



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

Accountability Report

Presented at Policing Board Meeting:
3 September 2026



**we care
we listen
we act**

Contents

Chief Constable's Foreword	03
Introduction to Outcome 2: We have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing	12
Performance Dashboard For Outcome 2	14
Progress Updates Against Impact Measures:	
2.1 Level of Public Confidence in Policing	15
2.2 The Effectiveness of Working in Partnership with Local Communities and Community Organisations, PCSPs and Statutory Agencies to Provide Solutions to Local Problems	18
2.3 People Feel Safe in Their Community	23
2.4 The Effectiveness in Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitaries and Serious and Organised Crime Groups	27
2.5 The Effectiveness in Tackling Repeat Offending	30
2.6 The Effectiveness of Working in Partnership to Reduce Road Deaths and Serious Injury on our Roads	32
2.7 Working in Partnership to Effectively Tackle Cyber Crime	36
Good News and Key Updates	39

Chief Constable's Foreword



This month I present my progress update on Outcome 2 of the Policing Plan 2025–2030: We Have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing, as set out in the Annual Performance Plan 2025/26. This is the second report focused on Outcome 2 during this performance year and seeks to build on the evidence set out in the first Outcome 2 accountability update delivered to the Board in December 2025.

At its heart this outcome is about something very straightforward, whether people feel safe where they live, work and spend their time. Whether they see policing when they need us and whether they have confidence that we will listen and act to help keep them safe. In Northern Ireland community focused policing is not an optional extra, it is the foundation of our legitimacy. It is how we build trust, reassure people and ensure that policing remains rooted in the communities we serve.

There can be few better examples of this than the recent Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Belfast. It was a truly remarkable week for the city and for Northern Ireland, welcoming in excess of one million visitors through music, culture and a shared celebration that will live long in the memory. Events of this scale do not simply happen. Behind the scenes were many months of detailed planning, significant co-ordination and a huge amount of work by the

Police Service, event organisers, Belfast City Council, transport providers, emergency services and other partners.

The scale of that commitment should be properly understood. The overall police deployment in support of the Fleadh cost £1.1 million and totalled 1,529 officers, which is approximately 20 per cent of the entire Service. This reflects both the complexity of safely delivering an event of this scale and the extraordinary effort made by colleagues across PSNI to ensure Belfast continued to operate as normally as possible while also maintaining day to day policing for communities throughout Northern Ireland.

I could not be prouder of the contribution made by our officers and staff. Colleagues from across the organisation worked tirelessly for many months in advance of and throughout the week to successfully deliver a safe event. They assisted visitors, supported businesses and residents, provided a visible presence and, in countless small ways, helped make the experience safe and enjoyable for those who came to Belfast. I have since received numerous letters, emails and comments from people of all walks of life commending the PSNI for its policing of the Fleadh. Those messages matter. They speak to the warmth, professionalism and helpfulness shown by our officers and staff

and to the positive welcome they received from visitors, participants and local people. This response is a credit to them and everyone who made the Fleadh such a success.

I walked amongst the crowds and received repeated positive feedback from those attending about the PSNI policing of the event. This fabulous week of activities was an example of how tradition and culture should be celebrated, in an inclusive, positive and family focused way.

The Fleadh was, of course, only one part of what has been a very busy summer for policing. Across Northern Ireland we delivered numerous public safety operations at parades, bonfires, festivals, sporting events, concerts and other major public gatherings. These operations require a great deal of unseen planning work, engagement and the mobilisation of officers and staff from across the service. The fact these events are delivered safely should never be taken for granted. It is down to the judgement, professionalism and commitment of our people, often working long hours and sacrificing time with their families. It is also down to the constructive work of community representatives, organisers and partner agencies. I thank everyone who has played their part. Their work has helped people celebrate, commemorate and, in the overwhelming majority of cases, gather peacefully in the communities and traditions that are important to them.

These types of events present policing challenges that are unique to Northern Ireland and require sensitive and professional policing.

I was delighted that over 500 Parades took place and around 250 Bonfires lit up the skies over the 12th July weekend with events passing off peacefully, as people lawfully, respectfully and inclusively celebrated longstanding traditions during the Bank Holiday weekend of events. The significant policing operation for these events across Northern Ireland should not be underestimated nor taken for granted. I witnessed first-hand, as I travelled the country, the community focused policing style that

enabled everyone to have a wonderful time. This year I attended the celebrations at Rathfriland, where families enjoyed a wonderful day of celebration.

There were however incidents during the summer which again demonstrated some of the longstanding and difficult cultural and societal challenges associated with bonfires in Northern Ireland. The racist display at the Moygashel bonfire was appalling. I was clear from the outset that the material displayed was unacceptable. It needed to be removed and those responsible identified. A significant police operation was developed to achieve that removal and was at an advanced stage of planning and mobilisation when the bonfire was lit a day in advance to prevent us from taking action.

A 56 year old male was arrested at the time and subsequently charged with an offence under Article 9 of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 relating to the stirring up of hatred or arousing fear. He remains remanded in custody outlining how seriously our Courts view this type of criminal conduct.

Just last week five further men were arrested as part of our ongoing investigation. A number of related searches were undertaken and a significant quantity of evidence was seized. Three men were subsequently charged under Article 9 of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, again relating to the stirring up of hatred or arousing fear. A fourth man has been reported to the Public Prosecution Service in relation to the same offence while the fifth has been charged with an Intimidation offence. They are due to appear before the Courts later this month. These arrests and charges demonstrate my determination to tackle the racist criminality associated with this incident. I said at the time we would investigate this thoroughly and take action, which is exactly what we have done.

These challenges aren't just confined to one community or tradition. In August a number of bonfires were lit in the Derry/Londonderry area to mark the anniversary of internment. Flags, poppy wreaths, banners, political material, sashes and football shirts were among items placed on the bonfires, while images of the First Minister were also burned. This investigation also remains ongoing. I have been clear that there can be no hierarchy when it comes to hate. Whether it is a replica mosque placed on a bonfire in Moygashel or sectarian and offensive material placed on bonfires in Derry/Londonderry, it is wrong. Where there is criminality, we will investigate it and bring those responsible before the courts. But I want us to go further. I am determined that we take a more robust and collective stand against the display of hate related material on bonfires. This will require strong political, civic and community leadership alongside a clear determination to remove such material wherever it is possible and lawful to do so.

Unfortunately these are familiar and recurring challenges. Each year police receive reports concerning potentially illegal or offensive material placed on bonfires across Northern Ireland. 68 such incidents have been recorded over the summer. We have an important role to play but the solution cannot start and end with policing. If we are to move beyond confronting the same problems year after year there must be collective civic leadership to address them. There are also very real issues of public safety. Tragically, in July a man in his 40s died following a fall at a bonfire site in the Braniel estate in east Belfast. Police were not made aware of the incident when it occurred. We received a report the following day by which time the man had died in hospital. Our enquiries on behalf of the Coroner are continuing. His death is a reminder of the very real risks associated with uncontrolled and unregulated bonfires. In my view it only reinforces the need for stronger civic leadership in addressing what remains a longstanding and difficult issue for communities across Northern Ireland. We must

apply ourselves to respecting all communities and the rule of law when celebrating our traditions.

Thankfully, these incidents do not represent the Northern Ireland I see in the overwhelming majority of my engagements with communities. The Belfast Mela held in August stands in stark contrast. It is a celebration of the diversity of our society bringing people from different cultures, traditions and backgrounds together in a shared and inclusive environment. I have made clear my desire to improve the representativeness of the PSNI and our presence at events such as the Mela is critically important. It allows us to engage with communities, build trust and demonstrate that policing is for everyone. At a time when we have witnessed deeply troubling examples of racism and intolerance events such as the Mela demonstrate the very different future that the overwhelming majority of people in Northern Ireland want to see.

All of this has required a significant policing commitment across the summer months. What makes the safe delivery of these events even more remarkable is the financial position in which policing here finds itself. I have spoken repeatedly about the funding crisis facing the PSNI. I make no apology for doing so again. It would be wrong of me to allow the extraordinary resilience and dedication of our people to disguise the reality of the position we are in.

I have set out in recent accountability reports the extent to which funding for policing here has failed to keep pace with the increasingly complex demands placed upon the PSNI. I do not intend to repeat that analysis here, however the position remains deeply concerning. The projected gap between our spending plans and the indicative budget allocation for this year is approximately £70 million. I am firmly of the view that this is the consequence of years of chronic underfunding. In recent years the underlying deficit has been addressed through late in

year allocations. Those allocations keep the service going for another year and, whilst I am grateful for them, they do not address the fundamental problem. They are not reflected in future baseline budgets meaning the underlying funding gap is never properly addressed.

This is no way to lead a police service. It is only because of our incredible workforce that we have managed to maintain such high levels of service delivery.

The Executive's endorsement of the Workforce Recovery Plan was welcome. The £26 million of support available this year represents an important commitment to rebuilding the service. The plan sets a course towards restoring officer and staff levels to 7,000 and 2,572 respectively. So far this year, we have recruited 459 student officers. That is hugely important. These individuals have chosen to serve their communities at a time when policing has arguably never been more demanding and is frequently under intense scrutiny. They are the future of the PSNI.

Again however, there remains a fundamental issue which must be addressed. The £26 million allows us to make progress this year but rebuilding the service is not simply a one year commitment. The officers we recruit today must be trained, equipped, supported and paid for in the years ahead. I have repeatedly made the point that short term funding, however welcome, does not resolve the underlying financial position of the PSNI. We cannot rebuild a police service on the basis of uncertainty from one year to the next. If we are serious about restoring the service to the levels set out in the Workforce Recovery Plan then adequate funding to sustain those numbers must follow. It is also important to stipulate that the £26 million is only helpful if our existing £70 million gap is addressed.

Policing in Northern Ireland too often acts as the shock absorber for wider pressures across society and other public services with our officers and staff being asked to deal with issues

that go far beyond anything I have witnessed elsewhere in policing. Since 2018, the Health and Social Care workforce in Northern Ireland has increased by 20%. By comparison, over the same period the PSNI workforce has shrunk by 3.5% percent with police officer numbers specifically falling by almost 6% from 6,703 to 6,323. I make this comparison not to diminish the significant pressures facing our colleagues in health. I recognise this and the need to invest in the people required to meet growing demand in that area. But the same principle must apply to policing. The demands placed upon the PSNI have not reduced. They have become broader, more complex and resource intensive while the number of officers and staff available to meet them has fallen. We cannot continue to ask policing to do more with less.

