 trailers/bikes were marked at 52 property marking events;
- 1,202 text alerts issued to almost 29,000 registered users;
- 657 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in place across the districts;
- 1,056m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti removed following 97 referrals from members of the public; and
- 11 Rural crime awareness sessions delivered to over 650 participants.

### Road Safety

- 134 road safety awareness raising sessions or roadshows delivered, engaging approximately 16,000 participants;
- 1,681 pieces of New Driver educational material provided to schools; and
- Over 150 Speed Indicator Devices placed across Northern Ireland roads.

### Cybercrime

- 233 cybercrime awareness raising sessions held;
- 6,553 members of the public in attendance at sessions; and
- 750 pieces of scam awareness raising material distributed.

### Confidence in Policing

- 45 private Policing Committee meetings held;
- 22 public Policing Committee meetings held;
- Over 250 engagement activities delivered with PSNI with almost 10,000 attendees; and
- 1 PCSP facilitated tackling paramilitarism and organised crime event with 32 Members in attendance.



## 2 Background

In total, there are 11 PCSPs in Northern Ireland; based in each Council area. Belfast contains an additional four District PCSPs (DPCSPs), one for each area. An annual investment of £4.4m from the Department of Justice (DoJ) and NIPB is allocated to the PCSPs and DPCSPs, to fund their work.

The Joint Committee, established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, comprises of representatives from the Department of Justice, and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Section 34 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Joint Committee to assess the effectiveness of PCSPs and DPCSPs in performing their functions (other than those of the Policing Committee) and in particular those relating to community engagement and enhancing community safety.

In addition, Section 34 requires NIPB to assess the effectiveness of Policing Committees, and PCSPs in performing their restricted functions. Each PCSP has established a Policing Committee that identifies priorities for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan, monitors police performance, and gains the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in their district.

This report will highlight the key achievements and impacts of the 2023-24 PCSP Action Plans, including project examples across the key thematic areas implemented. The Action Plans produced by PCSPs for the 2023-24 year were the second Action Plans produced using the 2022-2025 PCSP Planning Guidance.

### 3 Strategic Focus

In line with the Guidance for PCSP Planning for 2022-2025, the Joint Committee agreed three PCSP Strategic Priorities to underpin all Action Plans, outlined below:

**Strategic Priority 1:** To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement through:

- carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;
- ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;
- using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and
- increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.

**Strategic Priority 2:** To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through:

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying

causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;

- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

**Strategic Priority 3:** To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities through:

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and

- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

## 4 Financial Performance

PCSPs spent 99% of Joint Committee funding by 2023-24 year end, which remained the same when compared with 2022-23 year end. The 2023-24 financial year provided a budget for PCSPs of just over £4.2m for administrative and operational costs. This included a 67% (£2.86m) contribution from the Department of Justice and a 33% (£1.39m) contribution from the Northern Ireland Policing Board. An additional £154,000 was provided by the Policing Board to allocate towards PCSP Member meeting expenses.

**Table 1: PCSP Budget 2023/2024**

Budget Line	Amount £	DoJ Contribution £	NIPB Contribution £
Administration and Operational	£4,248,649	£2,859,087	£1,389,562
Meeting Expenses	£154,000	N/A	£154,000
<b>Total Budget (Admin, Operational and Meeting Expenses)</b>	<b>£4,402,649</b>	<b>£2,859,087</b>	<b>£1,543,562</b>

Budget allocation at the Council level is calculated based on a basic amount (30%) and supplemented by additional amounts on the basis of need; namely population (45%) and Deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) (25%); utilising figures from the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2017).

In implementing an annual budget, it is recognised that there can be a lead-in time for project implementation due to the need to carry out procurement for services. This can cause a delay in financial spend across the PCSPs.

During 2023-24 all PCSPs have either met or come close to full expenditure in terms of their Administration/Operational budget, as shown in Table 2. Total expenditure has remained on par with the previous operational year (2022-23).

**Table 2: Year-end expenditure - (Admin/Operational) 2023/2024 against 2022/2023**

	2023/2024 Financial Year				2022/2023 Financial year	
PCSP	Admin & OP agreed budget	Expenditure	Underspend	% funding spent by year end	Underspend	% funding spent by year end
Antrim and Newtownabbey	303,540	303,540.00	0	100%	12.74	100%
Ards and North Down	317,834	307,266.27	10,567.73	97%	4,763.72	98.5%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	412,722	410,169.92	2,552.08	99%	2,405.63	99.4%
Belfast	826,517	826,517.00	0.00	100%	0	100%
Causeway Coast and Glens	363,256	358,497.26	4,758.74	99%	1,747.81	99.5%
Derry City and Strabane	441,496	441,127.73	368.27	100%	6,017.68	98.6%
Fermanagh and Omagh	301,448	295,733.99	5,714.01	98%	1,078.37	99.6%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	275,115	273,048.12	2,066.88	99%	275.35	99.9%
Mid and East Antrim	314,532	309,951.40	4,580.60	99%	18,549.67	94.1%
Mid Ulster	284,198	279,529.28	4,668.72	98%	9,712.01	96.6%
Newry, Mourne and Down	407,990	407,990.00	0.00	100%	1,047.26	99.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,248,648</b>	<b>4,213,370.97</b>	<b>35,277.03</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>45,610.24</b>	<b>99%</b>

In relation to meeting expenses, PCSPs reached 69% expenditure at the end of 2023-24. As a result of substantial underspend in 2022-23, meeting expenses budgets were reduced from £18,000 to £12,500 which explains the significant difference in year-over-year comparison of underspend.

**Table 3: Revised Meeting Expenses following Monitoring Return**

PCSP	2023/24 Financial Year				2022/23 Financial year	
	Meeting Expenses budget £	Expenditure £	Underspend £	% funding spent by year end	Underspend £	% funding spent by year end
Antrim and Newtownabbey	12,500	6,180.00	6,320.00	49%	11,160.00	38%
Ards and North Down	12,500	6,360.00	6,140.00	51%	9,300.00	48%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	12,500	6,249.97	6250.03	50%	13,229.92	27%
Belfast	29,000	19,913.95	9,086.05	69%	33,687.94	38%
Causeway Coast and Glens	12,500	11,633.68	866.32	93%	3,465.72	81%
Derry and Strabane	12,500	6,840.00	5,660.00	55%	11,100.00	38%
Fermanagh and Omagh	12,500	8,031.47	4,468.53	64%	7,243.33	60%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	12,500	10,428.48	2,071.52	83%	7,655.94	58%
Mid and East Antrim	12,500	9,935.28	2,564.72	79%	8,396.25	53%
Mid Ulster	12,500	12,622.47	(122.47)	100%	3,946.18	78%
Newry, Mourne and Down	12,500	8,753.93	3,746.07	70%	8,182.74	55%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>106,949.23</b>	<b>47,050.77</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>117,368.02</b>	<b>52%</b>

In terms of the total budget (Admin/Operational and Meeting Expenses) which is shown in Table 4, the final position represents 98% expenditure by year end.

**Table 4: Year-end expenditure - Total budget (Admin/Operational & Meeting Expenses) 2023/24 against 2022/23**

PCSP	2023/24 Financial Year				2022/23 Financial year	
	Total Budget £	Expenditure £	Underspend £	% funding spent by year end	Underspend £	% funding spent by year end
Antrim and Newtownabbey	316,040.00	309,720	6,320.00	98%	11,172.74	97%
Ards and North Down	330,334.00	313,626.27	16,707.73	95%	14,063.72	96%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	425,222.00	416,419.89	8,802.11	98%	15,635.55	96%
Belfast	855,517.00	846,430.95	9,086.05	99%	33,686.94	96%
Causeway Coast and Glens	375,756.00	370,130.94	5,625.06	99%	5,213.53	99%
Derry and Strabane	453,996.00	447,967.73	6,028.27	99%	17,117.68	96%
Fermanagh and Omagh	313,948.00	303,765.46	10,182.54	97%	8,321.70	97%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	287,615.00	283,476.60	4,138.40	99%	7,931.29	97%
Mid and East Antrim	327,032.00	319,886.68	7,145.32	98%	26,945.92	92%
Mid Ulster	296,698.00	292,151.75	4,546.25	98%	13,658.19	95%
Newry, Mourne and Down	420,490.00	416,743.93	3,746.07	99%	9,230.00	98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,402,648.00</b>	<b>4,320,320.20</b>	<b>83,327.80</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>162,977.26</b>	<b>96%</b>



## 5 Implementation of Strategic Priorities

### 5.1 Strategic Priority 1

To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement through:

- carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;
- ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;
- using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and
- increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.

As noted under section 3, Strategic Priority 1 was updated by Joint Committee to focus on three key elements of effective consultation, engagement and communication. The rationale for the update was to increase the awareness of PCSPs, ensure wide and varied engagement and to enable reporting against consultation with the public, statutory partners and the wider stakeholders.

#### Consultation

The most important factor in the development of PCSP Action Plans is consultation with the public. All PCSPs have evidenced significant community consultation within their annual reports. PCSPs were involved in a total of 43 consultation meetings, that included over 1,000 participants from the community, to identify areas of local concern.

During 2023-24, Belfast engaged Ulster University to support the action planning process and following a series of consultation meetings, an all-member planning workshop, public

meetings, engagement sessions and a community safety survey, the 2024-25 Action Plan was developed. A total of 10 consultation sessions were held with 147 attendees. 87% / 128 members of the public participating in consultation events reported an increased awareness of the PCSP and its work to address policing and community safety issues.

In addition to public consultation events, PCSPs continued to work collaboratively through regular public and private member meetings, policing committees and thematic subgroup meetings.

## Engagement

All PCSPs, through their annual reporting, have evidenced significant engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, both internal and external to the PCSP. A total of 265 engagement events were run or attended by PCSP members, reaching over 17,000 participants.

In relation to external engagement, PCSPs have evidenced both traditional and innovative approaches. All PCSPs are required to hold public meetings with their communities which are aimed at building confidence, trust and knowledge in relation to the role and work of the PCSP.

Many PCSPs set up information stands to engage with the community, raise awareness and promote the work of their PCSP. Supermarkets were highlighted as a great location for engagement stands, with a high level of footfall and plenty of interaction from the public.



In addition to a significant number of engagement events, PCSP members participated in local interagency forums and groups including:

- Drugs and Alcohol working groups;
- Domestic Abuse working groups;
- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator meetings;
- Community Safety Groups;
- ASB working groups;

- Rural crime events; and
- Thematic crime response networks.

## Best Practice Example: Engagement with the Community

### Belfast PCSP

#### **Name of Event:** Spring Safety Event

**Description of Event:** The Belfast PCSP Spring Safety Event was held in City Hall on 1 March 2024. 32 stallholders were present including PSNI, NIFRS, Victim Support NI, Belfast Samaritans, Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid, Translink, Consumer Council and Age Friendly Belfast. Age NI promoted the Older Adults Cyber Safety Project in addition to providing advice and information on staying safe online.



#### **Feedback on the event:**

*"Just wanted to say thank you for the invitation to have a stall at the Belfast PCSP Safety event once again. We were busy at our stall from the word go and only had a couple of leaflets left at the end. I would also like to thank you, and everyone involved in arranging this event as I know full well that this sort of event does not just happen and there is a lot of planning and organising to be done."*

#### **How Much Did We Do?**

- 578 participants;
- 32 stallholders; and
- 10 social media posts linked to Spring Safety Event.

#### **How Well Did We Do?**

- 100%/578 of participants reported satisfaction with event.

