

# **CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP**

## **Consultation Report 2007**

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## Chairman's Foreword

Castlereagh District Policing Partnership, now in its fifth year, is extremely proud of the work it continues to deliver in order to engage with the local community in Castlereagh on policing issues. We have progressively sought to enhance the number and range of groups which we consult with and are very pleased with the positive reception given to our members by various groups across the Borough. As a DPP we are confident that the groundwork has been laid for the development of further community engagement. In the past year we focused our consultation on six key areas:

- 1. PUBLIC MEETINGS:** We have held three; concerns from the public covered a wide range of issues.
- 2. AD HOC COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS:** The DPP extended an invitation to community and youth groups in the Borough to find out more about the DPP and the policing of the area. Several groups invited members from the DPP to attend their meeting and to share their views on various important issues.
- 3. INFORMATION:** New literature was developed to promote the work of the DPP, which members of the public could use to make comments on the DPP, policing or to present questions to the DPP. These were distributed through information desks focused in Doctors and Dentist surgeries, local libraries, Post Offices and shopping centres.
- 4. CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY AND POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEES (CPLC):** The three CPLCs in the Castlereagh area attended an information sharing and consultation workshop on policing issues throughout the Borough. Members of the DPP attend routine CPLC meetings to gain information on local policing and community safety issues.
- 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INFORMATION EVENING:** Held at the La Mon hotel at which over 50 householders who are part of neighbourhood watch schemes attended. The event brought together five existing neighbourhood watch schemes in the Borough and also invited interested parties who were considering setting up a similar scheme. The evening consisted of sharing best practice and advice to those setting up schemes. It gave them an opportunity to meet current neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and share their experiences. As a result, another four schemes are in the process of being validated.
- 6. INFORMATION STAND IN FORESTSIDE and CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE:** A high profile stand was set up in Carryduff and Forestside shopping centre for two days, in December and June. The aim was to raise the profile of the DPP and for members to engage with the public on policing issues.

**Councillor Michael Henderson**  
**CHAIR CASTLEREAGH DPP**

## Members of Castlereagh District Policing Partnership

### Political Members

Cllr Michael Henderson (UUP) (Chairman)  
Ald Geraldine Rice MBE (Alliance)  
Ald Jim White (DUP)  
Cllr Anne-Marie Beattie (DUP) (Until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007)  
Cllr David Drysdale (UUP)  
Cllr Tommy Jeffers (DUP) (From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007)  
Cllr Gareth Robinson (DUP) (Until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007)  
Cllr Vivienne McCoy (DUP)  
Cllr James Spratt MLA (DUP)  
Cllr Charlie Tosh (Independent Unionist)  
Cllr Lawrence Walker (DUP) (From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007)

### Independent Members

Ms Helen Magowan (Vice-chair)  
Mrs Carolyn Forster  
Mrs Anne Glenn  
Mr Terry Lord  
Mr Fred McKenna  
Mr Bryan Myles  
Mr Derek Simpson  
Mrs Doreen Trimble

## Executive Summary

This report covers the activities of Castlereagh DPP for the period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It summarises the work of the DPP in the areas of:

- **Consultation with the Local Community**
- **Local Policing Issues**
- **Monitoring Police Performance**
- **Working Together with other Agencies to Prevent Crime**

During the period Castlereagh DPP held three public and seven meetings in private. The DPP undertook public consultation across the Borough to gain the views of the public on crime and policing. The priorities identified were partially included by the District Commander in the Local Policing Plan for 2007 – 2008. They will also be used for input into the NI Policing Plan 2008 -12 and the next Local policing Plan.

Members carried out high profile events in the reporting period including:

- Engaging with Neighbourhood Watch coordinators.
- CPLC awareness.
- Cultural Awareness Project in Ballybeen.
- Consultation with young people at Icebowl.
- Information stands in shopping centres.

Members have also involved themselves in a number of partnerships during the year, such as the Community Safety partnership, attending Community Police Liaison Committees and Neighbourhood Watch coordinators forums.

Castlereagh DPP reviewed its advertising and promotion material and produced a new publicity leaflet, which is in the process of being distributed throughout the Borough and used at consultation and awareness raising events. The DPP also advertised in different publications to attempt to raise its profile and engage with different communities within the Borough.

Castlereagh DPP also produced a four-year strategic plan and a one year operational plan for 2007 – 2008.

## Consultation with the Local Community

### **Consultation with Young People at the Ice Bowl**

Castlereagh DPP carried out a consultation event with young people at Dundonald Ice Bowl on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. More than 30 young people from across the Borough were invited to the Ice-bowl for an evening of Bowling and refreshments. This gave the members an opportunity to ask them about community safety and policing issues where they live. Also present were youth workers and members of the PSNI, which gave the kids an opportunity for the young people to meet and socialise with “off duty” police.