I have been repeatedly reminded, quite rightly, that as accounting officer I must manage expenditure in line with the budget available. But I am also the Chief Constable. I have significant statutory responsibilities to keep people safe and a duty to victims and communities as well as our officers and staff. They cannot be expected to carry this ever increasing demand with ever decreasing resilience. A budget gap of around £70 million equates to approximately 1,200 police officer posts. I cannot contemplate the consequences of losing that level of resourcing when there is a clear and shared commitment across the tripartite to rebuild the service. I remain determined to restore the PSNI to levels at which we can provide the visible and responsive policing that communities here deserve.

Two recent independent reports reinforce the case I have been making. I have previously welcomed the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's report on policing and security in Northern Ireland and its clear recommendation for an independent assessment of the officer and staff establishment Northern Ireland requires. I am pleased to report that the procurement process for a strategic partner to undertake that work is now live. This assessment will consider current and future

demand, the security position and appropriate comparison with other police services. This is not simply about arriving at a number. It is about capability. How many officers and staff are actually required to keep people safe? How many are required to investigate crime, protect vulnerable people, manage offenders and tackle terrorism and organised crime while also providing the visible neighbourhood policing which communities rightly expect? Those are questions that need to be answered objectively and I look forward to this work providing an evidence based assessment of what is required to sustainably police Northern Ireland now and into the future.

More recently, HMICFRS published its inspection of the PSNI in relation to our workforce and our use of police powers. It assessed PSNI as “Adequate” in attracting, developing and retaining the workforce and creating a diverse and inclusive workplace and in using powers fairly, appropriately and with justification. We must be honest about the areas identified for improvement. Workforce fatigue, sickness absence, restricted duties, supervision and wellbeing are real challenges. I accept that. These issues are about people. Officers and staff can be repeatedly exposed to trauma, carry high workloads and make difficult decisions in demanding and highly scrutinised circumstances. We have a responsibility to look after them. The report crucially also recognises positive work to support our people and their families and our ambition to build a more representative workforce. Importantly, the inspectorate found our use of force and stop and search powers to be reasonable and proportionate. They saw officers acting professionally and courteously and found robust oversight and scrutiny. Those findings matter. They go directly to public confidence and legitimacy and, in the context of Outcome 2, provide important independent assurance about how our officers exercise the significant powers entrusted to them.

The report adds independent weight to concerns I have repeatedly raised about workforce capacity and resilience. We will, of course, endeavour respond positively to the areas for improvement identified by HMICFRS but it is abundantly clear that many of these challenges are inextricably linked to the wider financial and workforce pressures facing the service.

The same is true of legacy. I have also set out in previous accountability reports the significant and growing burden that legacy places upon contemporary policing. I will not repeat those arguments here, but recent work has brought the scale of that pressure into even sharper focus. The annual cost of legacy to the PSNI, outside civil litigation settlements, is approximately £24 million. This year we also face an immediate unfunded pressure of approximately £14 million in additional costs arising from Troubles related civil cases. Operation Kenova, which I led, demonstrates the scale and complexity involved in properly investigating matters arising from our past. Although the investigation benefited from dedicated funding the PSNI cost from 2016/17 to projected expenditure in 2026/27 is still estimated at £47 million. Subsequent Stakeknife civil actions have added further pressure, with the proposed global settlement and associated legal costs expected to have an overall impact on PSNI of around £6 million. These figures demonstrate the very real financial consequences of legacy for contemporary policing in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee recommended a new recurring and ring-fenced UK Government funding stream for PSNI legacy costs. I have previously advocated for and very much welcomed that recommendation and continue to strongly support it. We must meet our responsibilities to victims and families properly, professionally and transparently. That is not in question. But these matters arose during direct rule from Westminster and those policing liabilities and

associated costs should **not** fall upon the already insufficient budget intended to provide policing for the communities of Northern Ireland today. We cannot continue taking money from today's policing to pay for yesterday's responsibilities. I will continue to press the case for separate and bespoke legacy funding with the Executive, the Northern Ireland Office and the UK Government and I again ask the Board for its support. We need the Northern Ireland Executive and Westminster government to come together to find a funding mechanism to deal with these spiralling civil legacy costs that should not be left to the PSNI to shoulder.

There is change on the horizon across UK policing with a wider programme of reform now underway. I welcome opportunities for greater co-ordination where they can improve our ability to tackle threats such as terrorism and serious and organised crime or allow us to make better use of data and technology. However, Northern Ireland is different. Policing and justice are devolved and our structures of accountability, governance and oversight are rooted in the Patten reforms and reflect the unique circumstances here. Any reform which affects Northern Ireland must recognise those arrangements from the outset. There must be no threat to the operational independence of the Chief Constable, no dilution of local accountability and no ambiguity in relation to governance, scrutiny, complaints or the protection of human rights. We should embrace change where it makes policing better.

However, Northern Ireland specific needs cannot be an afterthought and any additional responsibilities placed upon the PSNI must be accompanied by the resources necessary to deliver them. I will continue to engage closely with the Home Office, the Department of Justice and the Board to ensure that these considerations are properly understood and built in from the outset.

We are also continuing to change how we work ourselves. Right Care Right Person is an important example. I have previously updated the Board on the development of this work and am pleased to report that we are now moving from the planning phase to operational delivery. The new Mental Health Codes of Practice were implemented operationally on 1st September 2026 following extensive work with our Health partners. They include improved hospital handover arrangements, a 24-hour practitioner advice line for officers and clear escalation processes where there are difficulties agreeing the most appropriate response. A further element, focused on concern for welfare calls will go live on 31st October 2026. PSNI receives approximately 30,000 such calls each year, with a significant proportion from Health sector partners. The revised approach, supported by a new memorandum of understanding with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and training for Contact Management Centre staff, will help us deploy resources much more effectively while retaining an absolute focus on protecting life.

I want to be clear about what Right Care Right Person means. It is not about police refusing to help. Police officers will continue to respond where there is a real and immediate risk to life or where a policing power is required. It is about ensuring people receive the right response from the service best placed to provide it. Where someone needs healthcare rather than a police intervention, it is right that they receive care from appropriately trained health professionals. That is better for the individual and allows police officers to focus on the responsibilities for which their particular powers and skills are required. This is significant change and it will take time to fully embed. It requires professional judgement, good communication and respectful partnership working. I will monitor its implementation carefully. It demonstrates that we are not simply identifying the pressures

facing policing but rather we are endeavouring to change how we work and make better use of the limited resources available to us.

Being victim focused means ensuring every victim knows they will be taken seriously and supported. This month, working with the Men's Advisory Project, we launched our Every Victim Matters campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse against men and challenge the stigma which can prevent victims from coming forward. From April 2025 to March 2026 we recorded 5,817 domestic abuse crimes in which the victim was male. That represents almost one third of all victims of recorded domestic abuse crime. These are not lesser offences and male victims are not less deserving of help, protection or justice. I want to be absolutely clear. If you are a man experiencing domestic abuse you are not alone and you should not feel ashamed to ask for help. Every victim matters. We will listen, we will act and we will work with specialist partners to ensure victims receive the support they need. I welcome the support of the Men's Advisory Project and the Justice Minister in delivering this important campaign. The more openly we talk about domestic abuse in all its forms, the better able we are to challenge the stigma which allows it to remain hidden.

Alongside this work, we remain focused on the security situation. The threat from Northern Ireland related terrorism remains 'substantial', meaning that an attack is likely. The proxy device attacks at Lurgan and Dunmurry police stations earlier this year were a stark reminder of the intent of those who wish to cause harm. The successful An Garda Síochána operation in County Monaghan on 23rd July 2026, during which component parts of an explosive device believed to have been destined for Northern Ireland were recovered, demonstrates the work that continues every day to protect the public. I am grateful to our colleagues in An Garda Síochána (AGS) for their professionalism and for the strength of our cross border relationship. Cooperation between our services is essential in tackling terrorism and serious organised crime.

It makes a real difference to the safety of people across this island. The relationship between the PSNI and AGS is the strongest collaboration I have seen in policing, these ties should be celebrated as they keep communities each side of the border, safer.

Those who remain intent on causing harm offer nothing to our communities. They have no mandate and no place in the future of Northern Ireland. I remain deeply conscious of the devastating and enduring impact of the murder of journalist Lyra McKee in Derry/Londonderry in April 2019. I recently met Lyra's sister and saw first hand the profound and continuing pain caused by her murder. Our thoughts remain with Lyra's family and friends who have had to live with this loss every day for more than seven years. No family should have to endure that pain without answers or accountability.

The passage of time does not diminish our determination to bring all those responsible to justice. On 31st July 2026 our Major Investigation Team renewed its appeal for information with a Crimestoppers reward of up to £20,000 for information given directly to the charity which leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. I appeal directly to anyone who knows anything about Lyra McKee's murder or the events leading up to it, to please do the right thing. Circumstances change, allegiances change and even the smallest piece of information may be the missing part which helps deliver justice for a family who have already waited for too long.

The deaths of five young people following a collision in County Kildare in August are a sobering reminder of the consequences of dangerous driving. Five young lives have been lost and four others seriously injured, including a 7 year old boy. My thoughts are with them and everyone affected by this terrible and completely avoidable incident. There has been growing concern about

dangerous driving being filmed, shared or encouraged through social media. We must seek to protect young people from negative influence on social media, peer pressure or a moment of recklessness which can change or end lives in seconds. Policing, parents and families, community leaders, schools, Government and social media companies all have a responsibility to challenge what appears to be a growing culture of risk taking behind the wheel. We are seeing too many lives being lost on our roads and too many families devastated as a result. This cannot become normalised.

Across the service, officers and staff continue every day to deliver excellent work in support of Outcome 2. Some examples of this work can be found at the end of this report, however much of it will never attract significant public attention. That does not make it any less important. A vulnerable person protected. A victim supported. An offender brought before the courts. Drugs removed from the streets. A young person diverted from harm. A neighbourhood reassured that its concerns have been heard. This is community policing. This is where confidence is built. Public confidence is not created by strategies or words alone. It is built through thousands of interactions between our officers and staff and the people they serve. It is built by being present, by listening, by acting fairly and by treating people with compassion and respect.