#### **Is Anyone Better Off?**

- 98%/567 participants with an increased awareness of the PCSP and its work to address policing and community safety issues; and
- 43,557 increase in overall social media reach.



PCSPs continued to utilise social media as a means to gain greater reach and raise awareness. Table 5 below outlines the engagements and total reach of PCSP Facebook posts. Both of which are a testament to the work carried out by PCSPs in maintaining and updating their social platforms.

**Table 5: Number of engagements and total reach of PCSP Facebook pages 2023 – 2024**

PCSP	Engagements 31/03/2023	Engagements 31/03/2024	Total Reach Apr 23 – Mar 24
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2.3k	1.3k	48k
Ards and North Down	268	477	28.1k
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	4.8k	7k	143.7k
Belfast	3.1k	4.1k	43.6k
Causeway Coast and Glens	1.9k	571	33.2k
Derry and Strabane	1.4k	863	22.7k
Fermanagh and Omagh	1.7k	98k	59.9k
Lisburn and Castlereagh	692	389	16k
Mid and East Antrim	1k	864	10.4k
Mid Ulster	818	1.2k	157.6k
Newry, Mourne and Down	2.4k	2.6k	75k
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.4k</b>	<b>117.4k</b>	<b>638.2k</b>

## 5.2 Strategic Priority 2

To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through:

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

Strategic Priority 2 focuses on the implementation of projects and initiatives that deal with the needs and issues in relation to community safety. Underpinning this work is the need to work effectively with key partners such as community groups, the voluntary sector, and statutory agencies, including designated partners. The following organisations have been designated as members of the PCSPs:

- PSNI;
- NIHE;
- YJA;
- PBNI;
- NIFRS;
- EA; and
- HSCT.

Designated Organisations provide expertise in community safety and facilitate collaborative working to promote effective outcomes for local communities. The 2023/24 Annual Reports evidenced that PCSPs implemented and facilitated a diverse range of Community Safety focused projects in partnership with the above-mentioned organisations.

Implementation of the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA)<sup>3</sup> approach has further enabled partnerships to focus on which actions to improve, in specific areas, to address challenges identified and ultimately to provide the best possible community safety services for local communities. In developing their Action Plans for 2023/24, PCSPs demonstrated that they fully examined the underlying causes of community safety issues, e.g. deprivation, poverty, health issues, unemployment, and education inequalities, and considered social and economic challenges. This enabled PCSPs to identify prevention and early intervention approaches when tackling community safety issues in their area.

In addition, it is clear that PCSPs have engaged with partner agencies, key stakeholders and the community in collating and analysing the existing evidence-based information to ensure that proposed interventions are reflective of community need and do not duplicate or undermine existing strategies or interventions.

As a result of this extensive pre-implementation work, PCSPs had identified the key thematic areas for delivery during 2023/24, as shown in Table 6 below.

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<sup>3</sup> OBA provides a framework for measuring impact of particular interventions/initiatives on outcomes and to enable discussions to take place about how to continually improve those outcomes.

**Table 6: PCSP thematic areas 2023/2024**

Action Plans by Theme 2023 - 24	ASB	Awareness raising	Bee Safe	Business / Retail	Crime prevention	Domestic Burglary	Domestic & Sexual Violence	Male Domestic violence	Drugs & Alcohol	Educational	Elderly	Farm Watch	Fear of Crime	Graffiti	Hate Crime	Home Security	Internet Safety / Cybercrime	Intergenerational programmes	Neighbourhood Watch	Nighttime Economy	Participatory Budgeting	Policing performance & engagement	RAPID Bins	Road Safety & SIDs	Rural Crime	Scams / Fraud	Small Grants	Support Hubs	Tackling paramilitarism	Text Alert	Vulnerable	Youth engagement & diversion	Wardens/ On street
Antrim & Newtownabbey	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Ards & North Down	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Belfast	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Causeway Coast & Glens	x	x			x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x	
Derry & Strabane	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x
Fermanagh & Omagh	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x			x			x			x	x	x		x	x				x	x	
Lisburn & Castlereagh	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x				x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Mid & East Antrim	x	x			x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Mid Ulster	x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Newry Mourne & Down	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x		x			x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x



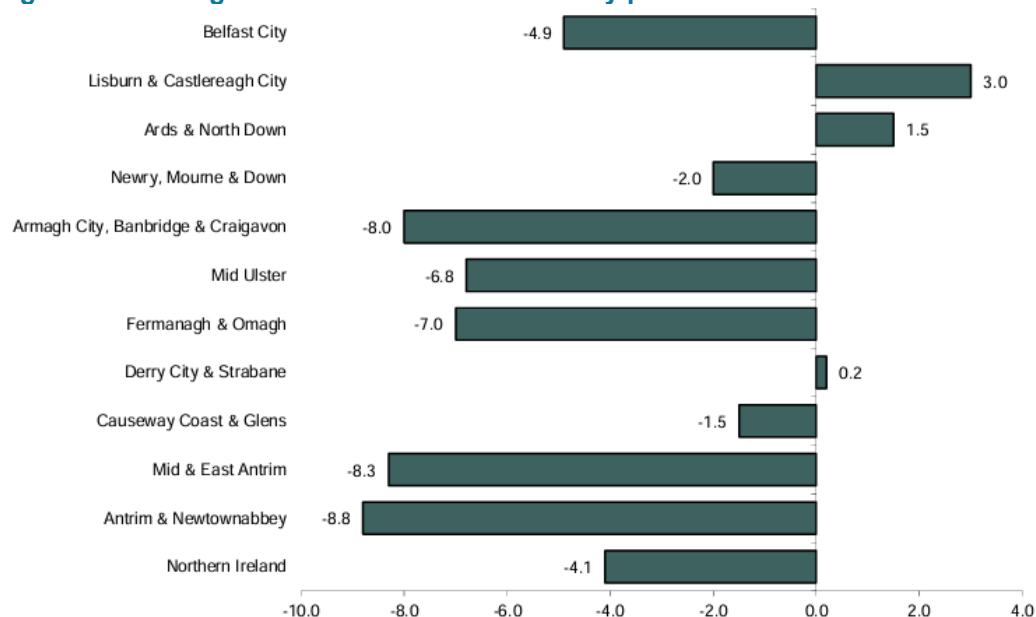
## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB is a term used to describe a wide range of behaviours that have a negative effect on quality of life and may cause minor disorder and incivilities. While much of this behaviour may not, in itself, be a criminal offence, the cumulative effect of this behaviour can have a devastating impact on the quality of life of individuals and communities.

According to PSNI statistics on Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents<sup>4</sup>, In the 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, there were 45,358 incidents recorded by police in Northern Ireland which is an overall decrease of 1,943 (-4.1%) when compared with the previous 12 months (2022/23).

Figure 2 below outlines the percentage change in ASB incidents recorded by the police between 2022/23 and 2023/24 by council area/policing district. The figure reflects a decrease in ASB incidents across 8 of the 11 council areas.

**Figure 2: % change in ASB incidents recorded by police between 2022/23 and 2023/24**



<sup>4</sup> PSNI Key Statistics for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 (Published 16 May 2024): <https://www.psnipolice.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/anti-social-behaviour-statistics>

PCSPs are legislatively obligated to tackle ASB under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Paragraph 21(3). The types of ASB triggers and issues are different across, and within the PCSPs, reflecting the mix of urban and rural environments in which they operate. Tackling ASB requires the collaborative working of the PCSP, wider partners and communities.

Interventions under ASB can be grouped under the following actions:

- Diversionary initiatives;
- Direct interventions/projects; and
- Education/awareness raising.

### Diversionary and Direct Interventions

An essential element to tackling ASB is the use of both diversionary and direct interventions, and all 11 of the PCSPs encompassed one or both of these types of ASB interventions over the 2023/24 period. Diversionary activities often involve the most at-risk young people who may be on the cusp of carrying out ASB to try and divert their behaviour into more positive actions. Direct interventions are often carried out in well-known ASB hotspot areas to identify potential perpetrators of ASB and help to redirect their behaviour. In total, 213 diversionary initiatives were delivered, engaging 41,372 individuals. Examples of intervention programmes delivered by the PCSPs across 2023/24 are outlined below.

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP led a Youth Engagement and Diversionary programme that engaged some of the most at-risk young people in activities that addressed a range of issues including ASB; drugs, substance and alcohol abuse; bullying; healthy relationships; citizenship and employability skills. The programme encouraged young people to consider the causes and consequences of crime and their behaviour, through mentoring and exploring core values.

Ards & North Down PCSP utilised sport to reduce ASB, working in partnership with the Council's Community Safety Team and PSNI. A total of 8 sessions of diversionary and detached youth work were delivered to 20 participants. All

participants reported satisfaction with the programme, 90% / 18 of which, reported an increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.

Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP followed a similar approach and delivered the Respect Youth Engagement Project that engaged 1,527 young people in sport-based activities in areas where residents raised concerns of alleged anti-social behaviour. The project raised awareness of community safety issues, built rapport with the PSNI and taught young people the consequences of getting involved in anti-social activity. Following the activities, 90% / 1,374 participants reported changed attitudes and 80% / 1,222 reported an increased awareness of the risks associated with ASB behaviours.

Mid & East Antrim PCSP delivered the Young People at Risk programme that included a range of services to address the vulnerability of young people in becoming either the victim of crime or involved in criminal activity. A total of 204 activities were delivered and 3,215 young people engaged, 39% / 1,254 of which reported attitudinal change as a result of their engagement in the project activities.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP supported Edgarstown Residents Association to open their building and provide a Friday and Saturday night provision. The Friday nights started due to the ongoing trouble in Meadow Lane in early 2023, this initiative became increasingly popular, with 33 registered members who frequently attended. Friday



was an open drop in where young people came to socialise, play the PlayStation and enjoy the tuck shop in a warm and safe environment. In addition, the PCSP supported a 16-week programme with young males aged 12-17 in North Lurgan alongside Drumgor Detached Youth Programme. The Programme included fun activities, issue-based work, social action and a self-defence class with Lurgan PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) that the participants engaged positively with. All participants reported changed behaviours or attitudes and would be more likely to engage with PSNI as a result of the programme.

Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP worked in collaboration with Dream Scheme NI who have operated in the Castlereagh and Dundonald areas for many years and have established strong relationships with local communities and schools. A Friday night support group offered individual mentoring assistance to enable young people to start a journey of change from being stuck in a pattern of destructive behaviour to being active and motivated in a programme of developmental activities. A total of 42 outreach programmes were delivered to 391 participants. 97% / 380 participants reported changed behaviours as a result of the programmes.

## Best practice example: Diversionary Initiative

### Derry & Strabane PCSP

**Name of Project:** Party in the Park

**Funded Amount:** £6,387.67

**Partners:** PSNI, Community Safety Wardens, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Triax Community Safety Forum, Local Youth Services, Community Restorative Justice (CRJ), Pilots Row Community Centre, Gasyard Centre

**Description of Project:** This diversionary event for the Triax area acted as a tool to reduce the increased community tension that existed in the days and weeks leading up to the Apprentice Boys of Derry Parade. The event ran over a four-hour period at the same time the parade took place and was targeted at the entire community, it brought together individuals from many cultural backgrounds to showcase themselves through music, food, dance and crafts, alongside a set-up of fairground rides and activities.

**Impact of the project:** Party in the Park was a huge success with 1,600 people in attendance and no reported incidents of ASB within the Bogside or city centre which allowed the parade to pass off peacefully. The PCSP worked closely with CRJ, PSNI and local youth workers in the lead up and on the day of the event. In addition, it was noted within the Community Safety forum that no incidents were reported throughout the duration of the event.

