

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025-2030

BACKGROUND

The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 outlines the Boards statutory duties which includes the need to engage with key stakeholders and the public in the delivery of its functions.

In April 2025, the Northern Ireland Policing Board agreed a new five-year Corporate Plan 2025–2030 as to align with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2025-2030. This Engagement Strategy is intended to complement both these key documents and to ensure compliance with our statutory functions within the Police (NI) Act 2000.

The Boards Engagement Strategy is directly linked and aligned to the objectives outlined in the Boards 2025 – 2030 Corporate Plan specifically, *Objective C - Through engagement and collaboration, to raise awareness of the Board's work to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to support the delivery of policing outcomes.*

Part of the Boards statutory remit is to develop, in partnership with the PSNI, the NI Policing Plan which highlights three Outcomes for policing. The Boards Engagement Strategy and the associated Programme of Engagement will assist the Board in assessing the delivery and implementation of Outcome 1 and 2 of the NI Policing Plan 2025-2030 namely;

- **Outcome 1** – “PSNI is Victim Focused” and
- **Outcome 2** – “We have safe and engaged communities with confidence in policing”

WHAT IS ENGAGEMENT?

Board Engagement, as defined within this strategy, consists of four distinct elements;

1. Board Member Outreach with Stakeholders
2. Engagement with the Wider Community
3. Consultations and Surveys
4. Oversight through the Board's Volunteering Schemes

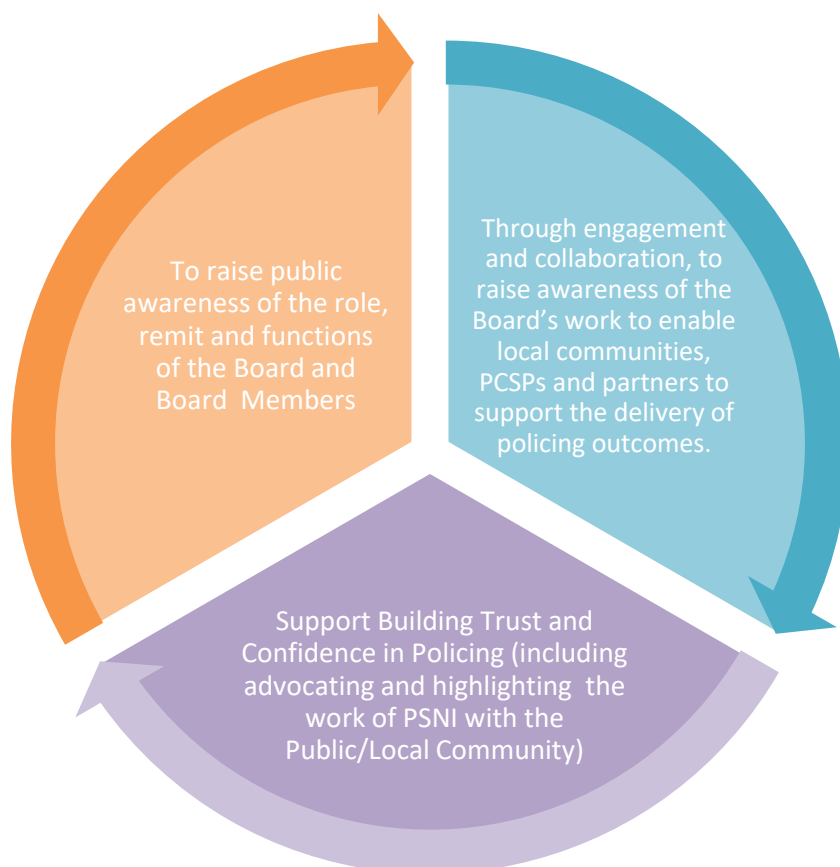
AIM

The Northern Ireland Policing Boards Engagement Strategy aims to deliver strategic and purposeful engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community to make a significant contribution to the delivery of Objective C of the Board's Corporate Plan 2025-2030 namely;

- **Objective C** - Through engagement and collaboration, to raise awareness of the Board's work to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to support the delivery of policing outcomes.

The Board's Engagement Strategy will be delivered through an Annual Programme of Work that will provide further detail on the specific activities and initiatives which the Board will undertake in order to achieve our Engagement aims.

Board's Engagement Aims



PURPOSE

The purpose of this Engagement Strategy is to illustrate and guide the Board in relation to outward engagement with its key stakeholders over this period. The strategy will focus on the three key areas of:

- **Why** do we want to engage?
- **Who** do we want to engage with? and
- **How** are we going to deliver on engagement?

WHY?