Later this month Belfast will host National Police Memorial Day 2026 at the Waterfront Hall. Families, friends, colleagues and representatives from across the United Kingdom will come together to honour police officers who have lost their lives protecting and serving their communities.

This year's service will be especially poignant following the recent deaths in the line of duty of PC Jess Turnbull of Northumbria Police in June and, only last month, PCs Tom Clough and Matthew Blades of Cleveland Police. These tragic losses are a stark reminder of the risks police officers face every day simply by going to

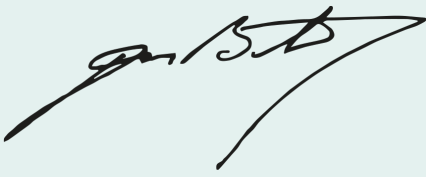
work and doing their duty. My thoughts, and those of everyone in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, are with their families, friends and colleagues. Their loss is felt across the entire policing family.

Hosting the service in Belfast is also particularly significant in the twenty fifth anniversary year of the PSNI. Policing in Northern Ireland has experienced significant loss over many decades. The impact of that loss continues to be felt by families, friends and colleagues. We remember them, their sacrifice and their loved ones who continue to bear their loss with such dignity and grace. National Police Memorial Day reminds us that policing is more than a job. It is a commitment to protect others, in circumstances which are often difficult, dangerous and uncertain. PSNI officers and staff make that commitment every day, with the recent losses of colleagues in England making that reality painfully clear. Last month, I and four colleagues took part in the Police Unity Tour, cycling from PSNI headquarters at Brooklyn to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire raising money for the charity, Care of Police Survivors. We must never forget the loss of members of our service and the anguish and suffering of their families.

As we approach the twenty fifth anniversary of the PSNI there will rightly be time to reflect on the journey policing has taken and the enormous progress that has been made. I greatly admire what this service has achieved and continues to do despite all of the challenges we face. Our officers and staff continue to deliver despite low numbers, sustained demand and significant uncertainty. I remain immensely proud of them and their resilience should never be mistaken for sustainability.

I have been very clear that what we now need is the stability and investment to sustain and protect that progress. Time and time again, through some of the most challenging events

of recent years our officers and staff have stepped forward and delivered when it matters most. Collectively we must ensure they have the people, resources and support they need to continue to do so when called upon for help. The success of the next twenty five years of policing will depend upon it. Everyone in Northern Ireland, all communities, all sectors, all faiths, people from all backgrounds need to support the men and women of the PSNI, who deliver policing services in a uniquely challenging environment day in and day out, in a way that we can all be proud of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Boutcher', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jon Boutcher QPM

Chief Constable

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Introduction

Outcome 2: We have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing



Outcome 2 concerns the relationship between policing, communities and partners. It reflects the importance of people feeling safe in the places where they live, work, study and visit, being able to access support when needed, and having confidence that policing will listen, respond and work with others to address matters of local concern.

Safe and engaged communities are not created by policing alone. They depend on visible and responsive local policing, effective partnership working, fair and respectful treatment, and meaningful opportunities for communities to raise concerns and influence solutions. This is particularly important in Northern Ireland, where confidence, legitimacy and strong relationships with all communities remain central to effective policing.

The outcome also recognises the range of harms affecting communities. These include antisocial behaviour, drug related criminality, serious and organised crime, paramilitarism and terrorism, repeat offending, road deaths and serious injuries, and the growing impact of cybercrime. Many of these challenges cannot be addressed through enforcement alone. They require prevention, early intervention, safeguarding, information sharing and sustained joint working with statutory, community and voluntary sector partners.

This report sets out the current position against each indicator within Outcome 2, including the risks and constraints affecting delivery, the actions taken by PSNI and partners, and the evidence currently available.

Reporting Context

This second progress update on Outcome 2 of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2025–2030 builds on the baseline data, performance information and activity reported to the Policing Board in December 2025 and the end-of-year report presented in June 2026. It provides a further in-year update on delivery, available performance information, emerging risks and matters requiring continued scrutiny.

Updated results from the Northern Ireland Safer Community Telephone Survey, Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey, Community Policing Survey and Neighbourhood Policing Team Survey are not available for this reporting period. These surveys are the agreed primary evidence base for assessing the outcomes of delivery under Indicators 2.1 to 2.3.

Consequently, this report cannot assess change in overall public confidence, feelings of safety, or the effectiveness of community engagement and partnership problem solving using the agreed survey measures. For these indicators, the report sets out qualitative evidence of delivery, operational activity, local feedback and available management information. This provides context on activity and emerging issues but is not intended to substitute for the agreed impact measures. A fuller assessment of progress will be provided when the relevant survey results are available.

The report draws on the most recent information available for each indicator. As a result, reporting periods may vary.

Performance Dashboard

Outcome 2: We have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing



2.1 Level of Public Confidence in Policing	Unable to Assess
2.2 The Effectiveness of Working in Partnership with Local Communities and Community Organisations, PCSPs and Statutory Agencies to Provide Solutions to Local Problems	Unable to Assess
2.3 People Feel Safe in Their Community	Unable to Assess
2.4 The Effectiveness in Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitaries and Serious and Organised Crime Groups	Adequate Progress
2.5 The Effectiveness in Tackling Repeat Offending	Adequate Progress
2.6 The Effectiveness in of Working in Partnership to Reduce Road Deaths and Serious Injury on our Roads	Limited Progress
2.7 Working in Partnership to Effectively Tackle Cyber Crime	Limited Progress

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure

2.1 Level of Public Confidence in Policing

Unable to Assess

Progress Update

Progress against the confidence outcome cannot be assessed for this reporting period.

No updated survey data is available for this reporting period to assess the impact measures for Indicator 2.1, including victim and community confidence in policing. Consequently, no assessment of change or progress against the confidence outcome can be made at this stage.

In the absence of updated survey data, the evidence below describes activity intended to support confidence, reassurance, accessibility and procedural fairness. It demonstrates ongoing delivery but does not establish a change in overall public confidence.

What we have done

Reassurance following disorder and hate crime

Following disorder after the attempted murder of Stephen Ogilvie on 8 June 2026, PSNI combined operational activity with early and sustained engagement. On 9 June, the Strategic Community Engagement Team facilitated an online briefing for diverse communities involving the Service Executive Team, district engagement colleagues and

Ethnic Minority Police Association colleagues. The briefing was attended by 110 people and provided an update on Operation Constantness, while enabling community members and colleagues to raise questions and concerns.

This initial engagement was followed on 11 June by an in-person partnership briefing at the Dunsilly Hotel. Attended by 80 people from diverse communities and organisations, the briefing was opened by the Chief Constable and involved the Department of Justice, The Executive Office, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Education Authority. It had been planned in response to concerns about the potential for summer disorder following experiences in 2024 and 2025. Community representatives recognised the communications, engagement and proactive approach taken by policing in relation to Operation Constantness. They also expressed concern that their fears about disorder had materialised and called for robust preventative action by all partners.

Tailored engagement then took place with international health workers and people working in the retail and fast-food sectors affected by disorder. This provided information, routes to support and opportunities for those directly affected to

raise concerns with policing. Feedback from engagement with health workers has informed the development of a hate crime campaign focused on health staff. Engagement with the retail and fast-food sectors will also inform work with the Business Crime Partnership to support more consistent communication.

Following concerns raised by Health Trust employees from ethnic minority backgrounds, Neighbourhood and Local Policing Teams provided visible reassurance patrols around Health Trust sites and transport hubs. Officers developed links with Trust Equality Officers and multicultural staff forums, providing advice on reporting, personal safety and hate crime support. Engagement with churches, community events and individual families helped to ensure that reassurance activity reached those most affected.

This approach was reflected locally in Lisburn and Castlereagh District, where disorder during a protest in Dundonald caused particular concern among Health Trust employees, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds. Castlereagh Neighbourhood Team, supported by local policing teams, provided a high visibility presence around the Ulster Hospital, Forster Green and Knockbracken Health Care Park, alongside additional patrols around transport hubs.

Neighbourhood teams continue to engage with the Equality Officer at the Ulster Hospital and participate in the multicultural staff forum. Officers have also attended the hospital on a number of occasions to provide crime prevention information on reporting methods, personal safety and the support available to people affected by hate crime.

Neighbourhood relationships and local action

The Lisburn Road Neighbourhood Policing Team has continued to build relationships with communities, universities and partner organisations across South Belfast. In June

2026, a member of the team was recognised as Neighbourhood Policing Officer of the Year for dedication to the role and service to communities across the area. The officer's role as a single point of contact for the Muslim community has helped to strengthen communication, build trust and provide a route for concerns to be raised and acted upon.

This engagement has been combined with visible policing activity in the Holylands, Botanic and wider university area, where students, residents, faith communities and businesses can be affected by antisocial behaviour, vulnerability and drug related harm. Activity has included reassurance patrols, intelligence development, residential searches and joint working with Local Policing and District Support Teams. Recent days of action resulted in the arrest and remand of three individuals suspected of involvement in drug related criminality.

Open dialogue and accessible engagement

The Strategic Community Engagement Team, alongside colleagues from the PSNI LGBT Network, the Service Executive Team, Human Resources and district policing, supported a range of engagement events associated with Belfast Pride. This included attendance at the Belfast Pride Awards for the second consecutive year, following an invitation to participate.

The team also contributed to *Pride Talks Back*, organised by the Belfast Pride Committee at the MAC Theatre. The event provided a space for open discussion about the relationship between policing and LGBTQIA+ communities, recognising lived experience, the complexity of that relationship and the continuing need for change.

Human Resources also delivered an attraction and recruitment stand at Belfast Pride Village. A number of domestic abuse

related disclosures were made at the stand; these were recorded and investigations are progressing. The engagement activity provided accessible opportunities for policing to engage directly with LGBTQIA+ communities in settings familiar to those taking part.

The Strategic Community Engagement Team also supported engagement at Belfast Mela with the Service Executive Team, Human Resources and district colleagues. These events provide accessible opportunities for policing to engage directly with diverse communities and community organisations in settings familiar to those taking part.

Inclusive policing and procedural fairness

The Here for You engagement strategy remains the framework for activity intended to support confidence in policing. Cultural Awareness Sessions continue to help officers and staff understand the history, culture and lived experience of the communities they serve, supporting more informed and respectful engagement.

PSNI's Service Accountability Panel continues to scrutinise the use of police powers, including use of force and stop and search. It considers lawfulness, necessity and proportionality; identifies good practice; and supports organisational learning.