## Participant Feedback:

<i>"I am a resident in the Bog. Every year was a nightmare with ASB in the lead up to the march in the town and residents were living in fear. Since this event has happened, we haven't experienced the terrible incidents that has happened in the past."</i>	<i>"It's great to see these events in the heart of the Bog. The Bog can often be painted in a negative light but this event demonstrates positive community cohesion."</i>
<i>"This is an amazing event for my children and there is something for everyone. We can't go on holidays so this is something for my children to enjoy in the summer which doesn't cost any money."</i>	<i>"I attend Big Bog BBQ every year with my family. It gives us something to do as a family as we can't go to the city centre with the parade."</i>

## How Much Did We Do?

- 1,600 individuals attended the event.

## How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of staff were fully trained; and
- 100% / 1,600 attendees reported satisfaction with the event.

## Is Anyone Better Off?

- 0 reported incidents of ASB in the area during this event;
- 100% / 1,600 attendees found this event improved circumstances in the area; and
- 100% / 1,600 attendees reported improved behaviours as a result of the event.

## Best Practice Example: Direct Intervention

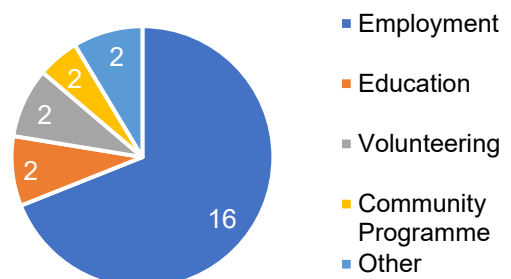
### Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP

**Name of Initiative:** Community Intervention Support Programme

**Funded Amount:** £15,000

**Description of Project:** In 2022, Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP identified a gap in services for 18+ year olds, who were not eligible for Probation Board or Youth Justice Agency funding. This project was designed to target individuals that are on the cusp or already at the attention of police, for intervention via individual grants programme (up to £600 each), to attempt to steer the individual away from police attention. The individual grants were allocated towards interventions such as training courses, gym membership, or any other activities the individual had identified as a distraction from the negative behaviours they were portraying, to avoid coming to the attention of police. This project proved successful and repeated to assist additional individuals in 2023/24.

**Impact of Project:** The project benefited 24 young people and had an indirect positive impact on many more. The majority of participants reported low self-esteem and struggled with anxiety and/or poor mental health. The pie chart to the right reflects where the 24 participants were after completion of the programme.



One example was a participant that became embroiled with a group of football fans, involved in acts of ASB through scuffles with rival groups of supporters. Alcohol played a role in their behaviour at the matches. They were in part-time employment on a zero-hour contract and lived with their partner and infant child. The participant noted they were tired of their lifestyle but found it difficult to walk away as the others are their friends and they felt if they moved on, they would lose everything.

The participant attended an accredited event stewarding course, a 3-day first aid course, an ASB course and an Active Citizenship Course. These courses provided the individual with the opportunity to move away from the group and their involvement in acts of anti-social behaviour. The individual gained an understanding of the impact of ASB and how they should interact with other communities. The participant is now supporting small community events through voluntary work and determined to make their family proud.

### Participant Feedback:

<i>"This will make a huge difference to me and I don't miss those I used to run about with. I'm happier, more than I thought possible."</i>	<i>"This has been a real lifeline for me and a huge wake up call. I was sleepwalking myself into serious trouble. So, thank you so much for all your help."</i>
<i>"I have been offered a job! The first in my life and I promise to give it 100%. Thank you for believing in me and paying for a course I never could have afforded myself, I won't let you down."</i>	<i>"I now have 2 addictions, thanks to the PCSP. They are healthy eating and physical training. I have lost weight but gained new friends. I feel I have a purpose in life, no need to play the joker anymore as I am confident in my own self."</i>

### How much did we do?

- 192 Support meetings;
- 24 referrals; and
- 24 good news stories.

### How well did we do it?

- 24 actions or interventions now completed;
- 24 accepted referrals;
- 5 not accepted & sign posted elsewhere due to being under 18 & 2 as other funding available (The Personal Learning Account Grant); and
- 100% partner satisfaction.



### Is anyone better off?

- 100% / 24 participants were involved in fewer incidents since accepted onto the programme;
- 88% / 21 participants in receipt of intervention that achieved their goal (100% by end of 2024); and
- 12% / 3 participants are continuing to make progress towards their goals, due to the type of intervention they chose, it is measured over a longer period of time.

## Education/Awareness Raising Interventions

Another essential element in the reduction of ASB is early intervention through education and awareness raising. Utilising various methods to engage the audience, PCSPs continued to deliver projects with younger people and parents that educated on the effects of ASB within a community. PCSPs delivered a total of 561 education and awareness sessions.

Mid Ulster PCSP partnered with the Education Authority Youth Service and PSNI to deliver the Youth Engagement Programme (YEPs). Throughout 2023/24, four individual programmes, made up of education workshops, were delivered to 77 young people. On completion of the programme, all participants reported an increased level of knowledge and awareness around the impact of ASB. In addition, 85% / 66 participants stated that the programme resulted in a more positive attitude towards policing.

During the summer period of 2023, Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP delivered the B.E.A.T Programme (Be Educated, Be Active, Be Together), which is a youth intervention programme targeted in areas where ASB is an ongoing issue. Activities included drug and alcohol awareness sessions, good relations and mental health awareness. Opportunity was offered to try various sports, community arts, music and dance. Local designated organisations including PSNI and NIFRS engaged with the young people throughout to improve community relations and provide educational information. The programme diverted young people away from ASB and built stronger community ties and interests as a means of tackling future issues.



North Belfast DPCSP funded a School and Youth Club ASB Project, that was centred around delivering awareness sessions to young people on the topics of antisocial behaviour, group dynamics, youth violence and consequences. BEAM Creative was engaged to deliver sessions to 9 primary schools and 1 post-primary school. BEAM fed back that primary school aged children were much more

receptive, and by adopting a prevention approach, higher numbers of P6 & 7 pupils were educated on the dangers and consequences of anti-social behaviour. The participants were keen to learn and were excited to relay the information provided to their parents.

Five PCSPs delivered the Bee Safe programme. Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP



delivered to over 600 pupils from primary schools across the district. Using a practical approach with interactive quizzes and role plays Bee Safe helped children better understand and respond to safety issues. This formed an element of their preparation for transition into

the post primary environment. Bee Safe was delivered in collaboration with NIFRS, PSNI, NIE, RNLI, Translink. Each partner presented several scenarios and encouraged children to think about the situation, then take the most appropriate action.

### Best practice example: Educational/Awareness raising interventions

#### Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP

**Name of Project:** YMCA Portadown Lawfulness Programme

**Partners:** PSNI, Youth Justice Agency, Start 360, YMCA

**Description of Project:** This awareness raising project with the theme of lawfulness explored issues affecting young people in the West Portadown area, including anti-social behaviour, risk-taking behaviour through alcohol and drugs, and poor mental health. Sessions delivered included:

**Sexting & The Law:** Led by the Youth Justice Agency, these sessions informed young people of the law around sexting, consent and the distribution of inappropriate images or 'nudes'. Staff at Youth Justice arrived well equipped and facilitated this part of the session very well. From the interactions it was clear to see that learning took place. Young people could identify the risks whilst keeping safe online and were able to express their own opinions.

**Pizza with the Peelers:** Young people were afforded a space to engage positively and ask PSNI some questions and explore in their words, 'why the relationship with the police and young people appears fractured'. Young people explored vaping, and the dangers associated with drugs including spice. Young people asked a wide range of questions and PSNI officers did a great job to answer honestly and remain professional throughout.

**Drugs Awareness:** Start 360 facilitated a drug awareness programme which allowed young people to showcase their knowledge of the dangers of drugs and the risks surrounding substance abuse. This space used scenario-based questioning that allowed young people to identify the elements of addiction. The scenarios prompted meaningful discussions around drugs.

**Feedback from YMCA Youth Worker:** The programme was a huge success, and these partnerships enabled young people to have a voice, provide them with a safe place to go and allowed them to learn without being in the confines of school. Young people came week on week voluntarily because they wanted to be there, they wanted to be a part of something, and they were committed to completing the full programme. This highlights the satisfaction they had through some real positive outcomes which will have deeper impact as they set the foundations that will echo in their futures.

## Small Grants Schemes

Most PCSPs launched a Small Grant Scheme over the 2023/24 period, these projects covered a range of local community issues with the majority focusing on ASB. It is imperative that support is provided to local organisations to take forward their initiatives in local areas as these organisations have built relationships in the community and have a great understanding of how to tackle ASB in their area.

### Best Practice Example: Small Grants Scheme - Youth Diversion

#### Ards & North Down PCSP

Ards & North Down PCSP operated a small grants programme, seeking applications from local groups supporting projects which addressed ASB in hotspots across the borough. A total of 6 applications were scored and 5 projects reached the agreed threshold to receive funding. The 5 approved projects supported a total of 531 sessions delivered to over 1078 young people from the Borough. Through all programmes delivered there was an average 90% / 970 participants reported increased knowledge of the effects of ASB and changed attitude as a result of the project.

Project name	Delivery Organisation	OBA
Youth Diversion Project	Donaghadee YFC	A detached youth work project delivering 85 outreach sessions, to 282 young people.  100% / 282 participants satisfied and 100% / 282 reported an increased awareness of ASB.
Hollywood Family Trust – Outreach Project	Hollywood Family Trust	Detached youth programme delivering 21 sessions with 157 participants. 100% / 157 reported satisfaction and 75% / 118 reported increased awareness of the effects of ASB.
Youth Diversion Project	YFC Ards Peninsula	Detached youth programme delivering 38 sessions with 216 participants. 100% / 216 reported satisfaction and 95% / 195 reported increased awareness of the effects of ASB.
North Down Drop in Project	Comber Youth For Christ	Detached youth programme delivering 47 sessions with 83 participants. 90% / 75 reported satisfaction and 95% / 79 reported increased awareness of the effects of ASB.
Sow, Grow, Stay and Chill	Kilcooley Primary School	Early intervention gardening project for primary pupils involving 60 sessions, 340 children and 4 parents. 95% / 327 of participants satisfied and 90% / 310 reported an increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.

## Community Safety Wardens, Street Angels & Street Pastors

PCSPs continued to work in partnership with Community Safety Wardens, Street Angels and Street Pastors to help address levels of ASB, particularly in hotspot areas. Seven PCSPs have continued to implement some form of warden scheme including street angels and street pastors.



A total of 1,976 'On Street' patrols operated across the districts during 2023/2024, contributing over 34,000 hours and engaging approximately 26,155 members of the public.

### Best Practice Example - Community Safety Wardens (CSW)

#### Derry & Strabane PCSP

**Funded Amount:** £50,000

**Partners:** NIHE, Apex Housing, University of Ulster and DfC

**Description of the scheme:** Derry City and Strabane District Council employed 11 Community Safety Wardens. The Community Safety Warden scheme was funded by a range of organisations including Derry City and Strabane District Council, Derry & Strabane PCSP, Apex Housing, Department for Communities, Department of Justice, NI Housing Executive and Ulster University (UU) Magee. The Community Safety Wardens scheme is made up of two teams:

1. **The City and Rural Team** is made up of 8 wardens who work both day and night shifts.
2. **The Northland Team** is made up of 3 wardens who work night shifts Sunday to Thursday.

