



# Magherafelt DPP

# Annual Report 2004-05

## Foreword by Chairperson

The Magherafelt District Policing Partnership has been dedicated to ensuring effective and efficient Policing in our area. The Partnership is, as far as possible, representative of the community it serves. The members come from various backgrounds but are united in striving to make Magherafelt District a safer place for all its residents.

The Partnership members have taken on board the concerns and fears of local people and in consultation with the PSNI have agreed a positive way forward on many of these issues. This process has sometimes been difficult bearing in mind that many of us live in a world where we want immediate results, However many initiatives and objectives are only achievable in the longer term.

In the Magherafelt District Area we recognise that there are still difficulties that remain and cause us all concern. The Magherafelt District Policing Partnership has endeavoured to prioritise these concerns when setting the targets in the local Policing Plan for this incoming year, therefore enabling the local PSNI Commander and his Officers to focus their efforts on the issues that are of most concern to the public.

One off the aspects of the role of the DPP has been to establish a way of making the community aware of how policing is being delivered in their locality. We have welcomed the attendance of members of the public to

our meetings and contributions made by way of questions -directly or through members of the partnership. In the coming year we would hope to increase that participation.

Finally, I believe positive progress has been made on many fronts in regard to local Policing. I would like to take this opportunity to **thank all** who have helped in so many ways but reiterate that **Policing** is the responsibility of the whole community and everyone needs to be involved in making our District a safer place for all.

Kate Lagan

Chairperson

Magherafelt District Policing Partnership

## Acknowledgement from the District Commander

Policing in Magherafelt continued to make excellent progress during the year. As a District we achieved a 58 % reduction in vehicle crime and a 46 % reduction in domestic burglary. Our detection rate for violent crime was one of the best in the province with officers solving 2 out of every 3 violent crimes. The results indicate quite clearly that my officers, in partnership with a wide range of groups and individuals, are having considerable success in ensuring Magherafelt District continues to be a safe place to live and work. It must be acknowledged that the District Policing Partnership plays a major role in ensuring that all communities receive the best possible service. The DPP, in addition to providing local accountability, assists my officers in drawing up the Local Policing Plan which focuses on issues relevant to people within our area. Regular DPP meetings allow the public to assess whether progress is being achieved whilst allowing for pressing issues to be brought to our attention.

During the incoming year my officers will again be focused on reducing crime and dealing with anti-social behaviour. I am confident with the support of the DPP and the local communities that we can continue to make progress and ensure Magherafelt District remains an environment in which everyone feels safe.

Chief Inspector Tom Wiggins

DCU Commander

PSNI Magherafelt

## Introduction

The participants in the multi-party negotiations, which ended in the Good Friday Agreement, believed that there was an opportunity for a new approach on how policing is delivered in Northern Ireland.

Those involved in writing the Good Friday Agreement agreed that an Independent Commission would be set up. This Commission became known as the Patten Commission, after its chairman Chris Patten.

The Patten Commission was appointed to make recommendations for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland, to make sure that:

- the police service is delivered in constructive and inclusive partnerships with the community at all levels;
- the police operate within a clear framework of accountability to the law and the community they serve;
- there are clear arrangements that allow local people and their political representatives to express their views and concerns about policing, and to identify and prioritise publicly the policing policies that effect their local area.

An important theme of the Patten Report is that policing should be more localised by creating District Command Units that would cover the same area as district councils. The Commission also said that regular discussions on policing issues should take place at district level between the police and the community. DPPs were recommended

as the means of achieving this. The Government accepted this recommendation and legislation was enacted which led to the creation of DPPs.

## Profile of Council

Magherafelt District Council area covers approximately 217 square miles and includes five main urban settlements, thirteen villages, and several hamlets. The District is situated on the western shores of Lough Neagh, bound to the east by the River Bann, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, and to the west by the Sperrin Mountains. The town of Magherafelt is the administrative centre for the district, a market town in the centre of what has traditionally been an agricultural community.

## Demographics

The population of the Magherafelt District Council area according to the 2001 census was 39,780. Of this, 20,041 (50.4%) were male and 19,739 (49.6%) were female. In the population 26% were under 16 years old and 15% aged 60 and over. In the census 64% stated they were from a Catholic Community Background and 35% stated they were from a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' Community Background.

## Representativeness of DPP

The Northern Ireland Policing Board employed external consultants to recruit independent members onto the DPPs. The posts were advertised widely to ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to apply. The consultants shortlisted the applications against the published criteria. Applications from those candidates who met the criteria were then sent to the relevant council. A panel, made up of a number of councillors and an independent member, considered the applications and interviewed the applicants.