A new Service Instruction on Public Displays is now operational. It was developed in consultation with the Committee on the Administration of Justice and reviewed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Human Rights Adviser and Board members.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure

2.2 The Effectiveness of Working in Partnership with Local Communities and Community Organisations, PCSPs and Statutory Agencies to Provide Solutions to Local Problems



Unable to Assess

Progress Update

Progress against the impact of partnership working in providing solutions to local problems cannot be assessed for this reporting period, as updated survey data is not available.

The agreed impact measures for this indicator are principally drawn from the Northern Ireland Safer Community Telephone Survey, Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey, Community Policing Survey and Neighbourhood Policing Team Survey. While Neighbourhood Policing Team survey information was included in the December 2025 report, no updated results are available for this reporting period. The Community Policing Survey closed in May 2026 and findings are awaited.

Consequently, this report cannot assess whether communities feel involved in identifying and resolving local issues, whether they consider solutions mutually satisfactory, whether local police seek and act on views about crime and antisocial behaviour, or whether partnership working is delivering sustainable improvements to local problems.

PSNI and its partners have continued to work with communities to identify local concerns and deliver practical, locally tailored responses. The qualitative evidence below demonstrates sustained partnership activity, problem solving

and engagement across a range of community safety issues. While updated survey evidence is needed to assess overall change in the effectiveness and impact of partnership working, the activity reported provides clear evidence of continuing commitment to delivering solutions with and for local communities.

What we have done

Local problem solving with communities and partners

Illegal e-scooters and scramblers

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District, elected representatives and local communities raised concerns about the illegal and dangerous use of e-scooters and scramblers. In response, PSNI and the PCSP combined education activity in schools and youth clubs with a coordinated enforcement plan involving Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Local Policing Teams, District Support Teams and the Armed Support Unit.

A targeted operation on 31 July and 1 August 2026 resulted in 23 seizures. Representatives provided positive feedback and a subsequent reduction in reports was identified. A local resident who had raised concerns about

e-scooters and scramblers outside their home was updated on the operation and reported being pleased with the outcome.

The activity demonstrates a partnership approach combining prevention, communication and enforcement in response to a locally identified concern.

Community welfare hub

Also in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District, local officers worked in partnership with the PCSP, council, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and community representatives to develop a welfare hub for a bonfire event. One identified issue was that some attendees, particularly young people, could become vulnerable through intoxication. There was also a risk of violence against women and children involving intoxicated young people. In previous years, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had been required to divert from its core fire safety role to assist vulnerable people. This was particularly challenging in a year when a number of bonfires were scheduled to be lit in succession in Portadown.

Neighbourhood Policing Team officers worked with partners and bonfire representatives to establish a fixed welfare hub close to the event. The local PCSP provided a gazebo and water, while local representatives agreed the location and promoted it through community social media channels in advance. Anyone identified as needing help could be directed to the hub, which was staffed by neighbourhood officers throughout the event.

The welfare hub was supported by local representatives and enabled officers to assist a number of vulnerable people. By taking early and positive action, officers reduced the risk of further harm and ensured that those needing support could be directed to an appropriate place of safety. The hub also allowed the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to remain focused on fire safety and the wider emergency response, while providing an

additional opportunity for neighbourhood officers to engage positively with the local community before and during the event.

Bridge Project

In Fermanagh and Omagh, the Bridge Project delivered a three-year early intervention programme for young people aged 12–14. It was delivered in partnership with Blue Green Yonder and funded through the Asset Recovery Community Scheme.

The programme used adventure based youth work and structured engagement with officers to build resilience and awareness of antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, violence against women and girls, online safety and safer choices. Fifty one of the 52 participants completed the programme. Participant feedback indicated improved relationship based outcomes, increased awareness of violence against women and girls and drug related harm, and increased confidence in neighbourhood policing among participants and their parents or guardians. Engagement with parents and guardians was a key element of the programme, supporting confidence in neighbourhood policing beyond those directly participating.

Road Safe event

Happy Hearts, an older people's advocacy group in the Bellanaleck area of Fermanagh, raised concerns about young drivers and road traffic collisions. In response, PSNI worked with the PCSP, local GAA and Young Farmers' Club networks, Road Victim Support NI, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to deliver a Road Safe event.

The event focused on risks affecting young and rural road users, including speeding, distraction, drink and drug driving, failure to wear seatbelts, fatigue, the risks associated with rural roads and agricultural vehicles, and the importance of challenging unsafe driving behaviour among friends and family.

Young people and families heard personal testimony from a bereaved parent involved with Road Victim Support NI and Donegal, took part in virtual reality and practical road safety activity, and observed a live vehicle rescue and casualty extraction demonstration delivered by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. The event illustrates how a concern raised by a local community group can inform a wider partnership response intended to increase awareness of road risk and promote safer choices.

Youth participation and prevention

In Derry City and Strabane, the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Team supported young people to co-design Calm Before the Storm, a comic book addressing domestic abuse, coercive control, consent and healthy relationships. Delivered with schools, Women's Aid, the PCSP and creative partners, the resource supports discussion and prevention activity in schools and youth settings. It was complemented by a pupil performed play on coercive control. The work provides an example of youth participation and specialist partnership activity designed around young people's needs and experiences.

Strengthening neighbourhood policing and partnership practice

In late June, the Strategic Community Engagement Team delivered a Reference, Engagement and Listening event at Ulster University focused on neighbourhood policing. Discussion included PSNI Connect, the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland recommendation for a Neighbourhood Performance Framework, the training and development needs of neighbourhood officers, and cultural awareness activity delivered through the Police College and Neighbourhood Faculty

The event enabled discussion between policing and stakeholders about neighbourhood policing, community engagement and officer training. It

supported conversations intended to strengthen the quality and consistency of engagement between neighbourhood policing and communities.

This was complemented by the Neighbourhood Policing Conference on 18 June, organised by the Strategic Community Engagement Team and the Police College Neighbourhood Faculty. The conference brought together neighbourhood policing colleagues and community partners, including community representatives who contributed as speakers. It provided an opportunity to recognise strong neighbourhood practice and share learning relevant to the Race and Ethnicity Action Plan and Violence Against Women and Children.

In July, the Strategic Community Engagement Team facilitated a Hydra event with restorative justice partners at PSNI Steeple. The event focused on the day-to-day role of a frontline supervisor, including operational demand and decision making. It enabled partners to better understand the pressures and choices involved in frontline policing, explore opportunities for collaborative working and provide feedback. Positive feedback was received and a further Hydra event is being progressed for October.

The Strategic Community Engagement Team also worked with Corporate Communications to produce protest guidance leaflets in connection with Operation Roadrunner and fuel protests. The leaflets were distributed at the Balmoral Show, providing an opportunity to share accessible information with a farming audience likely to be affected by, or interested in, the issues arising from fuel protests.

Culturally informed engagement

In Fermanagh and Omagh, engagement with the Irish Traveller community has focused on building and sustaining relationships with a community that has historically been described as “hard to reach”. Reframing this as “hardly reached” recognises the responsibility on public services to understand communities, make contact and sustain engagement.

This work includes developing greater understanding of Irish Traveller culture, history and lived experience, and reflecting this in how officers and partners communicate, engage and respond to local concerns. Improved cultural understanding and established communication routes have helped to support earlier intervention, reduce escalation of disputes and challenge stereotypes. This illustrates the importance of culturally informed, sustained engagement in supporting accessible and inclusive local policing.

This work was further supported by a two-day cultural awareness event on 26 and 27 August, facilitated by the Strategic Community Engagement Team with Traveller mediation groups. The event supported engagement with seldom heard voices and developed greater understanding of Traveller community experiences and perspectives.

A cultural awareness event held on the Falls Road in late March focused on the Catholic, Nationalist and Republican community, including the Irish language. It involved representatives from sport, education and language sectors and was designed to support awareness of cultural and linguistic identity and facilitate engagement between policing colleagues and community representatives.

The Strategic Community Engagement Team continues to support engagement with diverse communities and organisations through the Belfast Inter-Ethnic Forum and partner led events. This has included the Equality Commission’s *Tackling Racism, Advancing*

Racial Equality conference and an event hosted by BOMOKO NI concerning support for refugee survivors of torture. This activity contributes to the Service’s work on racial equality and good relations.

The Strategic Community Engagement Team also continues to attend the Police College’s recurring cultural awareness sessions for student officers, alongside community and sector representatives. These sessions support officers’ understanding of community experiences and perspectives while enabling direct engagement with external representatives before attestation.

A Reference, Engagement and Listening event focused on attraction and recruitment is planned for 28 September in Derry/Londonderry. The event will explore barriers to recruitment in the North West and consider how PSNI can work with local partners to support advocacy for policing careers.

Planning is also underway for a Race and Ethnicity Action Plan one-year-on event on 5 October. The event will provide an opportunity to share progress, outline future plans and engage communities and partners on the development of a Community Resource Group.

Events and initiatives are also being developed to mark PSNI 25, including a multi-faith, multi-belief event at Titanic Belfast on 9 November. The event is intended to support dialogue and relationship-building with faith and belief communities.

PSNI Connect

PSNI Connect provides residents, businesses and community organisations with an additional route to receive trusted local information, obtain crime prevention advice, share concerns and participate in engagement opportunities. Initial delivery in Lisburn and Castlereagh, and Newry, Mourne and Down, resulted in more than 1,000 registrations within approximately one month of launch.

The platform is intended to complement face-to-face neighbourhood policing through timely reassurance, targeted messaging and a clear “You Said, We Did” feedback loop. At this early stage, registration numbers demonstrate initial uptake rather than impact. Ongoing evaluation should consider reach and user profile, issues raised, action taken, user feedback, and evidence of whether users feel able to influence local policing priorities and can see a response to concerns raised.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure



2.3 People Feel Safe in Their Community

Unable to Assess

Progress Update

Progress against the safety outcome cannot be fully assessed for this reporting period, as updated survey results are not available.

The Northern Ireland Safer Community Telephone Survey and Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey provide the agreed primary evidence for assessing whether people feel safe in their local community, town centre, at home at night and when walking alone after dark. Updated findings are unavailable for this reporting period. Consequently, this report cannot assess change in overall perceptions of safety using the agreed survey measures.