Pictured below are Derek Simpson and Doreen Trimble getting opinions from teenagers at the Ice-Bowl.



Pictured below are the kids, PSNI and DPP members enjoying the Bowling and informal discussion during the consultation event.



### Consultation with various Groups

By invitation, Members have attended meetings with various groups representing older people and young people. A questionnaire was used at various events; an analysis of this is attached at Appendix One. Some of the key findings were:

What do you feel are currently the biggest policing problems in your area?

1 <sup>st</sup>	Youths Causing Annoyance	57
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burglary	29
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Traffic offences	15
4 <sup>th</sup>	General anti-social behaviour	9

Which policing activities do you think that the PSNI in your area should be concentrating most resources on?

1 <sup>st</sup>	Youths Causing Annoyance	57
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burglary	30
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Addressing anti-social behaviour	23 (e.g. drinking in public)

Overall, how satisfied are you with policing in your area?

Very Satisfied	3
Satisfied	41
Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	57
Dissatisfied	8
Very dissatisfied	1

## Public Meetings

Three Public meetings were held across the Borough. This is an opportunity for members of the DPP and of the public to ask questions of the District Commander. For members of the DPP they also provide a chance to discuss policing issues with members of the public on a one to one basis. The majority of the questions asked related to:

- **Youths causing annoyance**
- **Anti-Social behaviour**
- **Criminal damage and Vandalism**
- **Police response to incidents**
- **Traffic and Parking Offences**

Furthermore, within the context of the meetings in public the DPP also endeavour to provide the opportunity for members of the public to raise issues with the District Commander as are pertinent to their local area.

## Information Sessions

This year the DPP undertook consultation activity into the community through visits to local groups and information sessions throughout the Borough. This was both an opportunity to publicise the work of the DPP and to engage with some of those in the public who would not normally attend DPP events. The subjects of discussion on these occasions were principally areas of crime and policing. The predominant area of concern was Youths Causing Annoyance followed by Domestic Burglary and Criminal Damage. Three prevalent and recurring themes were:

- Police response was generally considered slow or non-existent and many of these complaints were linked to reporting of youths causing annoyance.
- Police on the beat were not visible in the community. This view was recorded across the Borough.
- Individuals also had issues with traffic offences including: speed detection and parking offences.

## Joint Neighbourhood Watch Event with Castlereagh DPP, PSNI and CSP



On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March the three partnerships held a joint event in the La Mon hotel at which over 50 householders who are part of neighbourhood watch schemes attended. The event brought together five existing neighbourhood watch schemes in the Borough and also invited interested parties who were considering setting up a similar scheme. The evening consisted of sharing best practice and advice to those setting up schemes. It gave them an opportunity to meet current neighbourhood

watch co-ordinators and share their experiences. As a result, another four schemes are in the process of being validated. It was also an opportunity to introduce the new neighbourhood watch coordinator, Sharon Skelly who is further developing Neighbourhood watch within the Castlereagh area. All current schemes are in the process of being evaluated.

### **Information Stand in Forestside and Carryduff Shopping Centre**

A high profile stand was set up and manned by members of the DPP in Forestside Shopping Centre for two days, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December. A similar stand was placed in Carryduff Shopping Centre, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June. The aim was to raise the profile of the DPP and for members to engage with the public. There was considerable interest from the public about the work of the DPP and considerable support for the Police. There was praise for the Police from a number of residents for the assistance and support they received after they had been the victims of crime. The dominant themes raised by the public were:

- **Youths causing annoyance**
- **Drinking in Public Places**
- **Police not visible in the community**
- **Criminal damage**
- **Vandalism**



### **Cultural Diversity Project in Ballybeen**

On Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> of April Castlereagh DPP in conjunction with Castlereagh Borough Council, along with a number of other statutory and voluntary organisations held a successful cultural awareness day at Brooklands primary School, Ballybeen. The event was to celebrate cultural diversity within the Ballybeen and Dundonald areas.

This was an opportunity for the DPP to raise awareness among different new communities.

The event attracted several hundred people from the local community to watch and participate in events ranging from Tai Chi, bamboo dancing and Bollywood dancing. They also had the opportunity to taste delicious samples of food such as Polish meatballs, sweet and sour chicken, samosas, not forgetting the Irish stew on offer.

Pictured below is the poster created by the local primary schools, which was used to advertise the event in the local area. All the advertising for the event was sponsored by Castlereagh DPP.



Below are some pictures of the Castlereagh Members talking to people at the cultural diversity event in Brooklands Primary School.