To contribute to the delivery of the Boards Corporate Plan Outcomes and Objectives

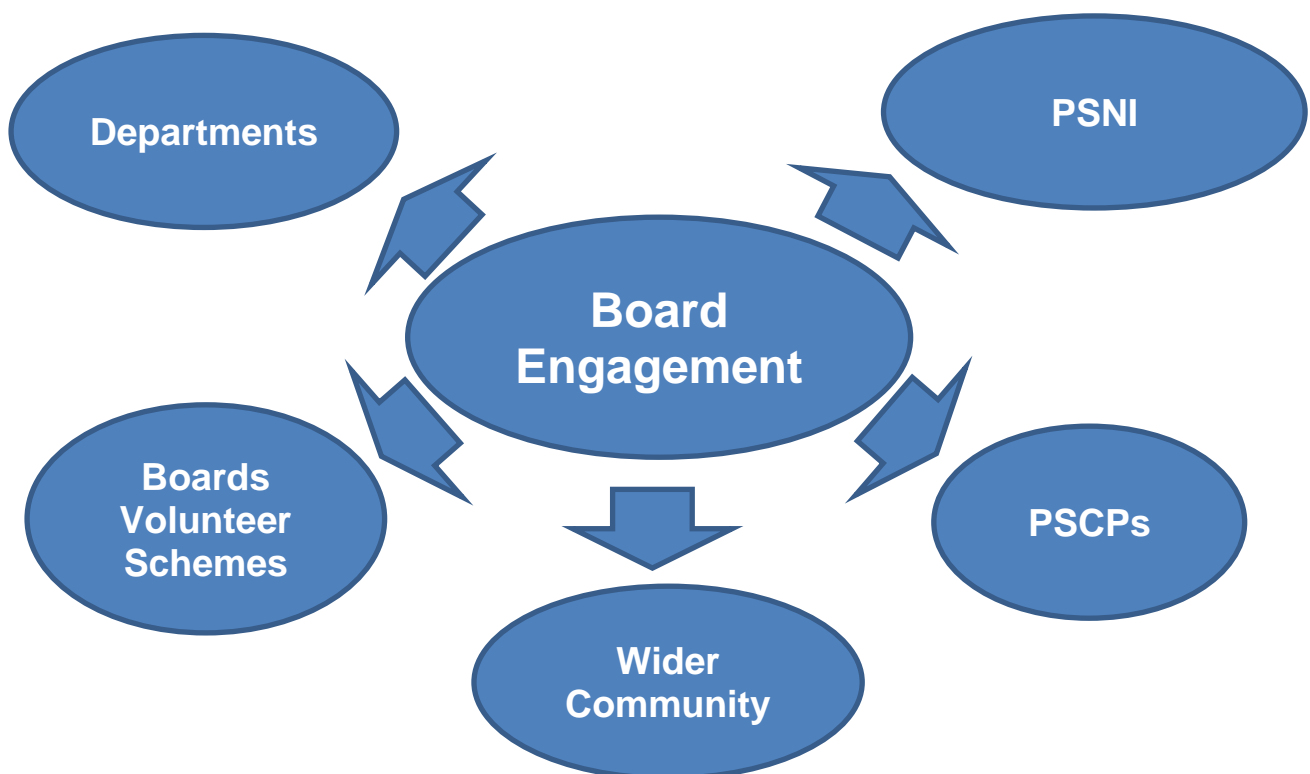
This strategy will enable the Board to:

- Listen to key stakeholders' views and experiences of policing;
- Identify key issues or concerns affecting stakeholders and the community regarding policing;
- Build upon existing relationships; and
- Establish and develop new collaborative partnerships.

WHO?

Key Stakeholders (inc. Sectoral Groups) and the wider community

The Board has identified some of our key stakeholders who we will engage with over the next five years.



The Board will engage with key stakeholders and sectoral groups, to achieve the following overall strategic engagement objectives:

Wider Community - To foster collaborative ways of working with the community and make a significant contribution to Objective C of the Boards Corporate Plan namely, through engagement and collaboration, to raise awareness of the Board's work to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to support the delivery of policing outcomes.

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) - To work within the existing accountability and advocacy structures to enable meaningful and widespread local community engagement and support.

Volunteer Schemes - To manage the Board's Volunteer Schemes and enable volunteer involvement to deliver on independent oversight of policing.

PSNI - To lead on the Board's work to ensure confidence in policing through monitoring and reviewing of Police Performance and the Policing with the Community ethos across PSNI.

Departments - To work closely with the Department of Justice and other Government Departments to support the delivery of Programme for Government (PfG) and contribute to better collaboration and multi-agency working.

HOW?