Police responsiveness is an additional measure for this indicator. The most recent available operational data, for 2025/26, indicates that median arrival times for emergency and priority calls remained within the Service Level Agreement thresholds of 15 and 60 minutes respectively. The median arrival time for emergency calls was 12.37 minutes, broadly unchanged from 12.38 minutes in 2024/25. The median arrival time for priority calls reduced from 44.15 minutes in 2024/25 to 40.75 minutes in 2025/26.

This indicates that police responsiveness was maintained for emergency calls and improved for priority calls during 2025/26. It does not, however, establish a change in how safe people feel.

What we have done

In the absence of updated survey findings, the following examples provide evidence of activity undertaken to address locally identified safety concerns. They demonstrate delivery and local problem solving but are not a substitute for the agreed impact measures.

Dervock: Community led response to graffiti, antisocial behaviour and community tension

Over a number of years, Dervock experienced ongoing graffiti, antisocial behaviour and associated community tension. Between January 2023 and April 2026, 15 graffiti incidents were recorded in the area, all of which were believed to be linked. The location had no CCTV coverage and was not overlooked, creating conditions that enabled repeated offending and contributed to anxiety, unrest and reduced confidence within the community.

Since January 2026, officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams have worked with partners on a problem solving response to address the issue and develop a longer-term, community led solution. Officers worked closely with the PCSP, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, elected representatives and local community groups to identify a practical response. They helped to secure PCSP funding to clean the affected area and develop a series of murals celebrating Dervock's heritage.

Community representatives and local organisations worked alongside police and statutory partners to shape and deliver the project. Twelve murals are now in place, celebrating local heritage and creating a positive shared community space. The project has transformed a location associated with graffiti and antisocial behaviour into a space intended to promote pride, respect and shared ownership. It provides an example of how neighbourhood policing and multi-agency collaboration can support communities to develop practical local solutions to issues affecting safety, confidence and community cohesion.

Drugs and antisocial behaviour in Portadown

Two addresses were identified by the Neighbourhood Policing Team as being associated with drug use, suspected drug supply and antisocial behaviour within a close knit community in Portadown. Residents had lost confidence in local authorities.

PSNI, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and community representatives arranged an open meeting for residents to discuss the impact of the issues and identify actions. This provided the opportunity for direct contact between residents, police and the Housing Executive, strengthened partnership working and led to agreement on a number of practical local actions.

The response combined clearer reporting routes and contact with neighbourhood officers, joint PSNI and Housing Executive visits, targeted patrols and information sharing between partners. Reports increased as residents were supported to report concerns, enabling police and partners to build a clearer picture of the issues and respond consistently.

Enforcement and tenancy action followed. A prosecution file was submitted to the Public Prosecution Service and one resident ended their tenancy with the Housing Executive by agreement, while another was subsequently evicted through an abandonment notice.

The approach strengthened joint understanding of the respective roles and processes of PSNI and the Housing Executive. Residents have subsequently welcomed police patrols and reported improved perceptions of policing, alongside greater confidence in reporting concerns and sharing information.

Candahar Lodge: Reducing antisocial behaviour and improving resident safety

South Belfast police responded to persistent antisocial behaviour at the Candahar Lodge social housing development through problem solving, enhanced visibility, improved investigative approaches and mediation.

The activity addressed concerns raised by residents about antisocial behaviour and its impact on safety within the development. Since the intervention, a reduction in recorded antisocial behaviour incidents has been noted.

Broadway Action Plan: Multi-agency response to interface related disorder

Broadway is an interface area between the Village in South Belfast and St James in West Belfast. The area experienced sustained antisocial behaviour, disorder, assaults and criminal damage, with police responding to 730 calls between 2024 and 2025. Incidents involved children and young people engaged

in cross community fighting and sectarian territorialism, with the Red Bridge identified as a hotspot location.

The community became increasingly frustrated with the policing response, and concerns extended to football and music events in the area. In April 2025, local police supported South and West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to develop a multi-agency response through the Broadway Action Plan.

The plan focused on four strands: engagement; diversion; environment; and mobility and transport. It included increased visible policing, foot patrols, youth outreach through programmes such as Street Safe, new CCTV and alley gates funded by the Department of Justice, work with Translink to manage youth travel, improved internal police radio links and community town hall meetings.

Operational feedback indicates that the partnership approach has reduced police demand, supported diversion away from harm and improved communication with the community. Partners within the Broadway Steering Group have taken greater ownership of the response, strengthening shared accountability for emerging issues. The position remains subject to risk, particularly following the suspension of detached youth provision from April 2026 pending new funding arrangements.

Safer streets and the night time economy

PSNI has continued to develop Project Vigilant and Safer Streets activity to address violence and fear of violence in public spaces, particularly in the night time economy and in locations where women and girls report feeling unsafe.

Project Vigilant, which launched in Derry City and Strabane in October 2025, is a preventative policing initiative forming part of PSNI's wider response to Violence Against Women and Girls. It uses specially trained plain clothes officers, supported by uniformed colleagues and

engagement with licensed venues, security staff and partners, to identify concerning or potentially predatory behaviour and intervene where risk is identified.

Since the pilot launched, specially trained plain clothes officers have made 52 interventions, resulting in four arrests for offences including common assault, upskirting and indecent exposure. Other interventions have supported vulnerable women and girls to get home safely and enabled officers to record details in respect of individuals displaying potentially predatory behaviour. Deployments have taken place in Derry City during the Halloween Festival, at the Fleadh in Belfast, at Boucher Road concerts and in Belfast city centre.

Safer Streets Walk and Talk events continue to provide an opportunity for community members to identify locations where they feel unsafe and explain the factors contributing to those concerns, including poor lighting, limited visibility, antisocial behaviour and environmental conditions. Feedback is recorded to inform local patrol planning, hotspot mapping and referrals to relevant partners, including councils.

To date, 13 Walk and Talk events have taken place across Northern Ireland, with around 20 participants at each event. Reported outcomes include repairs to lighting, council action in relation to abandoned vehicles and referrals concerning derelict properties.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate our continuing commitment to listening to community experience, identifying risks early and working with partners to deliver practical measures that support safer public spaces and a safer night-time economy.

Reassurance and engagement with communities affected by hate crime

Following the hate crime incident at Moygashel on 10 July, the Strategic Community Engagement Team facilitated an online briefing involving diverse communities and the Service Executive Team. The engagement enabled communities to receive updates, seek reassurance and communicate their expectations of the policing response.

Community feedback recognised the prompt arrest of a suspect and the treatment of the incident as a hate crime, while seeking reassurance that all suspected offending would be addressed robustly.

The Strategic Community Engagement Team also maintained engagement with the Jewish community following UK and international incidents that caused concern locally. The team and North Belfast District Policing Area remained in contact with community leaders, while relevant information was provided to the National Community Tensions Team. Community representatives publicly acknowledged the support received from PSNI.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure

2.4 The Effectiveness in Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitaries and Serious and Organised Crime Groups



Adequate Progress

Progress Update

Terrorism, paramilitary linked criminality and serious and organised crime continue to pose significant and dynamic risks to communities. PSNI and partners have maintained an active response focused on identifying, investigating and disrupting those individuals and networks presenting the greatest risk. This has included major organised crime disruptions, seizures of drugs and criminal cash, targeted action against terrorist and paramilitary linked individuals, and criminal justice outcomes.

The position remains mixed. While there is evidence of increased OCG disruption activity and significant criminal justice outcomes, reductions in some enforcement and safeguarding measures require continued scrutiny. The terrorist threat level remains SUBSTANTIAL, meaning that an attack is likely.

Current position

Threat and risk posed by terrorism, paramilitaries and organised crime groups

The capacity and capability of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) is assessed individually through the Organised Crime Group Management Board and the Management of

Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) process. This supports a consistent approach to prioritising those groups which pose the greatest risk and harm.

There are currently 47 OCGs under investigation, alongside two tactical vulnerabilities. Three thematic risks have also been recorded to support the management of key crime categories across Northern Ireland and inform longer term prevention and strategic planning.

The terrorist threat level remains SUBSTANTIAL. While overall Northern Ireland related terrorism activity is assessed as decreasing, the reporting period included a rise in significant incidents, including proxy device attacks on Lurgan and Dunmurry police stations in March and April 2026. An Garda Síochána also recovered component parts of an explosive device in July 2026 which were believed to be destined for Northern Ireland.

Investigations relating to Extreme Right Wing Terrorism and Extreme Islamic Terrorism continue to increase. Paramilitary linked criminality also continues to pose a risk to communities through violence, intimidation and associated criminal activity.

Charges and reports recorded in connection with OCG investigations

Between 1 April and 31 July 2026, 47 people were charged or reported in connection with OCG investigations. This represents a reduction of 32.86% compared with the same period in the previous year.

Disruptions and their Impact

Between 1 April and 31 July 2026, 196 disruptions were recorded in relation to OCG activity, compared with 191 during the same period in the previous year. This represents an increase of 2.6%, including two additional major disruptions. More than 90% of disruptions recorded were assessed within the Pursue strand, with eight assessed as having a major impact.

The value of drugs seized increased by 8.25%, while cash seized under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act increased by 211.19%. These measures demonstrate continued action to reduce the ability of criminal networks to access commodities, finances and infrastructure.

There were reductions in arrests, searches, weapons and firearms seized, and children safeguarded during the same period. The number of adults safeguarded increased. These trends require continued monitoring alongside disruption activity and the assessment of risk posed by OCGs.

Targeted disruption activity has reduced the capability of identified individuals and networks by removing access to drugs, criminal cash, firearms, ammunition and other material likely to facilitate offending.



Terrorism investigations and criminal justice outcomes

During 2026 to date, 14 arrests have been made in connection with Northern Ireland related terrorism, including two individuals charged following attacks on police stations. A further three people have been charged in connection with Northern Ireland related terrorism investigations.

There have also been nine arrests arising from Extreme Right Wing Terrorism and Extreme Islamic Terrorism investigations. One person has been charged, with a number of adult and juvenile cases reported to the Public Prosecution Service for consideration.

Officers from the Terrorism Investigation Unit have conducted more than 30 searches linked to Northern Ireland related terrorism and nine searches relating to Extreme Right Wing Terrorism and Extreme Islamic Terrorism. These searches resulted in the seizure of firearms, ammunition and other items assessed as capable of supporting terrorist activity. Two individuals suspected of breaching Treasury led financial sanctions were interviewed and reported to the Public Prosecution Service.