## Local Policing Issues

Having consulted extensively with the local community the DPP was better placed to fulfil its responsibility in terms of establishing policing priorities in conjunction with the PSNI District Commander. The main issues highlighted to the District Commander by members of the DPP for inclusion in the local policing plan were;

- **Youths causing annoyance**
- **Anti social behaviour**
- **Vandalism and criminal damage**
- **Domestic burglary**

Other issues were discussed by members of the DPP, which further reflected comments made by individuals to them. These matters are yet to be finalised and the local policing plan to be published.

Policing priorities for the Borough were developed on 2 levels:

Level 1. **Annual Policing Plan.** These priorities are developed by the NIPB, PSNI and the Secretary of State. These objectives and targets are set as priorities within the PSNI for Northern Ireland and as such the Castlereagh DPP had a limited role in establishing these.

Level 2. **Local Policing Plan 2007-2008.** For further detail on the priorities established by the DPP in conjunction with the PSNI District Commander reference

should be made to the DPP Consultation Document and to the Castlereagh Local Policing Plan 2007/2008, which are both available on the DPP Website.

### **Monitoring Police Performance**

In terms of monitoring the performance of the police the DPP are tasked to measure their progress against the targets set within the local and annual policing plans. In order to execute this duty the DPP requires the presentation of a formal report by the District Commander every three months at the DPP meetings in public. Within the framework of this report the District Commander reports on the crime and performance statistics for the Borough over a three month period. In addition the District Commander presented to the DPP reports on a 6 monthly basis which specifically tracked the performance of the police against the policing plan targets. The District Commander also reports to the DPP with regard to the Human Resources at his disposal and the impact on the delivery of policing.

In response to the reports given by the District Commander the DPP have questioned him, particularly in areas where PSNI performance failed to meet the target set. The DPP were also interested to ascertain the initiatives that are being implemented to address any shortcomings and to recognise the progress made in achieving many of the targets set.



### **Summary Comment on Monitoring against Targets**

The DPP note the efforts at DCU level in dealing with all crime areas given the pressures on resourcing. The DPP are concerned at the failure to meet a significant number of both local and service level targets. There is a widely shared view in the DPP that in order to address pressure on resourcing and loss of experience at Service Level, careful planning is required. Given that additional structural changes are happening, the public want to see that this is managed and long term adequate resources are provided to the DCU. The aim should be to avoid depriving resources from addressing one area of crime to service another. Additionally the delayed civilianisation programme is further compounding resource problems.

Castlereagh DPP would wish to emphasise that in general crime in this area is up, contrary to claims by the Service that crime across Northern Ireland has been falling. Measures are needed to address the situation. Moreover the Castlereagh public desire increased police visibility, which can only come from more resourcing and efficient use of resources.

### **Working Together to Prevent Crime**

It was the view of Castlereagh DPP that in order to effectively gain the co-operation of the public in preventing crime it was necessary to firstly complete the consultation process as outlined above. Leading on from this and the establishment of policing priorities the DPP sought to develop its strategy for gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.

The remit of the DPP limits its work in this area to focus upon PR and awareness raising activities in relation to crime prevention and community safety programmes.

One significant development in the past year was the launch of the PSNI Community mobile police station, which is used throughout the Borough.



Another initiative supported by the DPP during the year was the Summer Anti-Burglary campaign. This information was circulated to Doctors, Dentists, Post Offices and Travel Agents – all of which may be visited by people prior to going on holiday.

Other initiatives have included:

- Continuation of Forecourt Watch and Operation Habit to reduce the opportunity of theft from vehicles in risk areas such as garage outlets and retail car parks.
- Seminars conducted with the PSNI and community groups to promote crime prevention advice.
- Continuation of a media strategy whereby PSNI Crime Prevention Officer and DPP jointly highlight issues.
- Launch of Seatbelt initiative at St Bernard's Primary School, Knock. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March Castlereagh PSNI and DPP launched "How Precious is your cargo? Keeping kids safe in a motor vehicle" initiative. Highly visible displays have been placed in shopping centres and schools so parents can find out if they are required to provide a booster seat or cushion for their children. An advice leaflet is available to accompany the displays, giving parents advice on child safety precautions in a vehicle. The initiative has been so successful that the PSNI traffic branch is using it Province wide.

Pictured below are members of the DPP, with Constable Gardner and children from St Bernard's Primary School.



## [Section 75](#)

Castlereagh DPP has consulted and produced a Disability Action Plan, which will improve the way it consults and involves people with a disability who live in the Castlereagh area. The draft plan was placed on the Internet and sent to specific groups in the area for comments.

## [Contact](#)

For further information on any aspect of the work of the DPP please contact:

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