A Residential Life Coordinator from Ulster University noted that throughout the years they have found the CSWs to be extremely beneficial for the university, students, residents, and wider community. Examples of regular scenarios where wardens have provided aide include:

- Monitoring of students' properties including those owned by Ulster University and private landlords;
- Liaising with residents, landlords, community representatives and other stakeholders regarding queries or complaints;
- Assisting with first aid of students because of physical injury or mental health, before transport to professional medical care at hospital;
- Liaising between ResLife Team, CCTV and PSNI regarding any welfare concerns relating to students (i.e. Missing Persons) and working towards positive outcomes;
- Providing a regular hi-vis response in the University District to reassure students, deter crime and Anti-Social Behaviour; and
- Instilling a culture of positivity and setting standards for noise and behaviour to keep complaints and incidents involving students to a minimum.

#### Partner Feedback:

*"Community Safety Wardens play a pivotal role at Ulster University, and we look forward to building upon our partnership in the years to come."*

*"When called upon for advice or assistance the wardens are always timely and responsive to our needs."*

#### How Much Did We Do?

- 17,391 ASB hotspot patrols;
- 2,348 referrals dealt with; and
- 134 community engagement meetings attended.

#### How Well Did We Do?

- 37% of referrals came from the public; and
- 1,567 attended community engagement meetings.

#### Is Anyone Better Off?

- 46% / 721 respondents were aware of the scheme; and
- 99% / 1,551 respondents felt safer as a result of the scheme.



## Drugs and Alcohol

Drugs and alcohol misuse continues to be a significant public health issue across Northern Ireland. The latest figures released by Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in January 2024<sup>5</sup> for the period of 2012 – 2022 reflected that since 2012, NI has seen deaths due to drug-related causes rise by 98% from 110 to a peak of 218 in 2020 and to 213 in 2021. The 2022 total of 154 represents a 40% increase in the number of drug deaths registered a decade ago.

PSNI statistics<sup>6</sup> provide insight into both drug related arrests and drug seizures across the districts. When comparing 2022/23 with 2023/24, nine council areas showed a decrease in drug seizure incidents. Figure 3 below highlights an increase in both Fermanagh & Omagh and Antrim & Newtownabbey compared to the previous year. It is important to note that the statistics are not fully comparable as the previous year is based on a different period (July 23 – June 24).

**Figure 3: Change in drug seizure incidents by policing district between 2022/23 and 2023/24**



<sup>5</sup> NISRA Drug-related and drug misuse deaths in Northern Ireland, 2012 to 2022  
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/drug-related-and-drug-misuse-deaths-northern-ireland-2012-2022>

<sup>6</sup> PSNI Drug seizure statistics <https://www.psni.police.uk/official-statistics/drug-seizure-statistics>

PCSPs continued to support initiatives and campaigns that targeted Drugs and Alcohol, which included, alcohol awareness week, dry January and family support. The most successful initiative, initially piloted in 2010, RAPID bins continued to expand across Northern Ireland. 8 PCSPs supported the RAPID bins initiative and as a result, 224,708 drug items were disposed of into over 100 RAPID bins during 2023/24.

Ards & North Down PCSP engaged with the South Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (SEDACT) to support a range of interventions to reduce the level of drug related criminality in the Borough. In addition, the PCSP commissioned two Tier 2 drug intervention programmes with Lisburn YMCA and Dunlewey Addiction Services. The programmes delivered awareness raising sessions and provided counselling support to adults with addiction problems. The funding supported additional sessions and enabled counselling services to be based in more accessible locations.



Belfast PCSP continued to support Inspire Addiction Services to provide additional treatment and support for adults who are dependent on alcohol or drugs, beyond that currently funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA). The service offered tailor-made treatment programmes delivered in community settings, in addition to providing social support services and recovery groups to help people connect and prevent relapse. The PCSP funding specifically addressed referrals from the Criminal Justice Sector.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP arranged for Southern Regional College's (SRC) Performing Arts and Music Production to tour secondary schools across their Borough Council with a week-long performance based on the true story, "I Love You Mum – I Promise I

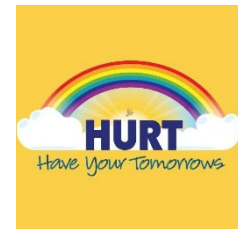


Won't Die" by Mark Wheeler. Performances targeted the 16 plus age group and provided relevant information and challenging perceptions of substance use, risk and consequences, and understanding the role of peer influence. The play was based on actual words of friends and family of 16-year-old Daniel Spargo-Mabbs, a young person who died in 2014. The shows received amazing feedback and provided

students with cause for thought. At the end of the performance PCSP and PSNI officers spoke about the help available and the consequences of taking drugs. In total, the performance was delivered to 895 students from 5 local schools throughout October 2023.

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP supported Helping Young People Everyday (HYPE) to deliver a drug, substance and alcohol awareness-raising programme that focused on providing information on the dangers of drugs and substances, access to coping mechanisms and techniques to assist individuals to address the issues of drug, substance and alcohol abuse and the impact such misuse has on the family unit and on the wider community. In addition, the PCSP awarded the Drugs and Substance Misuse Support Service contract to Lightwork NI in 2023. 5 clients received support through the programme, with 36 support sessions delivered. The service engaged with young people alongside their families to address the causes of substance misuse, resulting in a better outcome for families, creation of appropriate support networks and much needed support for parents. All clients reported that they felt more supported as a result of the service and are more aware of the impact of drug/substance misuse.

Derry & Strabane PCSP allocated funding under their small project support to Have Your Tomorrows (HURT) to offer counselling sessions and family support programmes on the impact of drug and alcohol abuse on families and communities. HURT also delivered awareness programmes on legal and illegal substances, alcohol units and vaping to year 8 and 9 students at local schools.



## Best Practice Example – Drugs & Alcohol

### Mid & East Antrim PCSP

**Name of Project:** PCSP Drugs & Alcohol Programme

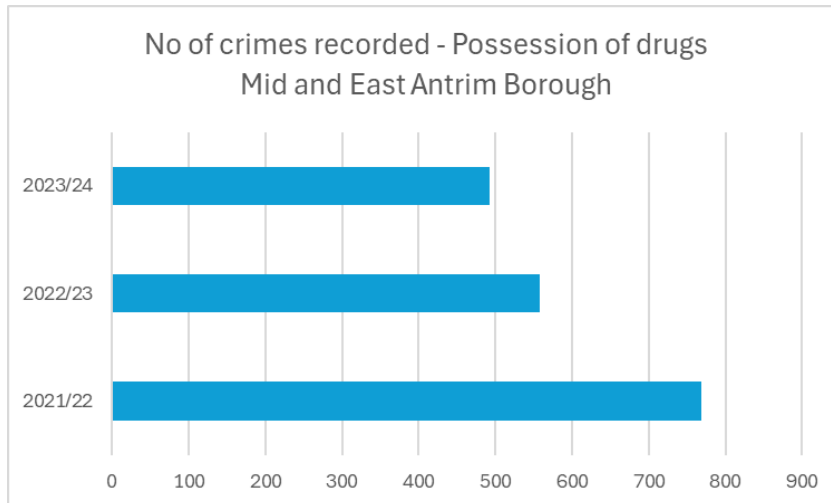
**Partners:** ASCERT

**Description of Project:** Mid & East Antrim PCSP partnered with ASCERT to deliver a strategic and collaborative response to Drugs and Alcohol issues across the Borough. ASCERT is a specialist provider of drugs and alcohol services across Northern Ireland, with two decades of experience in engaging young people, adults and communities through universal, targeted and indicated prevention approaches. Through the PCSP funded programme, ASCERT delivered:

- Advice and guidance for stakeholders in relation to awareness and signposting to services;
- Regular communication and collaborative working with key partners in the Borough to promote integration and co-ordination of work and development of initiatives;
- Information campaigns to raise awareness of relevant drug and alcohol issues across MEA;
- Interactive community awareness sessions;
- Co-ordinated monthly meetings of the PCSP Drugs and Alcohol Steering Group;
- Administers a Drugs and Alcohol Small Grant Aid Scheme; and
- A review of progress against the agreed Action Plan.

### Impact:

The chart below reflects the year-on-year reduction in recorded crime for the possession of drugs in the Mid and East Antrim area.



Source: [PRCLGD - Police Recorded Crime \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/prclgd)

Although it cannot be said that the reduction is solely due to the PCSP Drugs and Alcohol Programme, it is reasonable to suggest that the coordinated approach to information sharing and regular communication between a range of stakeholders, all working to address drugs and alcohol, contributed to the reduction in crime.

### Participant Feedback:

*"I was really impressed with the relevance of the material, especially in this current climate where people are becoming more aware about Trauma."*

*PCSP Member*

*"It was great to receive this grant enabling us to have a counsellor at hand to respond to emergency cases who were struggling with addiction."*

*Small Grant beneficiary*

*"Through response being immediate this enabled client support, reduced risk that may be associated with long waiting times, enabling the client to continue working or relieving the stresses associated around family life before things get critical."*

*Small Grant beneficiary*

### How Much Did We Do?

- 8 small grants awarded to support community organisations;
- 200 participants availed of the activities;
- 7 Drug & Alcohol Steering Group meetings;
- 15 different support organisations engaged, both statutory and community, to discuss trends and to identify potential gaps in service;
- Drugs and Alcohol information cards delivered to 11 secondary schools;
- A support intervention was developed in partnership with PSNI with the Ballymena Learning Together group; and
- 1 PCSP development session was delivered to the members.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 8 community projects were completed on time and within budget;
- 96% / 192 participants reported satisfaction across the projects;
- Steering Group meetings had 97% attendance from the support agencies; and
- 100% of the information cards were distributed.

### Is Anyone Better Off?

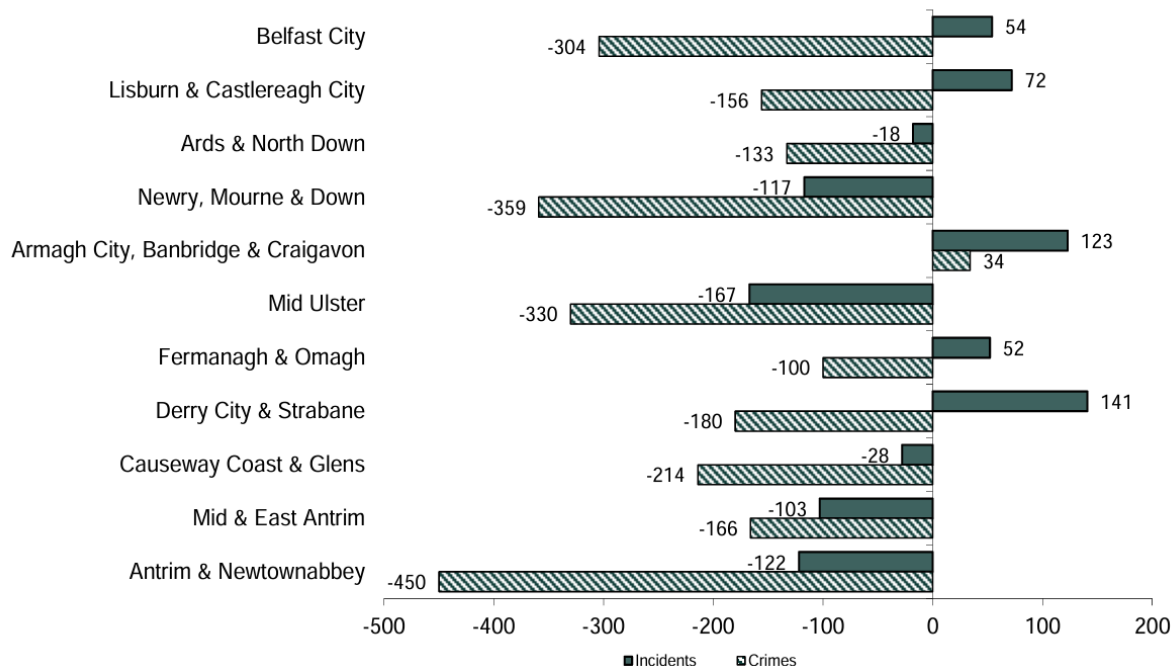
- 87% / 174 of the participants reported a changed attitude/greater knowledge of the harm caused by drugs and alcohol; and
- 12% reduction in recorded crime for the possession of drugs based on previous year in MEA.

## Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSV/A)

DSV/A can be described as threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial, or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any form of disability) by a current, or former, intimate partner, or family member.

When comparing the current and previous 12 months, six policing districts showed a decrease in the number of domestic abuse incidents, and ten policing districts showed a decrease in the number of domestic abuse crimes. Belfast City policing district, which accounts for more than a quarter of all domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, showed a 0.6% increase in the number of incidents and a 5.3% decrease in crimes.

**Figure 4: Change in police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes by policing district, 12 months to March 2024 compared with the previous 12 months<sup>7</sup>**

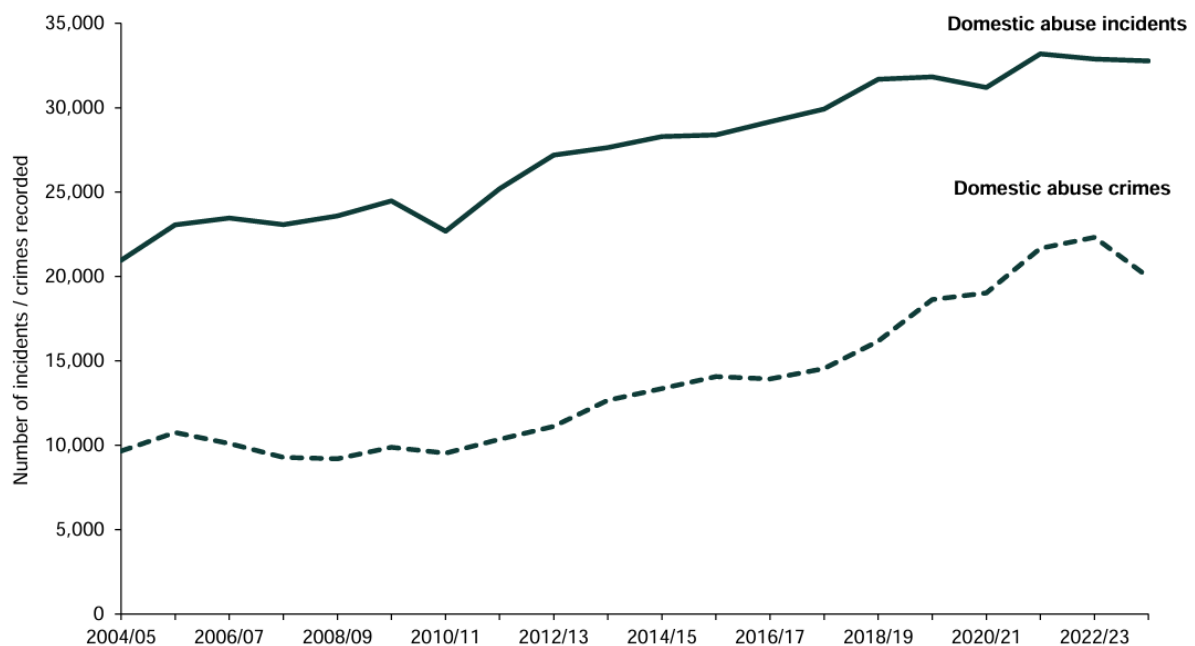


Since 2004/05 there has been a general increase in levels of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police, with incident levels in 2023/24 one and

<sup>7</sup> PSNI Domestic Abuse Statistics (Published 31 May 2024) <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics>

a half times higher than those at the start of the series. Whilst the number of domestic abuse crimes fell by 10.6% in 2023/24, crime levels remain twice as high as those as the start of the data series.

**Figure 5: Trends in domestic abuse incidents/crimes recorded by the police since 2004/05**



All 11 PCSPs funded or supported initiatives and campaigns to tackle DSV/A and end violence against women and girls. These ranged from direct support and equipment to educational and awareness raising activities. Examples of projects and campaigns implemented by PCSPs are outlined below.

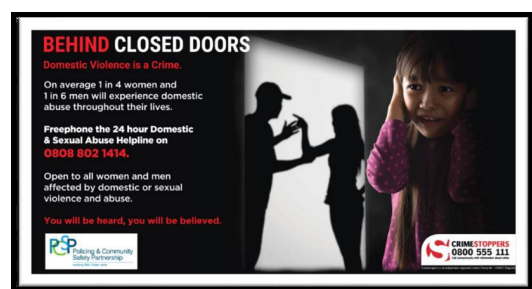


Ards & North Down PCSP commenced working with a coordinator from the South Eastern Sexual and Domestic Violence Partnership (SEDSVP). SEDSVP recommenced their work with continued distribution of the “Where is the Line” Domestic Violence video translated into 3 ethnic minority languages. 6 planning and information meetings were attended by 5 agencies and up to 7 professional workers. In addition, Ards & North Down PCSP partnered with Kilcooley Women’s Centre to deliver a programme of advice and support and training to female victims of sexual and domestic abuse. They delivered 17 sessions to 45 women who reported feeling safer and having a 93% increase in their knowledge of Domestic Violence and the support services available.



Newry, Mourne & Down (NMD) PCSP continued to be represented on both the SEDSVP and the Southern Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership (SDSVP). In addition, NMD PCSP provided support towards the cost of their Domestic Abuse Safety & Support Service Worker based in Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry. This is an independent specialist who operated as part of the Hospital Social Work Team and offered support to women who are experiencing, or have experienced, domestic abuse.

Mid Ulster (MU) PCSP operated two impactful events focused on addressing violence against women and girls. Experienced facilitators, including representatives from the PSNI Public Protection Branch and Women’s Aid led these events. Notably, both events garnered great interest and attendance, with 100% of participants finding the events beneficial. 95% of attendees reported heightened awareness regarding violence, domestic violence, and available support services. In addition, MU PCSP delivered the Behind Closed Doors campaign over the Christmas period that signposted the Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Helpline. During Christmas 2023 there was a 25% increase in reports in the council area.



Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP supported three major events to highlight domestic and sexual violence and the support available. 'Eliminate Violence for a New Beginning' was held in collaboration with PSNI and aimed to raise awareness about violence against women and girls and the local services available to support those at risk. 'Be The Change' held in partnership with Women's Aid included a powerful line of up guest speakers and family perspectives on domestic abuse. A 'Domestic Homicide Review Conference' delivered with the Southern Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership, offered a unique opportunity to discuss practitioner and family perspectives on domestic abuse.

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP allocated funding towards domestic abuse and stalking support equipment. This equipment was issued to individuals at high risk of domestic abuse via the PSNI to protect, increase confidence, deter attack and gather evidence to support prosecution. Items included CCTV, door bracers and personal panic alarms. 100% / 49 victims reported they felt safer in possession of the equipment.

## Best Practice Examples: Domestic Violence and Abuse

### Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP

**Name of Campaign:** Domestic Abuse – It's Never OK.

**Partners:** PSNI, Women's Aid ABCLN, NEXUS and the Men's Advisory Project

### Description of Campaign:

Between Monday 26 February to Friday 31 March 2024, Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP worked collaboratively with key organisations to once again deliver their annual Domestic Abuse awareness raising campaign. The campaign, '*Domestic Abuse – It is Never OK*' was aimed at raising awareness, that anyone can be a



victim of domestic abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, background or religion, and over recent years has evolved to incorporate important information about new legislative changes in this area on: Coercive Control; Stalking; and near fatal strangulation.

### Feedback from Partners:

*“We welcome this campaign by Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP. One in four women will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetime. PSNI respond to one incident of domestic abuse every 16 minutes. For every incident we know the impact on women and children can be devastating. Women’s Aid ABCLN provides confidential support, information and emergency accommodation for women and children affected by domestic abuse across Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey. We believe that no-one should have to live in fear or threat from abuse.”*

Arlene Creighton, Women’s Aid ABCLN

*“I welcome this campaign by the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, particularly in relation to the message that ANYONE can be a victim, male or female. I would urge all those affected by Domestic Abuse to come forward and make use of the support services that are available.”*

Councillor Rosie Kinnear, Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey

*“Domestic abuse is the largest crime dealt with by the PSNI. One in six men will have faced domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime. Indeed 32% of domestic abuse crimes, known to the PSNI last year, happened to men. Men remain largely unacknowledged victims, their pain and experiences often going unseen.”*

Rhonda Lusty, Men’s Advisory Project NI (MAP NI)

## Belfast PCSP

**Name of Project:** Talking about Sexual Consent

**Partners:** Nexus NI

**Description of Project:** Nexus NI were contracted on behalf of the DPCSPs to deliver sessions to schools, youth, sports and community groups on the topic of consent.



The participatory sessions allowed time for discussion and questions after focusing on various aspects of consent, strategies to deal with issues around consent and information on where to access support or report crimes. The course was structured into 3 parts:

- The definition of consent and what the law says;
- Increasing the young people's confidence to deal with these issues; and
- Support available to any young person who has an issue around consent.

## Participant Feedback:

*"Made me think of things I might have done without people's consent." (Pupil)*

*"The workshop was good and taught me a lot about consent and different warning signs to look out for when entering a relationship. How an abuser acts and some things they will say and do." (Pupil)*

*"The presentation is different to last year. I thought the addition of coercive control really made a difference." (Teacher)*

## How Much Did We Do?

- 2,115 participants; and
- 65 sessions delivered.

## How Well Did We Do?

- 92% / 1,946 participants reported satisfaction with activities.

## Is Anyone Better Off?

- 92% / 1,946 participants with improved level of awareness, knowledge and understanding of sexual consent issues; and
- 93% / 1,967 participants more likely to report crimes involving sexual consent.

## Hate Crime

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. A hate crime or incident will be recorded where it is perceived that the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against any person or property is on the grounds of the victim's ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, sectarianism or disability.



Whilst Hate Crime continued to be an area of concern for PCSPs, there were fewer hate incidents recorded across the majority of hate motivation strands in 2023/24 compared with the previous twelve months (2022/23), with the exception of Race and Faith/Religion incidents. There was a marginal increase in the number of faith/religion and transgender identity crimes, and a larger decrease in the number of race, sexual orientation, sectarian, and disability crimes, when compared with the previous twelve months, breakdown of figures outlined in Table 7 below.

**Table 7: Overall summary of hate motivated incidents, crimes and sanction outcome rates<sup>8</sup>**

Motivation	Incidents				Crimes				Sanction outcomes				Sanction outcome rates (%) <sup>1</sup>		
	Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24	change		Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24	change		Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24	change		Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24	Change in % pts
Race	1,221	1,353	132		880	839	-41		150	134	-16		17.0	16.0	-1.1
Sexual Orientation	435	384	-51		289	241	-48		67	47	-20		23.2	19.5	-3.7
Sectarian	1,238	1,091	-147		921	730	-191		137	91	-46		14.9	12.5	-2.4
Disability	139	97	-42		102	58	-44		21	11	-10		20.6	19.0	-1.6
Faith/Religion	46	77	31		33	48	15		12	10	-2		36.4	20.8	-15.5
Transgender Identity	72	68	-4		39	41	2		9	3	-6		23.1	7.3	-15.8

Causeway Coast & Glens (CCG) PCSP worked alongside partner agencies to develop a lesson plan for use in schools and youth settings. The lesson plan is due to launch during the October 2024 hate crime awareness week. In addition, CCG PCSP worked closely with the Council's Good relations team to plan, develop and organise a living library event titled 'Who are WE?' that took place during hate crime awareness week in October 2023. This event enabled members of the public to join and listen to the lived experience of people from diverse backgrounds and hear about how experiences of hate crime impacted them. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions to speakers and support agencies. 100% of attendees were satisfied with the event, all of which reported a greater level of understanding of hate crime and 94% had a better understanding of how to access support at the end of the event.