What we have done

Disrupting a significant suspected drug supply network

On 23 and 24 June 2026, Organised Crime Branch detectives and supporting officers searched nine locations across Counties Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Each location contained an operational cannabis cultivation site.

Cannabis plants with an estimated street value of £1.1 million were seized initially, followed by a further estimated £257,000 worth of plants. Sixteen people were arrested, including 14 on suspicion of drug related offences and two on suspicion of possessing counterfeit currency. To date, 11 people have been charged. The

investigation remains ongoing and has disrupted a significant suspected drug supply network.

Tackling paramilitary linked criminality

On 7 July 2026, a man linked to East Belfast UVF was sentenced at Belfast Crown Court for possession of explosives and possession of a firearm in suspicious circumstances.

The outcome followed a Paramilitary Crime Task Force investigation, including searches and an arrest. A pipe bomb, imitation handgun, silencer, magazine and assorted handgun and rifle ammunition were recovered, alongside UVF branded clothing. A Serious Crime Prevention Order was also secured and will apply on the individual's release from custody, providing further safeguards against future harm to communities.

Terrorism Criminal Justice Outcome

In May 2026, a 31-year-old man was convicted of attempted murder of police and related offences following a trial. The conviction related to a roadside bomb attack against a police patrol in Strabane in November 2022. The device contained high explosive RDX and the attack was claimed by the New IRA.

The individual remains in custody pending sentencing. The outcome demonstrates the continued commitment to investigate and bring to justice those involved in terrorist attacks against police and the wider community.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure

2.5 The Effectiveness in Tackling Repeat Offending

Adequate Progress

Progress Update

For the rolling 365 days to 12 August 2026, 2,968 of 12,965 offenders were identified as repeat offenders, representing a rate of 22.9%. There were 234 repeat offenders linked to six or more offences.

What we have done

Repeat Offending Approach

PSNI continues to apply a whole Service approach to repeat offending, incorporating investigation, offender management, disruption, prevention and partnership support. This includes activity

undertaken by local policing, specialist teams and partner agencies to identify and manage people whose offending causes repeated harm to victims and communities.

Prevention activity seeks to support desistance among suitable people identified as emerging or established repeat offenders, alongside enforcement and timely investigation where further offending is suspected.

The baseline set by the policing board as at the 31st March 2025 was 3,171 offenders with a 22.3% repeat offending rate. The number of repeat offenders as of 12th August was 2,968 offenders and a rate of 22.9%.

December 2025 Outcome 2 Report			August 2026		
Total Offenders	Repeat Offenders	Repeat Offending Rate	Total Offenders	Repeat Offenders	Repeat Offending Rate
12,108	2,759	21.3%	12,965	2,968	22.9%

Number of Crimes Linked to	20+	8	Number of Crimes Linked to	20+	2
	10-19	56		10-19	51
	6-9	158		6-9	181
	3-5	938		3-5	1,030
	2	1,599		2	1,704

Custody Navigators Pilot

The Custody Navigators pilot commenced on 8 June 2026 and is scheduled to run until the end of March 2027. It is delivered at Antrim Custody Suite in partnership with the Education Authority Youth Service.

The pilot uses the period following arrest as an opportunity to offer eligible 18–25-year-olds voluntary, person centred support. Referrals are subject to an individual assessment of suitability, taking account of custody risk assessments, care plans, relevant flags and warnings, and the person's level of engagement. Some serious offences, including homicide, rape and serious sexual offences, are excluded.

Support includes safety planning, mentoring, advocacy and goal setting. The pilot operates separately from the criminal justice process and is intended to strengthen resilience and support desistance among those willing to engage.

Since the pilot began, 22 referrals have been received. Eighteen people received an introduction in their cell, with 14 taking part in a one-to-one supportive conversation in custody. Eleven accepted, or expressed an interest in, follow up support, and two have engaged with support in the community.

It is too early to assess the pilot's impact on repeat offending. While no participant feedback is yet available, partners have welcomed the progress made in establishing the pilot. The Education Authority has commissioned Queen's University Belfast to evaluate the pilot.

Youth Justice Agency and PSNI Partnership Casework

Joint work involving PSNI, the Youth Justice Agency and Health Trusts demonstrates the importance of a coordinated and safeguarding led response to young people involved in serious drug related harm within a care setting.

In one case, a young person was identified through the Youth Justice Agency and PSNI partnership arrangements following serious drug related concerns within a care environment. Partners worked together to manage immediate safeguarding risks, agree suitable supported accommodation and maintain structured engagement following release from custody.

Continued contact with the young person, alongside support from the Youth Justice Agency and Health Trust, helped to promote rehabilitation, education and more positive engagement with services. The young person has engaged in Maths and English night classes, and officers continue to work with them to identify further constructive activities and support.

The case demonstrates how public protection, accountability and sustained multi-agency support can be combined to reduce the risk of further offending and harm.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure

2.6 The Effectiveness of Working in Partnership to Reduce Road Deaths and Serious Injury on our Roads

Limited Progress

Progress Update

Road safety remains a strategic priority for PSNI and we continue to work with partners to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads through enforcement, prevention, education and legislative development

Current position

The 2026 year to date data is concerning and provides a sufficiently clear indication that the intended reduction in road deaths is not currently being achieved.

During 2025, there were 5,015 road traffic collisions, 56 people killed and 1,066 people seriously injured. The longer-term trend shows that the number of people seriously injured increased by 29% between 2016 and 2025. Northern Ireland also had the highest rate of killed or seriously injured casualties, adjusted for population, when compared with the rest of the UK.

Between 1 January and 24 August 2026, there were 41 fatal road traffic collisions resulting in 46 deaths. Four collisions involved multiple fatalities. This represents an increase of around 50% compared with the equivalent period in 2025.

Drivers accounted for the highest number of road user deaths, with 15 fatalities compared with eight during the equivalent period in 2025. Pedestrians accounted for the second highest number, with 11 deaths compared with eight in the same period last year.

South Area accounted for 22 deaths, or 48% of all fatalities, an increase of 10 compared with the equivalent period in 2025. North Area recorded 19 fatalities and Belfast City five. Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, Causeway Coast and Glens and Fermanagh and Omagh each recorded seven fatalities, increases of three, four and six respectively. Derry City and Strabane recorded no fatalities, the same as during the equivalent period in 2025. Thirty two fatalities, or 70%, occurred on rural roads; 13, or 28%, occurred on urban roads; and one occurred on a motorway or dual carriageway.

The available data indicates that road deaths have increased significantly during the reporting period. While enforcement, education and partnership activity continue, these actions have not yet translated into a reduction in fatalities. Continued scrutiny is required, particularly in relation to rural roads, driver behaviour and the areas experiencing the greatest increase in deaths.

This is not a final annual assessment. Validated year end information will be required to assess progress fully against the previous year, including total road traffic collisions, serious injuries, Fatal Five related killed or seriously injured casualties, motoring offence outcomes and comparative performance.

What we have done

The following activity demonstrates the continuing PSNI and partner response to the current road safety position. It provides evidence of enforcement, prevention, education and system wide collaboration, but does not in itself demonstrate a reduction in road deaths or serious injuries.

A 2026/27 Road Safety Control Strategy has been developed through the Service Tasking and Co-ordination Group. It includes 19 interventions, including:

- TRUcam2 pilot scheme;
- Community Lifesaver - the community version of Operation Lifesaver;
- Continued use of Kids Courts through neighbourhood teams;
- Operation Lifesaver as daily business, with a number of UK police services now replicating the approach;
- Continuation of the drugwipe project, although limited funding and Forensic Science Northern Ireland capacity constrain expansion and
- A completed peer review by the Metropolitan Police Service with its report awaited.

Operation Lifesaver was delivered between 27 and 31 July 2026 as a targeted enforcement operation focused on speeding and other behaviours associated with serious and fatal collisions. It combined Northern Ireland Road

Safety Partnership safety camera activity with targeted PSNI enforcement.

During the operation, 2,114 speeding detections were recorded alongside 411 further road traffic offences:

Offence	Detections
Careless driving	66
Construction and use offences	59
No insurance	82
Drink or drug driving	19
Failure to wear a seat-belt	22
Mobile-phone use while driving	20

These detections demonstrate the scale of unsafe behaviour identified through targeted enforcement.

Powered transporters, commonly known as e-scooters, remain a significant challenge. Work is being accelerated to clarify the PSNI position, recognising the differing circumstances of children, commuters and those involved in antisocial behaviour or criminality. This includes clear operational instructions for call handlers and frontline officers, and clarification of arrangements for seizure, retention and disposal.

Despite the various pressures across the Service, road safety remains a priority in every District Policing Plan.

Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership

The Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership made 87,443 detections for excess speed in 2025, an increase of 4% on 2024 and the highest total since the partnership was established.

The Partnership's 2026–2032 Enforcement Strategy will move from a mainly mobile model to a more technology enabled and intelligence led approach. During 2026/27, core safety camera operations will continue while preparations are made for fleet renewal, potential upgrades to average speed systems, coordinated Speed Indicator Device deployment and expanded TruCam use with PSNI Roads Policing.

From 2027, the Partnership will identify new camera technologies. From 2028, it intends to introduce a hybrid model using mobile, portable and fixed enforcement technology, including potential fixed speed and red light cameras and, subject to approval, technology to detect distracted driving.

The Partnership also continues to support education and prevention. The Road Safe Roadshow engaged 5,375 people during 2025. The Partnership provides support for road education activity and works with DfI on public awareness campaigns.

Collaboration and legislative development

The Northern Ireland Strategic Road Safety Forum brings partners together to progress the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2030. A related five-year action plan is now in place. Working groups have been established to focus on:

- operational deployments;
- external education;
- data; and
- identification of good practice.

Road safety remains one of four key operational priorities in the 2025–2028 Cross Border Strategy. PSNI and An Garda Síochána are identifying cross border legislative barriers and gathering information to inform the respective justice departments. This work also supports cross border enforcement and all island road safety education initiatives.

Work with the Department for Infrastructure and other partners is progressing in relation to:

- review of speed limits — public consultation has concluded and a report is awaited;
- Graduated Driver Licensing — implementation is anticipated from October 2026;
- reduction of drink drive limits and drug driving thresholds — public consultations are expected;
- increase in speeding fines above the current £60 level — public consultation is expected, with a graduated response recommended; and
- Speed Indicator Device guidance — agreed between the Department for Infrastructure, Department of Justice, PCSPs, Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership and PSNI.