After the interviews, each District Council sent a list containing at least twice the number of suitable candidates as there were vacancies, to the Policing Board. The Board made the final appointments and notified the Council of their decision.

## DPP members

For 2004-05 Magherafelt DPP consisted of seventeen members:

Eight independent members of the public;

Mr J Campbell

Mrs M Donnelly

Mrs M McCormack

Dr D Shortall

Mr J Conlon

Ms S Ewing

Miss A Scott

Ms F Symington

And nine local Councillors;

Cllr P McLean (Chairman)

Cllr R A Montgomery

Cllr J A McBride

Cllr K Lagan (Vice-Chairperson)

Cllr T J Catherwood

Cllr J Junkin

Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea

Cllr P H McErlean

Cllr G Shiels

## Funding

The Northern Ireland Policing Board funds 75% of Magherafelt DPP while Magherafelt District Council funds the remaining 25%. Overall responsibility for ensuring the effective operation of the DPP lies with Magherafelt District Council's Chief Executive, while the DPP Manager undertakes day-to-day management of the DPPs affairs.

## OUR FUNCTION AND PROCESSES

The strength of a DPP is that it provides a unique opportunity, through a partnership between elected members and the community, for local people to shape local policing. The DPP facilitates dialogue between the police and the local community. This is achieved by the following:

- Identifying local policing issues and views to the District Commander on any matter concerning the policing of the district
- Establishment of policing priorities for the local Policing Plan in conjunction with the District Commander
- Monitoring the performance of the police in carrying out the local Policing Plan
- Monitoring the performance of the police in carrying out the relevant aspects of the Annual Policing Plan
- Obtaining the views of the public concerning the policing of the district
- Gaining the public's co-operation in preventing crime

Members of the public are welcome to attend all public meetings of the DPP, which offer the opportunity to observe the PSNI District Commander's response to questions posed by DPP members. Magherafelt DPP holds bi-monthly public meetings. These meetings are held in different venues throughout the district to make sure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend. These are advertised in the local press. The DPP members may also hold private meetings before the public meetings.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions of the police, through the Chairman of the DPP. The process for doing this is to submit a written question to the DPP Manager who will bring the matter before the next public meeting of the DPP.

The DPP welcomes questions from any person living or working in the district or any person directly affected by the policing of the district. As far as is practical all questions received by the DPP will be presented at a public meeting, unless legal or other specific reasons prohibit their presentation to the meeting.

Alternatively any member of the public or any organisation may choose to ask a member of the DPP to raise an issue or ask a question on their behalf.

The DPP will consult with the community on an ongoing basis to find out what the main local policing issues are and obtain your views on the policing of the district. This is achieved through a combination of the following methods:

- A public consultation survey every two years
- Focus Group sessions to consolidate issues raised in the survey and at DPP meeting

The information obtained from consultation is used as the basis for discussions between the police and the DPP to inform the local policing plan and set the targets for crime prevention in the district

## Consultation Process

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), on behalf of the NIPB and DPPs, undertook a postal survey in 2004. This was sent to 1,429 households in the district. This survey provided the DPP with guidance to the issues the local community felt were a priority. Magherafelt DPP also employed MORI to undertake three Focus Groups on its behalf during June and July 2004

## Local Policing Plan

Having considered the NISRA survey and other consultation Magherafelt District Policing Partnership recommended the following issues as their priorities for the forthcoming year to the PSNI.

Priority	Issue	Target
1	Domestic Burglary	- 5% reduction
2	Attacks on the Elderly	- There should be no increase in figures
3	Speeding	- Increase in detections. - RTA reduction by 5% - Excessive Speeding reduction by 5%
3 =	Drink Driving	- Increase in detections
5	Assaults	- In line with NIPB recommendations
6	Drug Dealing	- In line with NIPB recommendations
7	Underage Drinking	- Objective and measured response
7 =	Vandalism	- 5% reduction

In a joint workshop the local Police Commander Chief Inspector Tom Wiggins and his senior staff worked with the DPP in identifying and setting the targets for the Magherafelt Policing Plan.