In partnership with PSNI, key agencies and the community, Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP organised information events for new ethnic minorities residing in the area. A total of 3 awareness sessions were delivered to 100 participants. 100% / 100 participants were satisfied with the sessions, all of which reported they were more likely to engage support services and report hate crime following the event.

<sup>8</sup> PSNI Hate Motivation Statistics (Published 31 May 2024) <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics>



## Best Practice Examples: Hate Crime

### Mid & East Antrim PCSP

**Name of Project:** Inter Ethnic Forum (IEF) - Integrate & Advocacy Programme

**Funded amount:** £13,972.50

**Partners:** PSNI, PCSP, Agencies Supporting Ethnic Communities, NIHE, PHA, Ballymena Churches Forum, community groups and youth groups.

**Description of Project:** The IEF's Integrate project aimed to increase reporting of race hate crime towards the Roma community across MEA Borough and to support victims of hate crime.

IEF developed a targeted educational support programme for the Roma community on issues that raised community tensions such as waste disposal, recycling, driving without insurance, drink driving and cycling on footpaths. Delivery of the programme has enabled the Roma communities to integrate better across the Borough, in addition to addressing some of the issues that have arisen following their arrival.

### **Impact of the Project:**

This project has increased the Roma Communities trust in the local police and has also seen their confidence in reporting race hate crime increase.

PSNI Hate Motivation statistics bulletin for Mid & East Antrim 2023/24 reported a 6% increase in Hate crimes for Mid & East Antrim in 2023/2024 when compared with the previous year (2023/23).

A video was produced in partnership with the Environmental health team in MEA Council to help address issues around waste disposal and recycling and provide guidance to communities and landlords.

## Feedback from those impacted:

<i>"It doesn't matter how difficult my concerns are, the staff never say no or turn us away when we are in need."</i>	<i>"I have had to access support from IEF many times, and thankfully they always know how to help me with my problems."</i>
<i>"We are so happy that there is an office we can come to for help, we wouldn't know what to do if this office wasn't in Ballymena."</i>	<i>"Without IEF, my mental health would be much worse as there would be no one else to help me with my problems."</i>
<i>"I used to be so frightened of the police in Bulgaria but the police in Ballymena are good."</i>	

## How Much Did We Do?

- Integrate Programme - Bulgarian/Romanian support provided on a weekly basis;
- Race Hate Victim Support provided as and when required;
- Workshops on recycling and waste disposal delivered to Roma community;
- Ballymena Together Event held on 14th October 2023;
- Lessons from the Holocaust Seminar held on 26th January 2024;
- Diversity workshops delivered to community groups and schools; and
- 1,051 individuals availed of the services listed.

## How Well Did We Do?

- 100% / 1,051 of participants reported satisfaction with services offered.

## Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100%/ 1,051 increase of participants who feel safer as a result of the service.



## South Belfast DPCSP

**Name of Project:** Voicing the Void

**Description of Project:** Funded by South Belfast DPCSP, Voicing the Void, in collaboration with the PSNI, developed an interactive digital training resource aimed at frontline police officers.



It was designed to enhance cultural competence and empathy in the policing response to hate crime. The project focused on the perspective and lived experience of minority ethnic and newcomer communities living in South Belfast utilising the power of storytelling by incorporating personal narratives from a range of refugees and asylum seekers.

**Impact of the Project:** The project conducted during 2023-2024 has left a profound impact on both participants and stakeholders involved. Key reflections noted below:

- Participants who engaged in restorative storytelling practices and contributed to the creation of short videos have expressed a significant sense of relief and empowerment. By sharing their personal stories and experiences, particularly regarding encounters with PSNI in Northern Ireland, they felt heard, valued, and less isolated in their healing journey.
- Youth-led Steering Group members involved in the project have reported increased empathy towards ethnic minority groups and a heightened interest in learning about and connecting with diverse cultures across Northern Ireland. This demonstrates the project's positive influence on fostering cultural appreciation and inclusivity among young leaders.
- The showcase event held as part of the Imagine Festival drew a significant audience of 91 individuals. Feedback from attendees indicated that 95% gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by newcomers to Northern Ireland, including their refugee journey and the subsequent hurdles encountered upon arrival in Belfast. This demonstrates the project's effectiveness in raising awareness and fostering empathy within the community.

The impact of the project has been profound, touching the lives of participants, stakeholders, and the broader community by amplifying voices, fostering empathy, and promoting social awareness and action.

### How Much Did We Do?

- 116 participants.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 93% / 108 participants reported satisfaction with activities.



### Is Anyone Better Off?

- 93% / 108 participants/partners with improved awareness/knowledge and understanding of hate crime.

## Internet Safety & Cybercrime

Cybercrime is one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in Northern Ireland of recent years and is an area of increasing concern for local communities that PCSPs are placing focus on. Many PCSPs have continued to consider new initiatives to raise awareness and tackle the issue. 10 of the 11 PCSPs incorporated cybercrime and internet safety projects into their 2023/2024 action plans, the majority form part of wider crime prevention schemes whilst a small number run dedicated cyber focused projects or programmes.

Both Belfast and Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSPs engaged BEAM Creative Network to deliver an Internet Safety Programme to schools and targeted groups. The projects delivered age appropriate, interactive, and creative training content for in-person cyber safety workshops and were designed to build children's confidence and ability to safely use online technologies. Teachers of the pupils from the Belfast sessions provided the feedback below:

<p><i>"Great, child friendly information. Highlighted serious issues in a good way. The cartoons were a good way to address issues and the presenters were great with engaging the class."</i></p>	<p><i>"Teaching the children to 'Block – Delete – Tell – Report' provided an easy way to remember how to stay safe online."</i></p>
<p><i>"The real life, relatable content especially on social media was perfect. Children were well engaged and content on consequences of posting inappropriate content was brilliant for them to hear – the sheer seriousness of digital footprints."</i></p>	

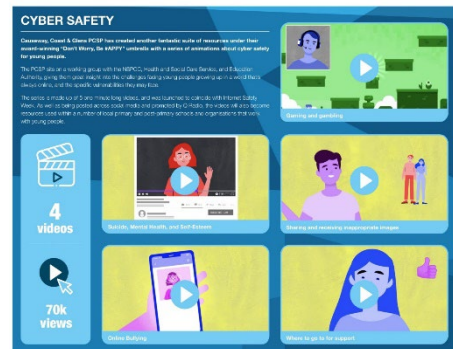
## Best Practice Examples – Internet Safety and Cybercrime

### Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP

#### Online Toolkit

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP partnered with several organisations to develop a resource pack aimed at supporting young people with online safety and mental health.

Working jointly with the NSPCC, the Northern and Western Health Trusts and the Education Authority, the PCSP launched “Cyber Safety in an Online World”, a toolkit that addresses topics such as:



- Suicide, Mental Health, and Self-Esteem - <https://vimeo.com/510693667>
- Online Bullying - <https://vimeo.com/512437054>
- Gaming and gambling - <https://vimeo.com/515040080>
- Sharing and receiving inappropriate images - <https://vimeo.com/518125676>
- Where to go to for support - <https://vimeo.com/520867779>

The resource, aimed at 10–12-year-olds, is intended to be used by a range of organisations, such as in schools or youth groups. It provides animations, lesson plans and other supporting resources designed to support young people in need. Each topic is a standalone lesson broken into sections. The full resource can be taught as a series or as individual lessons. If an issue arises within a school or youth setting, then a teacher or facilitator can use the resource, open that particular section and complete the lesson accordingly.



Welcoming the new toolkit, Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan said: *“This is an adaptable and flexible resource that provides support and signposting for young people who may be dealing with these issues. The online world is forever changing, however the advice for staying safe remains the same.”*

*Council hopes that this free resource will provide clear guidance in an area that can be overwhelming and challenging.”*

### Mid Ulster PCSP: Making Connections Events

#### **A Comprehensive Approach to Community**

##### **Safety:** The Making Connections Events

featured a series of presentations and interactive workshops designed to tackle issues head-on. Topics such as sextortion, drug and alcohol abuse, scams, and healthy relationships were explored in depth. The sessions were informative and provided practical strategies for young people to protect themselves and their peers.



**Creating a Safer Future:** The Making Connections Events were about more than addressing immediate concerns. They focused on building safer, more informed communities where young people feel supported and empowered. By continuing to engage with youth and adapt to their evolving needs, these events created lasting positive change. The purpose of the events was to ensure young people were aware of the dangers they faced, and that they were equipped to overcome the dangers with confidence and resilience.

**Understanding Youth Concerns:** The foundation of the events lay in the active engagement of EA Youth with young people. By directly consulting with youth, EA Youth identified the most urgent issues they faced. This collaborative approach ensured that the programmes developed are both relevant and impactful. Among the top concerns highlighted by the youth are sextortion, healthy relationships, and substance abuse involving drugs and alcohol.

### How Much Did We Do?

- 128 participants engaged.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 99% / 127 participants satisfied with the programme.

### Is Anyone Better Off?

- 96% / 123 reported an increased awareness of sextortion as a result of the programme; and
- 98% / 126 reported an increased awareness of healthy relationships as a result of the programme.





## Road Safety

Similar to the previous year comparison, there was a significant increase in the number of road deaths recorded in 2023/24, totalling 73 fatalities. As outlined in Table 8 below from PSNI statistics<sup>9</sup>, although the number of slightly injured marginally decreased, there was an increase across the number of all other injury types.

**Table 8: Casualties in Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions by Severity of Injury and District 2022/23 and 2023/24**

Police District	2022/23					2023/24				
	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total KSI	Slightly Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total KSI	Slightly Injured	Total
Belfast City	6	135	141	1,714	1,855	4	145	149	1,647	1,796
Derry City & Strabane	2	44	46	587	633	2	58	60	544	604
Antrim & Newtownabbey	5	62	67	535	602	7	70	77	529	606
Ards & North Down	4	66	70	483	553	3	81	84	508	592
Causeway Coast & Glens	5	67	72	462	534	10	72	82	481	563
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2	77	79	519	598	1	77	78	501	579
Mid & East Antrim	4	55	59	345	404	9	68	77	398	475
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	3	103	106	750	856	9	96	105	757	862
Fermanagh & Omagh	8	77	85	407	492	8	66	74	381	455
Mid Ulster	15	69	84	473	557	8	74	82	507	589
Newry, Mourne and Down	7	119	126	629	755	12	115	127	635	762
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>6,904</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>6,888</b>	<b>7,883</b>

PCSPs continued to prioritise road safety in 2023/24 and delivered 134 awareness raising sessions or roadshows to approximately 16,000 participants. 1,681 pieces of New Driver educational material was distributed to schools and over 150 Speed Indicator Devices placed across Northern Ireland roads.

Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP worked in collaboration with PSNI Roads Policing to continue delivering road safety workshops using the crash car simulator to illustrate the impact of dangerous driving. The Simulator allowed young drivers to experience the devastating consequences of driving irresponsibly including



<sup>9</sup> PSNI Road Traffic Collision statistics (Published 31 May 2024) <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics>

the potential for injury and death through the simulation of a car crash. In addition, Fermanagh & Omagh delivered a total of 18 road safety awareness events to 3,438 attendees. 100% / 3,438 participants reported an increased knowledge of road safety.

Mid Ulster PCSP worked with New Driver NI to deliver road safety presentations to Year 13 and 14 students in schools across the district. During these events, virtual reality headsets were utilised to allow participants to safely experience a virtual car crash and the follow-up by emergency responders. Feedback from participants highlighted that the impact of the experience increased awareness of accidents caused by distractions when driving.

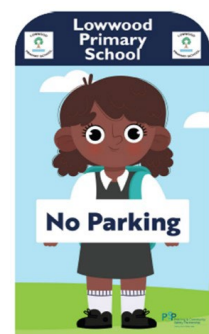
Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP, in partnership with PSNI Roads Policing and Neighbourhood Teams, delivered a 'Kids

Court' event at Crumlin Integrated Primary School. PSNI carried out a road safety operation, and drivers found to be speeding on the day were given the option to accept a fine and points or face the



pupils in school at the 'Kids Court'. Five drivers were caught speeding, four drivers opted to face the court and one accepted the fine and points. PCSP members present reported that the Court experience was very impactful and hard hitting for the drivers on the day.

South Belfast DPCSP continued the 'No Parking' Primary School Signs' project due to the high level of uptake in the previous year. Four additional schools received a total of 12 road safety signs. 30 schools in total received resources, 100% of which reported satisfaction. 85% of schools surveyed reported changed behaviours regarding vehicle users in and around the school.





## Best Practice Example: Road Safety

### Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP

**Name of Project:** Community Safety and Wellbeing Event

**Partners:** Southern Drugs and Alcohol Connections Team (SDACT), PSNI, NIFRS

**Description of Project:** Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP along with partners in SDACT organised a Community Safety and Wellbeing Event in Newry Leisure Centre in February 2024. The event was open for members of the public to drop-in anytime throughout the day. With over 25 stallholders in attendance, the PSNI Mobile Engagement Unit and a Road Safety demonstration taking place, the event provided an opportunity for people across the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area to familiarise themselves with agencies in their area who can provide support with their health, wellbeing and personal safety, as well as meet their local Policing Team.

Local high schools were invited to bring their sixth-form pupils to the event, which provided a great outlet for students to learn about the effects of drugs and alcohol on their body and mind, as well as meet their local Neighbourhood Police Team and other emergency and support services.

A key element was the road safety demonstration by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and PSNI where the public watched as the Fire Service and Police demonstrated on a vehicle (and a few volunteers), how they deal with cars and passengers that have been involved in a road traffic collision. Members of the public and students were delivered information on how they can keep themselves and their car safe whilst travelling on the roads.



## Stallholder Feedback:

*"I just want to thank you for having us in Newry Leisure Centre today. We had some lovely conversations. Lots of engagement at our stall and it was so wonderful to see such acceptance and understanding of the work we do...It honestly was such a positive few hours."*  
– Mermaids UK

*"These platforms allow our charity to engage with the many attendees, sharing valuable information about the services offered by PIPS Hope and Support to the community." - PIPS*

## How Much Did We Do?

- 1 Community Safety and Wellbeing Event;
- 1 Road Safety Demonstration;
- 29 stallholders from agencies across Newry & Mourne; and
- 310 people in attendance (160 of these were post-16 students from High Schools and SRC in Newry).

## How Well Did We Do?

- The event had a high attendance rate and both stallholders and members of the public provided feedback that they had high levels of engagement.

## Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% / 310 attendees at the event reported that they are now more aware of agencies within the Newry area who can provide information and support with health, personal safety and wellbeing;
- 95% / 295 attendees report being more likely to engage with PSNI and NIFRS personnel after attending the Community Safety and Wellbeing Event; and
- 100% / 310 attendees who watched the road safety demonstration indicated that they would try to improve their driving habits after hearing and seeing how a road traffic collision can play out.

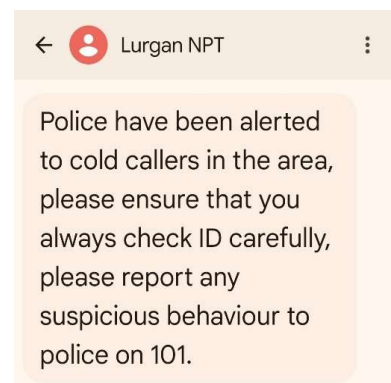
## Fear of Crime

Fear of crime remained an issue across all districts during 2023/24, therefore, PCSPs continued to focus on projects aimed at alleviating this fear and preventing crime. This included providing home safety packs and equipment, conducting home visits, property marking sessions, text alert schemes, graffiti removal, Neighbourhood Watch, business watch schemes and farm watch within rural areas.

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP provided home safety equipment to the Crime Prevention Officer who carried out an average of 12-14 weekly visits. The visits varied from domestic abuse victims, older persons, housebound, victims of crime and people feeling vulnerable to crime. In addition, the PCSP delivered a crime prevention information roadshow in partnership with PSNI and the local Crime Prevention Officer.

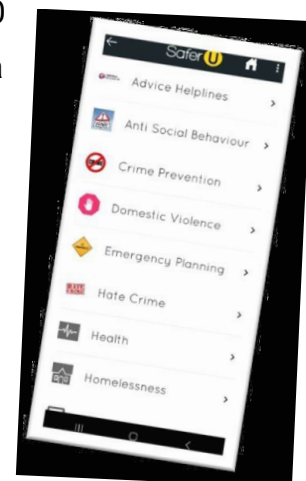
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP delivered a Text Alert Scheme that reached almost 2000 registered users in 2023/24. The scheme was used to deliver short, immediate messages out to people who have an interest in helping the PSNI and PCSP to reduce crime and help keep the community in which they live or work safer. A total of 103 texts were delivered to 1897 registered users.

99% of those sampled felt more engaged with PSNI and the PCSP.



Derry & Strabane PCSP allocated £15,000 to deliver their safer homes initiative that enhanced home protection for victims of crime, elderly and vulnerable residents. 220 referrals were received under the scheme, all of which supported through additional security equipment. 100% of referrals were contacted within 10 working days and all recipients reported feeling safer as a result of the scheme.

In response to the rising number of incidents of keyless vehicle thefts across Mid Ulster, the PCSP developed a targeted social media video that highlighted the issue and offered practical guidance to the public to safeguard their car



keys and protect their vehicles from theft. In addition, Mid Ulster PCSP developed the SaferU App that provided information on crime prevention, scam awareness and support services to the Mid Ulster area. By centralising these features, the SaferU app contributed to enhanced safety and community engagement in Mid Ulster.

### Best Practice Examples: Fear of Crime

#### Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP

**Name of Project:** Safer at Home & Vulnerability

**Funded amount:** £25,000

**Partners:** SWAP, PSNI, NIHE, WHSCT, NIFRS

**Description of Project:** Home visits were conducted with vulnerable people, that included older people, those who have experienced domestic violence and other crimes. Crime prevention advice was offered alongside the provision of security equipment, where appropriate. Referrals to other support organisations was made where appropriate. In addition, referrals were made to and from the Vulnerability hub.

#### Impact of the Project:

- There has been an increase in the number of domestic violence/ victims of crime cases referred;
- The ability to tailor the security equipment to the individual made it suitable for a wide variety of ages and profiles i.e. the option of a silent bogus caller button has been extremely beneficial to high-risk domestic violence cases. For older recipients that have been the victim of bogus callers, the bogus caller button with speech has been a significant deterrent to unwelcome callers;
- Due to the complexity of the cases referred, there has been an increase in the number of multiple onward referrals;
- Many recipients and relatives have confirmed the importance of the project in terms of providing reassurance and tangible security measures to vulnerable people; and
- Recipients have anecdotally referred to the reduction in their fear of crime after participating in the programme.

### **How Much Did We Do?**

249 home visits were made; and  
219 homes received security equipment.

### **How Well Did We Do?**

102 onward referrals were made to other agencies; and  
100% / 219 of beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the information/ equipment provided.

### **Is Anyone Better Off?**

100% / 219 beneficiaries reporting increased confidence to remain in their own homes.

## Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP

**Name of Project:** Business Watch

**Partners:** PSNI, City Watch NI, Lisburn Chamber of Commerce

**Description of Project:** During 2023/24 Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP, alongside their Partners, implemented a Business Watch Scheme across the council area to reduce business related crime that included, shoplifting and ASB. The PCSP launched this project late 2023 in response to a significant increase, of 47%, in shoplifting during Quarter 3 2023.

**Impact of the Project:** Since the launch, the scheme had 95 local businesses sign-up, with the scheme aimed to increase the prevention of business-related crime, scams, reduce the fear of crime and ASB affecting the business community. As of the end of Q4 2023, shoplifting has been reduced 18.8% and a significant ASB issue affecting the entire city centre last year was eradicated. This project was entered into the UK National Acquisitive Crime Reduction Awards 2024, which resulted in the project winning the partnership award. Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP attended the awards ceremony in July 2024 with local PSNI.

### How Much Did We Do?

- Held 1 Public Themed Meeting on Business Crime with 40 businesses represented;
- 2,250 registered text alert users engaged; and
- 27 text alerts triggered.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 95% of attendees at Public Themed Meeting satisfied;
- 100% / 2,250 of text alert users satisfied; and
- 95 local businesses signed up to the Business Watch Scheme.



### Is Anyone Better Off?

- Business related crime reduced by 28.2% in the area;
- City Centre ASB has been eradicated; and
- Lisburn Chamber of Commerce reported greater confidence in policing and staff safety.

### 5.3 Strategic Priority 3

To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities through:

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

Findings from the 'Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Survey 2022/23'<sup>10</sup> (Published March 2024) highlighted that overall public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (based on a seven-strand composite measure) was 81% in 2022/23, on par with 82% in 2021/22. None of the seven indicators that

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<sup>10</sup> Findings from the 2022/23 Northern Ireland Safe Community Telephone Survey (Published 28 March 2024)  
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/r-s-bulletin-findings-202223-northern-ireland-safe-community-telephone-survey>



comprise the composite measure reflected a statistically significant change over the same period.

In terms of the local policing, findings suggested that, in 2022/23, 54% of those surveyed rated their local police as doing an excellent or good job, on par with 55% in 2021/22. When asked about overall confidence in their local police, 70% felt that, when taking everything into account, they had confidence in the police in their area, similar to the previous year (72%).

With regards to community engagement, decreases were observed in the proportion agreeing that the police and other agencies ‘seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area’ and ‘are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area’; which fell from 38% to 33%, and 47% to 41% respectively.

Throughout 2023/24, PCSPs continued to monitor local police performance through Policing Committees. In total, there were 67 Policing Committee meetings held, across all districts, 22 of which were public meetings.

In line with Section 21 of the Justice Act (NI) 2011, Policing Committees should:

- (a) Provide views to a relevant District Commander and to the Policing Board on any matter concerning the policing of the district.
- (b) Monitor the performance of the police in carrying out –
  - (i) The policing plan in relation to the district; and
  - (ii) The local policing plan applying to the district or any part of the district.
- (c) Make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the district.

### Confidence in Policing

The primary aim of Strategic Priority 3 is to support confidence in local policing.

PCSPs facilitated over 250 engagement activities, in collaboration with PSNI, which

attracted over 10,000 attendees. Examples of initiatives PCSPs funded to improve confidence in policing within their communities are outlined below.