A two-year partnership with Business in the Community has engaged 1,200 people. This complements wider communications and prevention activity, including Fatal Five, More than a Statistic and Operation Lifesaver messaging.

Local partnership activity

Partnership activity continues to support prevention at a local level. This includes Road Safe events involving PSNI, PCSPs, community organisations, Road Victim Support NI, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

In August, PSNI worked with the family of a man killed in a motorcycle collision to deliver a social media campaign highlighting the lasting human impact of road deaths and the importance of motorcycle safety. Neighbourhood initiatives such as Kids Courts and Community Lifesaver remain ongoing and support community focused road safety engagement and prevention activity.

Progress Updates Against Impact Measure



2.7 Working in Partnership to Effectively Tackle Cyber Crime

Limited Progress

Progress Update

PSNI has continued to develop its response to cybercrime through partnership working, prevention and protection activity, specialist investigation and digital-forensics improvement.

However, progress remains limited by the absence of a consistent criminal justice outcomes dataset, continuing demand for digital-forensic examination, and funding related delays to key elements of the Cyber Transformation Project. These constraints limit the ability to demonstrate improved outcomes for victims and the criminal justice system.

It is not possible to demonstrate trends in criminal justice outcomes because cyber is not a defined crime type. The absence of data on online fraud, sextortion and digital-forensics waiting times also limits the ability to assess impact against the full range of Policing Plan measures.

What we have done

Improving the policing response

PSNI continues to work with An Garda Síochána, the National Crime Agency, the Northern Ireland Cyber Security Centre and other public, private and community sector partners to prevent, investigate and mitigate cybercrime.

Exercise Ludgate, the annual PSNI and An Garda Síochána cross border exercise, tested joint responses to cyber-attacks affecting both jurisdictions. The 2026 exercise considered both cyber dependent and cyber enabled offending and supported joint preparedness, information sharing and proactive activity.

During the reporting period, Cyber Prevent delivered 33 presentations and eight engagement sessions. Cyber Protect delivered 89 engagements and presentations across public and private sector organisations, and had contact with 204 local victims of cybercrime. These figures demonstrate delivery and reach but do not, on their own, evidence reduced victimisation or improved criminal justice outcomes.

Cyber Prevent activity included Cyber Choices presentations in primary, secondary and tertiary educational establishments, designed to support young people to make lawful and informed use of their digital skills. Cyber Protect activity included work with charities and community groups; the Northern Ireland Assembly in response to a phishing campaign; and three public sector organisations identified as being targeted by Distributed Denial of Service attacks.

Specialist cyber investigators took ownership of 12 cyber dependent investigations during the reporting period. They also provided operational support across PSNI, including cryptocurrency tracing, advanced open source enquiries, online evidence preservation and support to wider investigations. This assists with suspect identification and preservation of evidential opportunities.

Emerging threats

Unauthorised access, including the misuse of retained system access by former employees, remains a risk for businesses and organisations. Cyber officers have dealt with a number of such cases, with several suspects arrested and currently on bail. This reinforces the importance of effective access control and employee leaver processes.

“Com” group offending is an emerging international concern. These transnational online communities, often involving teenagers and young adults, operate on encrypted and mainstream online platforms and can be associated with high harm offending carried out for status, notoriety or influence. PSNI is investigating a number of cases involving suspects in Northern Ireland, requiring a coordinated investigative, safeguarding and prevention response.

Ransomware remains a significant threat because of its potential impact on businesses, public services and communities. Four ransomware incidents have been recorded in 2026 to date, compared with 13 in 2025. As the 2026 figure covers only part of the year, this does not establish a trend.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of Ransomware Incidents	21	11	6	9	13	4

Digital forensics capability and demand

Demand for digital-forensic examination continues to exceed available capacity, creating a risk to the timely progression of investigations. The Digital Forensics Unit has restructured its services, recruited replacement officers, introduced automation for Indecent Images of Children examinations and secured targeted outsourcing for a number of these examinations. Automation is now standard practice for this crime type and is being tested for wider use.

These measures are intended to improve the extraction and assessment of material from digital devices, reduce unnecessary examination activity and support more timely progression of cases.

Progress has been made through restructuring, recruitment, automation and outsourcing. However, implementation of the Review Platform and Kiosk/ Smart lockers remains delayed because required funding is unavailable, limiting the full benefits of the Cyber Transformation Project.

Disrupting cyber dependent offending

Cyber Investigators arrested a Northern Ireland based suspect who created a website and illicit ticketing application intended to enable users to evade payment for a public sector service. Investigators removed the platform and identified the creator, preventing further use of the application and associated financial loss.

Following the UK takedown of the Genesis Marketplace, Cyber officers completed investigations into the possession and use of stolen databases capable of being used

for fraud. Two Northern Ireland suspects remain within the court process, while a juvenile identified as being involved received a caution.

Cyber Investigators also contributed to a National Crime Agency coordinated operation following the takedown of the SecurityHide Distributed Denial of Service grouping. Three suspects were identified by PSNI investigators. One was subject to a search based disruption, with enquiries ongoing, and two further subjects were identified in England. This activity was supported by '*cease and desist*' interventions for a further seven Northern Ireland based individuals.

PSNI continues to progress enquiries into the Digitalstress Distributed Denial of Service grouping as part of the wider Operation Power Off response. The investigation involves continued engagement with law enforcement partners regarding suspect identification and victim detection. A complex investigation into a principal suspect within Northern Ireland is ongoing.

Good News and Key Updates

Victim Focused

This month's update reflects the continued commitment of Officers and Staff to protecting victims, improving access to support and pursuing those responsible for causing harm. Across the Service work remains focused on listening to victims, responding with compassion and professionalism and using every available opportunity to secure safeguarding and justice outcomes.

Domestic abuse remains a significant area of demand and harm. In 2025/26, 18,748 domestic abuse crimes were recorded representing 23.5% of all victim based crime. There were also 31,558 domestic abuse incidents which is a 6.1% increase on the previous year. Violence against the person remains the largest domestic abuse crime category while stalking and harassment increased by 6.6% and sexual offences increased by 16%. This reinforces the importance of a coordinated response that recognises the patterns of coercion, control and repeat harm that can sit behind individual incidents.

A Joint Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Group, supported by a Tactical Domestic Abuse Delivery Group, has now been established across Public Protection Branch and Local Policing. Its focus includes improving evidential and file quality, identifying child aggravators, strengthening supervisory reviews and reducing avoidable attrition. A new supervisor template is also being rolled out across districts to support consistent oversight of domestic abuse investigations.

We are continuing to strengthen the support available to victims at the highest risk. A revised Public Protection Notification process has been

introduced, alongside Central Referral Unit oversight of high risk DASH assessments. Work is also progressing on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Risk Register and on preparations for Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders. The Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) Level 1 referral process following conviction is now operational. Collectively, these measures are intended to support earlier identification of risk, better management of perpetrators and a reduction in repeat harm.

The Belfast Domestic Abuse Pilot Court is due to begin in September. This will provide an important opportunity to consider whether a more focused approach can improve the timeliness of cases, support better progression through the justice system and enhance the experience of victims. The joint PSNI/PPS Serious Sexual Offences Strategy will also launch later in September, supporting further improvements in case quality, victim experience and criminal justice timeliness where serious sexual offending occurs, including within intimate and familial relationships.

Recent outcomes demonstrate the impact of determined, evidence led investigation. In one case, a female perpetrator was sentenced to 39 months for attempted grievous bodily harm with intent and other offences. Although the male victim initially described the incident as accidental and did not support a prosecution, CCTV evidence enabled officers to establish the circumstances and progress the investigation. This demonstrates the importance of recognising male victimisation and pursuing evidence led opportunities where a victim may be unable or unwilling to support action.

In a separate case, a male perpetrator received a sentence of six years and five months, together with a five-year restraining order, following convictions for grievous bodily harm with intent and common assault. Another offender received a 36 month sentence, half in custody and half on licence, for harassment and domestic abuse against his wife following an eight-year pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. These cases reflect the importance of identifying patterns of offending and responding robustly to high-harm domestic abuse.

In August, Detectives also responded to a serious domestic abuse incident in the Short Strand area of Belfast. Officers located a woman who had been held at an address for several days and injured with a knife. Through the engagement and persistence of attending detectives, the victim was able to disclose further detail about the violent relationship she had experienced. The suspect was subsequently charged and remanded for 16 offences, including attempted murder, domestic abuse, threats to kill and three counts of non-fatal strangulation. The case demonstrates the value of trauma-aware engagement, careful safeguarding and early investigative action in high-risk circumstances.

We are also improving how people can provide information and receive updates from police. A new Witness Appeals module went live through Online Reporting on 24 June. The streamlined process allows members of the public to submit contact details, a short account of what they witnessed and any evidence that may assist an investigation, without having to complete a full online incident report or wait on a 101 call queue. More than 100 submissions have already been received, providing valuable information and evidence in investigations including a fatal road traffic collision and a murder.

The Service has also been developing an extension of SMS updates to reporting persons across the majority of incident types. People who contact police through 999 or 101 will receive their reference number, relevant investigating-officer details where appropriate, and a link to

the My PSNI Portal. Where attendance is not required, the update will still provide a reference number and a route to submit further information. This will provide early acknowledgement, improve communication and make it easier for people to remain connected to their report.

Our work to safeguard children and young people continues to develop. The local National Referral Mechanism decision making pilot for children has been extended for a further 12 months. This enables multi-agency panels in Northern Ireland to consider Reasonable and Conclusive Grounds decisions for child victims locally, rather than through the central Home Office Single Competent Authority. The pilot supports a more locally informed, multi-agency approach involving policing, health and other safeguarding partners.

Public Protection Branch, the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and Queen's University Belfast are also progressing a Child Criminal Exploitation screening tool. The pilot phase has concluded and its learning will inform the development of a practical risk assessment tool for officers across the Service. Alongside this, PSNI is engaging with the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and Ulster University to improve understanding of the county lines threat and strengthen the organisational response to children at risk of criminal exploitation.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation remains a key safeguarding priority. Updated guidance for investigating officers and first responders has been made available on the Service intranet, supported by a Person of Concern strategy and an intelligence strategy. The Service is also rolling out continuing professional development for officers. An e-learning package, peer reviewed by the Hydrant Programme and updated in response to feedback, will be introduced as mandatory training for officers. This will support consistent

identification of risk, safeguarding and investigative practice across the organisation.