The following was agreed as part of the local policing plan

### Magherafelt policing objectives, indicators and targets 2005-06

Policing Board Objectives	Performance Indicators	Targets
<b><u>Domain - Reducing crime</u></b>		
2.0 To reduce crime	2.4 The number of violent crimes	2.4.1 To reduce the number of violent crimes by 5% by March 2006 (includes offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery (1))
	2.5 The number of incidents of criminal damage	2.5.1 To reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage by 5% (1)
<b><u>Domain - Promoting public safety</u></b>		
5.0 To deal with anti-social behaviour in a way that improves the quality of life	5.2 To establish an effective system for the recording and monitoring of incidents of anti-social behaviour	5.2.2 To report the number and types of initiatives developed to address anti-social behaviour
6.0 To improve road safety	6.5 The number of detections for careless/dangerous driving	6.5.1 To increase the number of detections for careless and dangerous driving offences (2)

#### Notes

(1) Reduction target based on that achieved in 2004-2005 (2) Increase target based on that achieved in 2004-2005

## **DPP Campaigns**

Magherafelt DPP has a small budget for raising awareness of problems within the district. In 2004/05 the DPP's focus was on youth and the impact they can make in the community. To this end the DPP jointly funded a Youth Drama Project to work with year eight pupils in all post primary schools in the district. This project followed on from the pilot project funded by the PSNI and Community Safety Partnership. The aim of the project was to work with youth through drama techniques to enable them to realise the impact they can have on their area and neighbours.

In 2005/06 the DPP will be focussing on awareness raising of road safety in the district.

## **Working with the Community Safety Partnership**

The Magherafelt DPP's main role is to monitor and hold the PSNI to account. At its public meetings the DPP may highlight specific areas of concern within the district to the PSNI. The DPP refers to the Magherafelt Community Safety Partnership all issues not deemed actionable by the Partnership. The local Community Safety Partnership is made up of various statutory, community and voluntary agencies that are working together to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour within the district in the district.

## Strategy for Gaining the Co-operation of the Public

Overall Magherafelt DPP aims to achieve this through by monitoring and holding the PSNI to account. Having an accountable Police force was recognised as a major priority in the Patten Report. Magherafelt DPP feel strongly that by making the local Police accountable to local representatives we can give people an input and thus 'ownership' of their Police service.

The DPP have set the following objectives for 2005-06

### OBJECTIVE 1

To act as a Forum for discussion and debate on policing in the district

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
1. To act as a forum for discussion and debate on policing in the district	1.1 Meetings	1.1.1 To hold at least five meetings in public throughout the district
	1.2 Questions	1.2.1 To encourage the public to submit questions for consideration at public meetings
		1.2.2 To make responses from the District Commander to questions, available to local media outlets
1.3 Attendance	1.3.1 To increase number and representation of those attending public meetings	

## OBJECTIVE 2

To monitor & assess police performance against the 2005/06 policing plan

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
2. To monitor & assess police performance against the 2005/ 06 policing plan	2.1 Meetings	2.1.1 To produce and make available reports detailing assessment of police performance, undertaken by the Partnership at meetings in public session
	2.2 Local Targets	2.2.2 To report on the achievement of the police against each target in the local policing plan, where relevant in the 2005/06 annual report

## OBJECTIVE 3

To work in partnership and consult with agencies and communities to identify local policing concerns

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
3. To work in partnership and consult with communities to identify local policing concerns	3.1 Consultation	3.1.1 To undertake a household policing survey
	3.2 Grants	3.2.1 To facilitate a grants scheme to enable groups to consult with the police in each neighbourhood policing team area
	3.3 Priorities	3.3.1 To influence priorities and targets in the 2005/06 policing plan

#### **OBJECTIVE 4**

To raise the profile of the Partnership

##### **OBJECTIVE**

4. To raise the profile of the Partnership

##### **ISSUE**

4.1 Awareness

4.2 Local Media

##### **TARGET**

4.1.1 To compile and distribute an information leaflet on the work of the Partnership

4.2.1 To have the 2005/06 annual report detailing the work of the Partnership reported on in the local press

## Promotion of Openness and Transparency

The DPP aims for full openness and transparency in all of its activities. To achieve this we use the following.

Internet – Magherafelt DPP has its own website, [www.districtpolicing.com/magherafelt](http://www.districtpolicing.com/magherafelt). Minutes of the public meetings are published on this site. Dates and venues of upcoming meetings are also advertised on this site.

Freedom of Information – The DPP has adopted a Publications Scheme in order to make material freely available to the public.

Public Consultation (NISRA/MORI) – NISRA, on behalf of the DPP, has undertaken a survey in the district. The results were used to guide the development of the Policing Plan. The DPP also employed MORI to undertake Focus Group research in 2004.

Media Coverage – The DPP invites the local press to all its meetings in order to inform the residents of Magherafelt on its activities.

## ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005

### Income

Grant from Policing Board	66524.80
Contribution from Council	22174.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>88699.73</b>

### Expenditure

Staff Costs	68620.19
Main Public Consultation	
Secondary Consultation	4120.00
Public Meetings	928.03
Publicity	2499.23
Running Costs	740.61
Furniture and Equipment	1358.90
Grants to Groups	
Core Training	1005.94
Establishment Costs	
SLA	6000.00
Other	3426.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>88699.73</b>