



# Magherafelt DPP

# Annual Report 2005-06

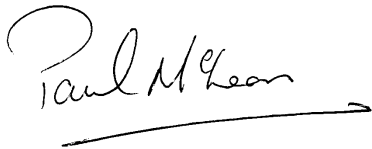
## Foreword by Chairperson

Over the past year, Magherafelt District Policing Partnership has been working hard to enhance Policing in our area. The Partnership, made up of people with varying views, has kept focused on a single ambition; that of making Magherafelt District a safer place for all its residents and visitors.

The Partnership members have collectively listened to the concerns and fears of the local people, and then in consultation with the PSNI have agreed a positive way forward addressing 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 I believe with continuing effort and perseverance we can obtain the final result on your behalf.

In Magherafelt District Area I believe we all recognise that there are still difficulties that remain and cause us all concern. 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 really count.

I would again 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 therefore as we continue this process we will need to redouble our efforts to make our District a safer and better place for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul McLean". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Cllr Paul McLean  
Chairperson  
Magherafelt District Policing Partnership

## Acknowledgement from the District Commander

I am delighted to take up my appointment in Magherafelt as the new District Commander. Magherafelt enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the Province and generally is a safe place to work and live. On the down side we have, in the last year, experienced a rise in overall crime and in particular assaults and criminal damage. Our detection rates for all offences remains high at 36.80%. We also continue to focus on Road Traffic issues and have in the last year increased our detections for Drink Driving, Speeding, and Careless and Dangerous Driving in an effort to make our roads safer.

I am looking forward to working with the District Policing Partnership and acknowledge the major role they play to ensure all communities receive the best policing service for this area. Our focus for the forthcoming year is to reduce crime in particular incidents of criminal damage and assaults. I am confident with the support of the DPP and the local community that we can continue to make progress and ensure Magherafelt District remains an environment in which everyone feels safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Douglas", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Paul Douglas  
Chief Inspector

## Contents

Introduction	5
Profile of Council Area	6
DPP Members	8
Functions and Processes	10
Consultation and Local Policing Plan	11
Strategy for Gaining the Co-operation of the Public	12
Promotion of Openness and Transparency	16
Attendance Record	17
Accounts 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006	18

## Introduction

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.

An important theme of the Patten Report is that policing should be more localised and 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.

Magherafelt District Policing Partnership was established in March 2003 by the Northern Ireland Policing Board and consists of 16 Members – 8 elected council representatives and 8 independently appointed members of the public.

District Policing Partnerships are required to perform 5 core functions:

- Identify local policing issues
- Establish policing priorities for the local policing plan in conjunction with the PSNI District Commander
- Monitor police performance against the local policing plan
- Develop practical ways of gaining the public's co-operation in working with the police to prevent crime and protect the public
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the District
- The DDPP working in partnership with the local PSNI and local Community have for the second year seen local crime levels reduce across the District.

## 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

Magherafelt DPP was reconstituted in December 2005. 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

The reconstituted Magherafelt DPP consists of sixteen members:

Eight independent members of the public;

Mrs Betty Foster

Mrs M Donnelly

Mrs M McCormack

Dr D Shortall

Mr J Conlon

Mrs Sue Chada

Mr John O'Doherty

Ms F Symington

And eight local Councillors;

Cllr P McLean (Chairman)

Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea

Cllr T J Catherwood

Cllr G Shiels

Cllr K Lagan

Cllr Mrs E A Forde

Cllr J Crawford

Cllr J Campbell

## Functions 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 was to submit a written question to the DPP Manager who will bring the matter before the next

public meeting of the DPP. However members of the public are now welcome to ask question on the night of the meeting, through the Chairman.

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

Magherafelt DPP undertook a local consultation survey on policing in October 2005. This survey was to help inform the DPP when working with the Police to finalise the local policing plan.

## Local Policing Plan

Having considered the consultation survey and other consultation Magherafelt District Policing Partnership in a joint workshop with the previous local Police Commander Chief Inspector Tom Wiggins and his senior staff identified and set targets for the Magherafelt Policing Plan. The following was agreed as part of the local policing plan.

## Magherafelt policing objectives, indicators and targets 2006-07

Objectives	Performance Indicators	Targets
<b>Domain - Reducing Crime</b>		
2.0 To reduce crime.	2.2 Number of offences of Criminal Damage.	2.2.1 To reduce the number of offences of Criminal Damage.
<b>Domain - Investigating Crime</b>		
3.0 To improve crime investigation.	3.4 Number of persons charged or summonsed with drugs offences.	3.4.1 To increase the number of persons summonsed or charged for drugs offences by 10%.
<b>Domain - Promoting Public Safety</b>		
5.0 To improve road safety.	5.2 The number of detections for careless/dangerous driving.	5 .2.1 To increase the number of detections for careless and dangerous driving offences by 7%.

## 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 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.

### DPP Campaigns

Magherafelt DPP has a small budget for raising awareness of problems within the district. In 2005/06 the DPP focused on awareness raising of road safety in the district. It funded a Motor Madness day to highlight the problems of speeding and to enable the police to engage with young drivers. The DPP also worked with the PSNI on producing a campaign to encourage people to take taxis and not to drink and drive through supplying cards with local taxi contacts.

The DPP had 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

OBJECTIVE	ISSUE	TARGET
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	ISSUE	TARGET
4. To raise the profile of the Partnership	4.1 Awareness	4.1.1 To compile and distribute an information leaflet on the work of the Partnership

## 4.2 Local Media

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.

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

Questions from the Public – The DPP invites questions from the public at their public meetings

## Attendance Record

Seven Public Meetings were held 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006

(\* Member from Dec 2006, + Ceased being member Dec 2006)

DPP Member	No Meetings Attended	% of Meetings Attended
Cllr P McLean	7	100%
Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea, MLA, MP	3	43%
Cllr Miss K Lagan	6	86%
Cllr J Campbell	6	86%
Cllr G Shiels	5	71%
Cllr J Crawford *	3	100%
Cllr Mrs E A Forde *	3	100%
Cllr T J Catherwood	7	100%
Ms Francis Symington	7	100%
Mrs Marian Donnelly	7	100%
Mrs Marie McCormack	4	57%
Mrs Betty Foster *	3	100%
Dr Shortall	5	71%
Mr John Conlon	6	86%
Mrs Sue Chada *	1	33%
Mr John O' Doherty *	3	100%
Ms S Ewing +	3	75%
Mrs A Scott-McKinley +	3	75%
Cllr R A Montgomery +	1	25%
Cllr P McErlean +	0	0%
Cllr J A McBride +	1	25%
Cllr J Junkin +	1	25%

## ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

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.

### Receipts

£

Grant from Policing Board	71,865.98
Contribution From Council	23,955.31
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	<u>95,821.29</u>

### Payments

Staff Costs	62,728.11
Gaining co-operation of the public	2,934.65
Secondary/local Consultation	2,000.30
DPP Meetings	688.49
Advertising & Publicity	3,355.30
Running Costs	955.34
Equipment	347.51
Funding Groups	0.00
Core/local Training	2,692.00
Recruitment/reconstitution Costs	14,227.59
SLA	6,000.00
Other	-108.00
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	<u>95,821.29</u>