

# **Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

**Write Up for Plan**

**Consult and Engage Booklet**

**Theme:**  
Consult and Engage



**Indicator**

**Public**

Belfast PCSPs engage with the public through their preventative safeguarding projects, use of BCC's City Matters and with communications from groups funded by us.

We engage with our **Community Partners** in various ways:

For example, 21 groups from across the city attended the Community Safety Showcase Event on Tuesday 11th December

- A total of 40 participants attended;
- 31 out of the 40 participants thought the session was helpful;
- 31 out of the 40 participants confirmed that following their attendance at the event, they had an improved level of awareness of information, resources and support available;
- 28 out of the 40 participants confirmed that following their attendance at the event, they were more confident in seeking funding from (D)PCSP;

In addition, Belfast PCSP put a community partner survey out to the groups we work with on 20 December 2018 and by 31 January 2019, 48 groups had responded.

**Local Consultation and Engagement**

It is important to acknowledge that the different areas have different capacity in their community infrastructure. As such, each District PCSP will determine the projects it intends to fund in order to fully consult and engage with the local areas at their meetings in February 2019.

**Story Behind the Baseline**

A number of strategies are relevant to the PCSPs in Belfast and the approach to consult and engage requires cognisance of them.

**Draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland**

The Draft Programme for Government (PfG) includes the following outcome which is directly relevant to PCSPs:

Outcome 7, '*We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other*', aims to address the following issues:

- Reduce crime and the harm and vulnerability caused by crime.
- Increase effectiveness of the justice system.
- Reduce offending.
- Increase respect, reconciliation and shared space.
- Tackle crime against older and vulnerable people by more effective sentences and other measures.

**Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities, A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017**

The 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' is an Executive Strategy that sets the direction for government for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland. It reflects the views heard during an extensive engagement and consultation with individuals, communities and organisations across Northern Ireland. This strategy has the overall aim of helping to build:

- Safer communities with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour; included here are actions which will:
  - Reduce risk of individuals offending.
  - Reduce level of alcohol and drug related crime.
  - Tackle domestic and sexual violence.
  - Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.
  - Reduce the opportunities to commit crime.
- Shared communities where each person's rights are respected in a shared and cohesive community; included here are actions which will:
  - Work closely with local communities to address community safety issues at interfaces.
  - Reduce the number of interface structures.
  - Tackle hate crime.
- Confident communities where people feel safe and have confidence in the agencies which serve them; included here are actions which will:
  - Support PCSPs to identify local issues and develop solutions.
  - Reduce the fear of crime and help people feel safer.
  - Give confidence to people to report crime.

The strategy contributes to the Programme for Government priority to create safer communities and aligns with a wide range of Executive policies and strategies around issues such as good relations, neighbourhood renewal, children and young people, and alcohol and drugs.

PCSPs are central to delivering community safety locally, and work with communities to deliver local solutions, to make people feel safer and ensure that the voices of local people on community safety are heard.

### **Together: Building a United Community**

In May 2013, the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) - now called "The Executive Office" (TEO) - published '[Together: Building a United Community](#)' (T:BUC), Government's Strategy which reflects the Executive's commitment to improving good relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

The Strategy is intended to impact on society as a whole and the overall outcome is: *"A united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance."*

This Strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change across the four key priorities of (1) children and young people (2) shared community (3) safe community and (4) cultural expression. Of particular relevance to PCSPs is the safe community priority which aims *'to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.'* To achieve this, the Strategy commits to:

- Create a 10-year programme to reduce and remove by 2023 all interface barriers.
- Create an Interface Barrier Support Package.

- Work to build a culture where people feel comfortable to report when they have been the victim of intimidation or harassment.
- Ensure that the monitoring of the Community Safety Strategy forms a component of the delivery and architecture of the T: BUC Strategy.
- Review the Good Relations Indicators to reflect the ongoing importance of safety as an influence on good relations outcomes.

T: BUC makes specific reference to the role of PCSPs under two priorities – Our Shared Community and Our Safe Community. In recognising this role, T: BUC states Government will ‘ensure that District Council Good Relations Action Plans display close linkages with the PCSPs’.

### **The Draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan, 2017 - 2018**

The strategic outcomes included in the Draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2017 - 2018 are:

- Communication and Engagement:
  - Increasing trust and confidence in policing.
  - Ensuring the PSNI engages with communities to improve understanding of the impact of policing decisions and involve communities wherever possible in those decisions.
- Protection of People and Communities:
  - Reducing harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable, including repeat victims.
  - Keeping people safe on the roads.
- Reduction in Offending:
  - Working in partnership to identify and intervene with priority offenders.
  - Working in partnership to address serious and organised crime.
  - Working in partnership to address paramilitarism.
- More Efficient and Effective Delivery of Justice:
  - Achieving an effective partnership with the Public Prosecution Service in order to deliver an effective professional service which strives for positive outcomes for victims.
- More Efficient and Effective Policing:
  - Providing an efficient, effective police service.