PSNI is also contributing to Operation Beaconport, the national review of previously closed investigations involving potential group based child sexual abuse and exploitation. Phase 1 considered cases dating back to 2010 that met the national criteria of two or more suspects and two or more victims, no PSNI cases met the threshold for group based offending. Phase 2 is now reviewing approximately 1,700 historical cases involving two or more suspects and at least one victim. While no cases have yet met the national threshold this important work remains ongoing and any case identified will be assessed for further action.

A recent sentencing also demonstrated the Service's commitment to protecting vulnerable adults. In July, a woman was sentenced to two years' probation and 100 hours' community service for seven counts of ill-treatment of a person with a mental disorder. The investigation began after reports that videos of vulnerable adults had been taken and shared with demeaning comments. This was the first conviction of its kind in Northern Ireland and reflects the importance of taking seriously the exploitation and humiliation of people who may be less able to protect themselves.

Community Focused

Local and specialist policing teams continue to make a practical difference to community safety through visible enforcement, targeted prevention and disruption of those who cause harm.

Operation Lifesaver, a five day road safety operation between 27 and 31 July focused on speeding and behaviours linked to serious and fatal collisions. The operation resulted in 2,132 speeding detections and a further 308 road traffic offences. These included 59 detections for careless driving, 45 for no insurance, 18 for drink or drug driving, 18 for failing to wear a seatbelt and 15 for mobile-phone use while driving.

The seriousness of some of the speeds detected illustrates the risks faced by all road users. They included a restricted driver travelling at 62mph in a 30mph limit in Poyntzpass, a vehicle travelling at 90mph in a 30mph limit in Glenariff, 105mph in a 60mph limit at Nutts Corner, and 145mph on the M1 where the driver was also not wearing a seatbelt. At the time of the operation, 44 people had died on Northern Ireland's roads since the start of the year. The operation reinforces the continued focus on the Fatal Five: speeding, mobile-phone use, drink or drug driving, distraction and failure to wear a seatbelt.

Road safety messaging has also focused on the human impact of collisions. During August, PSNI worked with the family of a man who died in a motorcycle collision ten years ago to produce a video showing the lasting effect of his death on family and friends, including the significant family milestones he has missed. The social media campaign received very positive engagement and provided a powerful reminder that the consequences of road deaths extend far beyond the point of collision.

We continue to respond to public concern about unsafe and antisocial e-scooter use. Updated guidance has been provided to frontline officers to support a consistent and proportionate approach. Officers will assess each incident on its facts with priority given to danger to pedestrians and road users, injury collisions or near misses, repeat antisocial behaviour, criminality and unsafe vehicles.

Alongside enforcement where appropriate, the Service will continue to work with schools, councils, youth services, transport partners and local communities to promote awareness, prevention and safer use of public spaces. Current legislation predates the widespread use of e-scooters and other powered transporters, creating practical challenges for riders, the public and enforcement agencies. PSNI will continue to engage with partners and

oversight bodies on the need for a clear and practical legal framework.

The Guns and Knives Ruin Lives programme continues to grow, supporting prevention through education and early engagement. The programme has now delivered 31 events and reached approximately 4,000 young people, primarily aged between 13 and 18. With external sponsorship and further funding secured, there is ambition to deliver around 50 events in the coming year. By helping young people understand the consequences of carrying weapons, the programme supports a wider approach to preventing violence before harmful behaviour becomes established.

Our work to disrupt organised crime continues to protect communities from the harm caused by drugs, fraud, intimidation and paramilitary-linked activity.

During June, Organised Crime Branch detectives and supporting officers identified nine operational cannabis factories across Counties Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Cannabis with an estimated collective street value of approximately £1.36 million was seized, 16 people were arrested and 11 men have since been charged. This significant intelligence-led investigation continues to disrupt a substantial suspected drug supply network.

Targeted operations have also resulted in substantial drug seizures. In early August, Detectives seized approximately 14kg of suspected cocaine with an estimated street value of £1.12 million, alongside suspected herbal cannabis valued at around £15,000. Four people were charged and a further individual was released on bail pending enquiries. These operations remove harmful commodities from circulation and disrupt the organised groups who profit from their supply.

The Paramilitary Crime Task Force has also continued to take action against those linked to paramilitary related criminality. A recent search in Antrim recovered suspected Class A and Class B drugs and cash as part of an investigation into

activity linked to Belfast INLA. A man was arrested on suspicion of drugs, money laundering and child cruelty offences after suspected controlled drugs were found concealed in a young child's bedroom. This case illustrates the wider safeguarding impact of organised criminality and the importance of protecting children from exposure to it.

Strong justice outcomes have been secured against an organised fraud group who posed as police officers to target older people across Belfast, Antrim and Down. Six men were sentenced following a complex investigation into fraud, money laundering and criminal property offences. Approximately £190,000 in cash and jewellery valued at around £15,000 had been obtained from victims. The sentences demonstrate the determination to protect those targeted because of their vulnerability and to hold offenders accountable.

Further outcomes include the sentencing of a man linked to East Belfast UVF for possession of explosives and a firearm in suspicious circumstances. The Paramilitary Crime Task Force investigation recovered a pipe bomb, imitation handgun, silencer, ammunition and other items from an address. A Serious Crime Prevention Order will take effect on the offender's release, providing an additional means of disrupting any continued harm to communities.

Cyber crime continues to affect individuals, businesses and public services, and the Service is responding through prevention, protection and investigation. Cyber officers have delivered 33 Cyber Prevent presentations, eight further engagement sessions with education institutions and community groups, and 89 Cyber Protect engagements across public and private-sector organisations. They have also carried out 204 engagements with cyber victims, offering practical support and advice following incidents.

The Service continues to work closely with partners across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Exercise Ludgate, the annual PSNI and An Garda Síochána cross-border cyber exercise, took place in Dublin and tested collaborative responses to simulated cyber-attacks affecting both jurisdictions. This work strengthens relationships, develops shared learning and supports preparedness for an increasingly complex threat environment.

Cyber investigators have also provided operational support in cases beyond cyber dependent crime, including cryptocurrency tracing, advanced open-source enquiries, online evidence capture and suspect identification. This capability increasingly assists investigations across the Service and supports the preservation of evidence in a rapidly changing digital environment.

Workforce Focused

The Service continues to invest in the skills, specialist capabilities and support that enable officers and staff to respond effectively to changing operational demands.

The PSNI Dog Section has introduced a new accredited training programme to establish a specialist Digi-Dog capability. Developed in partnership with Operational Support Department colleagues the training enables specialist dogs to locate concealed digital devices including mobile phones, SIM cards, tracking devices and drones. These devices can contain critical evidence but may be deliberately hidden in homes, vehicles and other locations.

Digi-Dog capability builds on the established role played by the Dog Section in locating suspects, searching property, recovering evidence and responding to high-risk incidents. It reflects the changing nature of crime and the increasing importance of digital evidence in modern investigations. The investment combines the expertise of handlers and their dogs with the evolving needs of technology enabled policing.

In July the Service marked the graduation of 13 Police Staff Investigators at Garnerville Policing College. This is an important milestone and a welcome addition to investigative capacity across the organisation. Police Staff Investigators will support the progression of criminal investigations through stages that do not require the full range of police powers helping teams maintain momentum and deliver timely outcomes for victims. Working towards PIP2 accreditation and operating to high professional standards these colleagues will bring additional capability to investigative teams while allowing warranted officers to focus on work requiring their specific powers and expertise. Their graduation reflects the contribution of Police Staff to frontline delivery and the continued development of a modern and sustainable workforce.

The Service's Digital Forensic Unit continues to develop its approach to digital evidence which is increasingly central to a broad range of investigations. Following a restructuring of teams, the Unit now includes dedicated data acquisition, scene attendance, CCTV, and analysis, innovation and reporting functions. Automation technology, already established for indecent images of children examinations, is being tested in other crime types. This has potential to increase efficiency, enable processes to operate continuously and allow examiners to focus their time on devices most likely to contain evidential material. Recruitment to replace officers who have left the Digital Forensic Unit has been successful, with new Constables and Sergeants currently undertaking training and development.

Specialist teams continue to bring care, dignity and professionalism to the most sensitive work. The PSNI Body Recovery Team and Forensic Archaeology Unit recently supported the recovery of human remains from the site of a crashed Second World War era aircraft in the Garvagh area. The operation involved a sensitive and methodical approach bringing together expertise in body recovery, forensic

archaeology, military history and casualty identification. The aircraft is understood to have crashed in 1947 with two people on board. One person ejected successfully and the recovered remains are believed to be those of the other occupant, although formal identification will take time.

We also continue to strengthen accountability, learning and public confidence through the Service Accountability Panel. The Panel provides community focused scrutiny of policing powers including stop and search, use of force, strip searches, custody and criminal justice disposals. Its findings are reported to the Service's Strategic Performance Board and made available to the Northern Ireland Policing Board as required.

Recent work has improved the ability of supervisors to identify stop and search encounters involving young people under 18 allowing more effective quality assurance. The Service is also developing enhanced training on the use and supervision of stop and search powers under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. This includes a focus on the basis and grounds for searches, body worn video, use of force recording and the overall quality of the encounter. Learning from this work will also inform supervision across other stop and search powers.

The Panel continues to consider the higher proportion of stop and search encounters involving members of the Irish Traveller Community. While previous analysis has not yet identified a definitive explanation, further work has been commissioned and the Service is engaging with academic research experts to strengthen understanding and inform an evidence based response. A representative from the Irish Traveller Community has also begun attending Panel meetings as an independent stakeholder, supporting meaningful scrutiny and engagement.

This work reflects the Service's continuing commitment to ensure that policing powers are exercised lawfully, fairly and proportionately while remaining subject to meaningful internal and external challenge. It also supports better understanding for our Officers of the experiences of communities and the steps necessary to maintain confidence in policing.

Our People and Organisational Development Department has been nominated in a number of categories at The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Awards due to take place in October. These include HR Team of the Year, as well as nominations recognising the ICS Apprenticeship Scheme, the PDR programme under a learning and development category and work relating to health, wellbeing, trauma and resilience.

These nominations recognise the contribution of colleagues who support the development, wellbeing and professional growth of officers and staff across the service. They also reflect the importance of investing in a capable, inclusive and resilient workforce which is able to meet the demands of modern policing.



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