Ards & North Down PCSP allocated £19,000 within their action plan to support 14 small projects that were planned by the PSNI. Activities included; Donaghadee from Sea to Sea, Pizza with a peeler, escape rooms, catch & release fishing, Bibs and balls football. 100% of 1,004 participants reported satisfaction with the activities, 99% / 994 of which reported a changed attitude to the rule of the law and 98% / 984 of which reported to have increased confidence in policing as a result of the activity.

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP delivered the £999 Grants programme, that was developed to provide organisations with up to £999 to organise a project or event that would help prevent/reduce/address crime and help people feel safer within their communities. A total of 32 grants were issued, and 3055 people engaged. 100% of beneficiaries reported greater confidence in identifying and delivering community safety outcomes, and 87% / 2,658 participants in projects delivered reported an increased confidence in PSNI following the activity or event.

West Belfast DPCSP delivered the Community Safety Initiative project that aimed to build confidence in policing through collaborative problem solving with residents and support to enable residents to participate directly in the criminal justice processes. 4341 resources were distributed, 30 workshops & events delivered, and 58 new cases opened. 100% of those surveyed reported to have improved knowledge and understanding of policing and community safety issues and the criminal justice system, all of which reported they are more likely to report crime directly to PSNI and other agencies. In addition, all surveyed felt their policing/community safety issue has improved.

East Belfast DPCSP delivered the Ramp Yard project that engaged young people subject to paramilitary influence with fun activities involving scooters, BMX bikes, skateboards and street art. The scheme was co-delivered by police officers and Ramp Yard staff who utilised the fun atmosphere to also consider issues impacting young people in East Belfast. 277 young people came to the project over the nine weeks it ran giving the opportunity to develop trust-based relationships with their peers, Ramp Yard staff and PSNI officers serving their community.

In addition, Belfast PCSP held an All-Member Briefing about The Executive Programme on Tackling Paramilitarism and Organised Crime and Criminality on Monday 26 February in Belfast Castle, which was attended by 32 Members. Members agreed that the overview was very useful and would allow for more informed, better-connected work going forward once more local projects were understood.

## Best Practice Examples – Improving Confidence in Policing Newry Mourne & Down PCSP

**Name of Initiative:** PSNI/PCSP Mobile Engagement Unit

**Partners:** PCSP, PSNI & NIHE

### Description of Project:

In 2021 Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP along with colleagues in PSNI, launched the Mobile Engagement Unit. This vehicle was adapted and kitted out with the latest audio-visual equipment and gaming consoles to facilitate PSNI engagement, particularly with younger people. The vehicle aimed to maximise engagement, education and crime prevention opportunities with the public.



After major success within the first two years, during 2023/24, the mobile engagement unit attended many major agricultural shows, local summer schemes, festivals, schools and football tournaments. The PCSP and PSNI facilitated a large number of requests for the Mobile Engagement Unit to attend various locations across the Newry, Mourne and Down District. Whilst individuals utilised the Mobile Engagement Unit, it provided great opportunity for engagement with their local PSNI Neighbourhood Officers in an informal setting. In a number of instances, the individuals received advice and guidance in a more relaxed environment, that was particularly helpful for younger people.

## Impact of the project:

PSNI Sgt Warren Roberts, Newry City NPT:

*“The idea of a mobile facility is to enhance the service we provide and increase contact with the public, particularly young people in our communities. The mobile resource is a positive step forward in community policing. Continuing changes to policing has required the PSNI to rethink how it interacts with the community. Getting policing right and making our communities safer is a key priority for us.*

*We have been working with our partners in the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to deliver this valuable resource for our communities in Newry, Mourne and Down.”*

100% of those who have used the mobile engagement unit reported they are now more aware of who their local Neighbourhood Police Officers are.

95% of those who have used the mobile engagement unit reported they are more likely to engage with PSNI personnel after meeting them at an event / pop up where the Mobile Engagement Unit was in attendance.



## Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP

**Name of Project:** Migrant Centre with Portadown NPT

**Partners:** Migrant Support Centre, PSNI

### Description of Project:

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP played a vital role in encouraging engagement between the PSNI and local community, especially in hard-to-reach areas or with hard-to-reach sections of the community.

Two events were co-designed and delivered in partnership with the Migrant Support Centre and PSNI Crime Prevention Officer. One session was held with the children from families of different ethnic minority groups (20-30 attendees) so that they could get to know who their local Police were.



Session 2 was held with young people from different ethnic minority groups (15-20 attendees) and was an information session on drugs issues and staying safe.

### Impact of the project:

One of the Neighbourhood Police Officers reported back to the PCSP that they have seen some of the event participants when out and about patrolling and all participants were willing to stop and engage with them. Migrant support workers are keen to host further events as a result of the positive feedback from the community.



### How Much Did We Do?

- 2 events held; and
- 50 participants attended the events.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 100% / 50 participants at the end of the events understood how to report issues in Northern Ireland and were aware of their local NPT; and
- 100% of young people that participated were aware at the end of the events of the laws and regulations in Northern Ireland which will help them keep within the law.

### Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% / 50 participants reported they are more likely to engage with police and/or have increased community confidence in policing.



## Best Practice Examples: Increasing Confidence in Policing

### Newry Mourne & Down PCSP

**Name of Project:** PSNI Work Experience Programme

**Description of Project:** In February 2024, Newry Mourne and Down PCSP along with partners in PSNI NPTs organised a 2-day work experience programme for sixth form students in the Newry & Mourne Area. 25 students from schools and colleges across Newry and Mourne were in attendance to learn first-hand about the various roles within policing. The aim of the programme was to help inform participant decision-making and build confidence in policing from a young age.

On day 1 of the programme, students were given an insight into the day-to-day roles of 6 different local policing teams. This included local NPTs, the Youth Diversion Officer, the Crime Prevention Officer, the Criminal Investigation Department, Police Forensics (CSI) and PSNI Civilian Support Staff. In addition, students had the opportunity to meet their local PSNI District Commander and ask questions about the role within their area.

On day 2 of the programme, students received a tour of Ardmore PSNI Station in Newry, before hearing a moving and emotional presentation from the PSNI Roads Policing Team. After this, students engaged with the PSNI Armed Response Unit and District Support Team, before finishing the day off with an amazing display from the PSNI Dog Unit.

### Impact

The programme was a great success and allowed younger people to engage with many PSNI departments which they otherwise would not likely have contact with. Each section of the daily schedule allowed students to take a hands-on approach, with opportunities to try on police equipment, solve a mock burglary investigation by watching video pieces and use crime scene investigation equipment to solve a crime using forensic equipment, all taking place.

Feedback from schools and colleges that availed of the programme was excellent and has resulted in a large number of additional requests for the programme across Newry, Mourne and Down.

Many students that attended explained that they otherwise would not have the opportunities to meet people in these types of policing roles, and therefore this was a prime opportunity for them to ask questions, engage with officers, consider a role in policing, and to build confidence in policing.



## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a partnership between local communities, PSNI and PCSPs. Throughout 2023/24, PCSPs continued to support the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and the Coordinators, alongside the PSNI by hosting regular meetings at which relevant issues are identified and addressed. PSNI provided appropriate and current information at meetings. In total, 657 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were in operation across 9 PCSPs.



## Best Practice Example - Neighbourhood Watch

### Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP

**Funded Amount:** £31,271

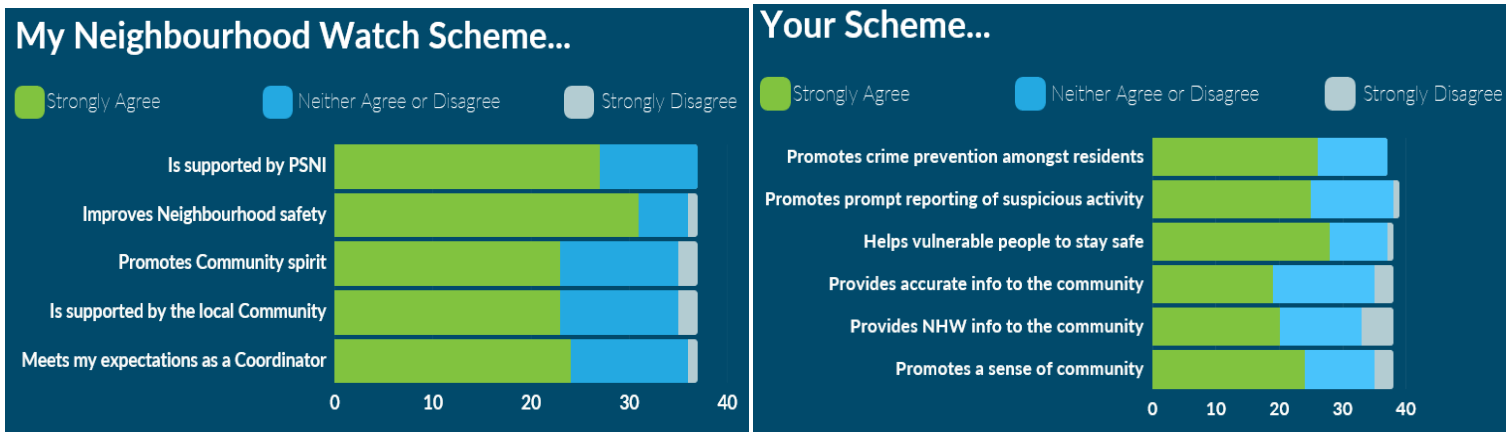
**Description of Project:** Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP recognised the role of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in helping the community be safer. The coordinators were volunteers and it was imperative that they felt supported in their role and had access to relevant information about local crime and emerging trends. Operating Neighbourhood Watch required significant PCSP staff resourcing to ensure that the coordinators were informed of relevant issues in their area. One PCSP staff member acted as the central contact for all the Neighbourhood Watch schemes.



There was a fantastic turnout for the Fermanagh and Omagh Neighbourhood Watch Conference in the Manor House Hotel, Enniskillen. Over fifty Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Coordinators attended the annual event to meet and voice opinions on policing, crime, ASB and community safety issues in their areas.

Speakers from the PSNI, ERANO, and Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP provided information on topics including local policing matters, refugees and asylum seekers, recent trends in scams and frauds and Elder Abuse. Several co-ordinator engagement events were also held throughout the year.

## NHW Coordinator Survey responses:



### How Much Did We Do?

- 90 active NHW Schemes;
- 6 NHW Coordinator development events;
- 134 active coordinators; and
- 6,146 homes in active NHW Schemes.

### How Well Did We Do?

- 60% / 80 coordinators reporting satisfaction with NHW.

### Is Anyone Better Off?

- 89% / 119 coordinators believed that their NHW scheme improved the safety of their neighbourhood; and
- 60% / 80 coordinators felt supported, confident and equipped in their role.

## 6 Summary of Implementation

This report highlights the breadth and diversity of initiatives and interventions that all 11 PCSPs and DPCSPs delivered across Northern Ireland; to create safer and shared communities that are more confident in policing during the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

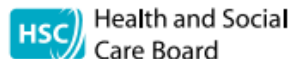
The number of initiatives delivered, and the volume of individuals reached is a testament to the work of the PCSPs. It is evident that PCSPs have worked collaboratively with all designated partners to deliver activities, which would not have been possible without the involvement and support of the local communities.

PCSPs have continued to share best practice examples which has resulted in highly successful initiatives rolling out across multiple PCSPs. The impact of the projects delivered by PCSPs in partnership with the PSNI, designated organisations and local community, are evidence of the difference being made to tackle policing and community safety issues across Northern Ireland.

PCSPs are funded and supported by the Policing Board and the Department of Justice.



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.





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