### **Criminal Justice Inspection NI report ‘PCSPs: A review of governance, delivery and outcomes’**

In December 2014, the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) published its findings and in summary the report recommended that PCSPs: continue to evolve; strip back bureaucracy; reduce costs; and ensure delivery is closely linked to improved community safety for local communities. A key strength of PCSPs is their connection locally into communities, understanding the needs and issues locally and developing tailor made programmes of intervention to deal with these. CJINI has considered this in their 2014 inspection report of PCSPs, recommending consideration of thematic as opposed to geographical sub-groups within the PCSP Structure.

The CJINI report also recommended that the **Community Plan** should be the focal point for delivery of the long-term aims of the PCSP and that the action plans of the PCSPs should feed into the Community Plan. As part of the community planning process, each council area has provided an assurance that PCSPs will be considered as the key delivery mechanism for community safety actions within Community Plans. Accordingly, actions within the PCSP action plans should align with community safety actions within the Community Plan.

The **Belfast Agenda** is Belfast’s first Community Plan. It is an ambitious plan by the Council to make Belfast a better place to work and live and to drive forward economic activity through an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and investment projects.

Five key outcomes are outlined within the Belfast Agenda, the one most relevant to Community Safety is 'Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all'. Related population indicators include: number of victims of any crime; number of hate-motivated crimes; proportion of people who feel safe; number of anti-social behaviour incidents; number of interfaces.

Two key workstream areas related to community safety are as follows: (1) Deliver a city and neighbourhood Community Safety programme: To work with the Belfast PCSPs to deliver an integrated programme of work to improve community safety across the city to ensure that local communities are safe and free from the fear of crime. (2) Design and deliver Interfaces programmes: To develop an Interfaces programme and make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers.

### **Criminal Justice Inspection NI report 'Anti-Social Behaviour A follow-up review'**

In June 2016 the CJINI published its findings to a follow-up review to its 2012 Inspection of the criminal justice system's approach to addressing anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland. The report highlighted the effectiveness of using a partnership approach between statutory agencies as well as community and voluntary sector groups. The report noted the need for PCSPs to address the operational recommendations as detailed below:

- **Recommendation:** The PCSPs are utilised as a mechanism by which to provide comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling anti-social behaviour and feedback on the effectiveness of interventions.
- **Recommendation:** PCSPs should, with support from the DoJ, identify and implement ways to educate their communities about the realities of anti-social behaviour.
- **Recommendation:** The PSNI, supported by the DoJ and the NIPB, should target areas of higher crime and disorder levels when further developing the number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Northern Ireland. Whilst the PSNI leads on this recommendation, PCSPs have also an important role to play in helping develop Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

### **Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland**

'A Fresh Start – the Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan' was published in November 2015 setting out proposals to tackle challenging and intractable community issues, including paramilitarism and organised crime while promoting the rule of law. A 'Three Person Panel', established to report to the Executive with a strategy to tackle these issues published its recommendations on 7 June 2016. While PCSPs are mentioned within the report, the two specific recommendations below are for the DoJ and NIPB to take forward.

- **Recommendation:** In setting the strategic objectives of PCSPs, the Department of Justice and Policing Board should ensure that the partnerships focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness.
- **Recommendation:** The designated organisations should also ensure that their representatives are sufficiently senior and committed to building effective partnerships.

### **Policing with the Community Strategy 2020**

The following objectives contained within the Policing with the Community Strategy 2020 are particularly relevant for PCSPs:

- To deliver a high quality service that supports improved accessibility, visibility and responsiveness.
- To improve the quality of community engagement to support effective partnership working.
- To support partnership working to enhance public safety and reduce crime and disorder.

**Project:** District PCSP – Consult and Engage  
£ various 2019/2020

**Description**

**In order to consult and engage with the most appropriate community infrastructure in each of the areas in Belfast; the District PCSPs will deliver area specific projects.**

The projects will support partnership working with relevant structures to improve policing and community safety across Belfast.

This includes practical support and development for established and emerging Community Safety Forums, PACT, tension monitoring groups and similar structures.

Interagency forums play an important role in addressing local policing and community safety issues, particularly in socially deprived areas. Agencies such as PSNI and NIHE meet with local community representatives and residents, address local issues, and tackle hotspots in collaboration.

(D)PCSPs have a long history of supporting the infrastructure to identify and address policing and community safety concerns at a local level. Supporting this partnership working will result in more effective policing and community safety projects delivered successfully by local groups in response to local needs.

**Service Provider**

Self-delivery or commissioned services

**Partners who can help us**

DPCSP Designated Members  
Community partners

**Start & End Date**

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

**Data Development Agenda**

Ensure feedback from meetings is presented at DPCSP Meetings

**Rationale for the Project**

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**Performance Measures**

**How much did we do?**

# partners  
# meetings  
# attendees

**How well did we do it?**

#% partners report satisfaction with activities

**Is anyone better off?**

#% partners feeling supported, confident and equipped to deliver their objectives  
#% partners reporting improved partnership working with other key stakeholders  
#% partners reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members