Delivery of Engagement Activities across Four Thematic Strands



Strand 1 – Engagement with the Community through Partnership & Collaboration

This strand incorporates direct engagement by Board Members and Board Officials with members of the community. This is facilitated through attendance at events and bespoke engagement activities in order to meet and contribute to the achievement of the Boards Engagement Aims.

In addition, this strand will include the delivery of two key initiatives namely;

- **Youth and Policing Partnership Forum (YAPPF)** - this forum has been designed and led by young people and will provide an ongoing engagement platform which will support young people to discuss the

issues affecting them with regards to policing. The forum is being delivered in partnership with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) and the Board with representatives from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) acting as the Independent Chair.

- **Conversations with Purpose (CwP)** – This initiative plans to deliver a programme of strategic, focused and purposeful engagement events with stakeholders, representative groups and the wider community that will be thematic in nature and linked to specific indicators within the NI Policing Plan 2025-2030. These events plan to further enhance the scrutiny and accountability role of the Board.

Strand 2 - Engagement with Stakeholders (inc. Statutory Stakeholders)

This strand incorporates direct engagement by Board Members and Board Officials with our stakeholders (including PSNI & statutory stakeholders). Activities include familiarisation sessions for Board Members in respect of PSNI operations and estate, engagement with rank-and-file offices, PSNI Staffing associations and meetings/events with key stakeholders, government departments and sectoral groups.

Strand 3 - Consultation, Research & Reports

This strand incorporates the work of the Board with regards to consultations, Human Rights reports and other publications required by the Board in fulfilling its functions. One element under this strand is the completion of the Policing Plan Survey.

Strand 4 – Board Volunteering

This strand includes both of the Boards volunteer schemes namely, the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme and Independent Community Observers (ICO) scheme both of which are aimed at holding the PSNI to account by ensuring the protection of human rights of detained persons (delivered through the ICV Scheme) and monitoring

and reporting on key aspects of the PSNI's recruitment process (delivered through the ICO Scheme).

The next section provides further detail on why we engage and who we will engage with under each of these thematic strands. All actions to be implemented, in order to deliver this plan, will be detailed within the Boards Annual Programme of Work.

Annual Programme of Engagement

The Boards Annual Programme of Engagement is a live and dynamic document which will be kept under review throughout the term of this strategy. Furthermore, it can be adapted where necessary, to take account of emerging issues, needs and trends where further engagement may be required.

A key element in ensuring that the Boards engagement work is meaningful and purposeful, will be through continuous and ongoing engagement with our external stakeholders and groups. This will aid in identifying and maximising further opportunities for the Board to deliver on engagement, while also contributing to the delivery of our corporate objective (as defined under Objective C¹ of the Board's Corporate Plan 2025-2030) of working in partnership and collaborating with the wider community and external stakeholders.

¹ Board Corporate Plan 2025-2030 - Objective C - Through engagement and collaboration, to raise awareness of the Board's work to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to support the delivery of policing outcomes.



Strand 1 - Engagement with the Community through Partnership & Collaboration

Strand 2 - Engagement with Stakeholders

Strand 3 - Consultation, Research & Reports

Strand 4 - Board Volunteers

Why we engage?

To work with and foster relationships with the wider community and sectoral groups to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to engage in the Boards work and collaborate to deliver policing outcomes.

To ensure visibility by raising the profile of the work, role and remit of the Board and Board Members.

To inform, engage and further enhance the knowledge of Board Members on PSNI operations and estate.

To represent the Board on external groups and forums.

To coordinate the Board's work on delivering and responding to consultations and support engagement opportunities in relation to commissioned research.

To ensure that all consultation work undertaken by the Board is disseminated as wide as possible ensuring feedback received is representative of all sections of the community.

To enable volunteer involvement to deliver independent oversight of policing in relation to **PSNI Custody** (through the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme) and **PSNI Recruitment** (through the Independent Community Observers (ICO) Scheme)

Who we engage with?

Wider Community
(inc. Sectoral Groups)

Delivering engagement activities in partnership and collaboration with our stakeholders including the utilisation of the **Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs)** as a delivery mechanism to enable meaningful and widespread local community engagement & support.

Board Officials

Board Members

PSNI and other key/statutory stakeholders.

Board Members

Board Officials

Board's Human Rights Advisor

Wider Community
(inc. Sectoral Groups)

Key/Statutory Stakeholders

Board Officials

Board Members

Board's Human Rights Advisor

Board Volunteers on both the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) and Independent Community Observers (ICO) Schemes

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DOCUMENT TITLE

**Northern Ireland Policing Board
Engagement Strategy
2025-2030**

DISCLAIMER

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, the Northern Ireland Policing Board will not be held liable for any inaccuracies that may be contained within.