



Coleraine

***District Policing
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

Coleraine District Policing Partnership

Public Consultation report 2009-2010

October 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am very pleased to be able to present Coleraine District Policing Partnership's Public Consultation Report for 2009 which sets out the findings of our consultation with the public regarding policing issues in the Borough. The views and opinions obtained are a crucial element of our input into the PSNI District Commander's Local Policing Plan for 2010-2011.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved with the focus groups and the ongoing consultation that the DPP carries out during the year. The members of Coleraine DPP will continue to raise your issues with the local District Commander throughout the year and to question and monitor the PSNI on the work that they are doing locally but we need to hear feedback on policing from all the communities in the Coleraine Borough.

I would therefore encourage everyone to get involved with the work of Coleraine District Policing Partnership as we all attempt to shape local policing to meet the needs of our whole community.

Councillor Adrian McQuillan MLA
Chair 2008-2009
Coleraine District Policing Partnership

BACKGROUND TO COLERAINE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

Coleraine District Policing Partnership (DPP) was established in March 2003 under Section 3 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 and was reconstituted in December 2005 following the Local Government Elections.

It is a partnership between Coleraine Borough Council and members of the communities in the Borough. The DPP consists of ten political and nine independent members and represents all sectors of the community.

The functions of a DPP are to:

- Consult with the community,
- Assist with the establishment of local policing priorities in conjunction with the PSNI,
- Act as a forum for discussion and consultation on policing matters,
- Monitor the performance of the police,
- Gain the public's co-operation in working with the police to prevent crime.

INTRODUCTION

As has already been shown in the background to Coleraine DPP, an important part of the role of the District Policing Partnership is to consult with the public on their opinions regarding policing in the Borough. This report outlines the methods that Coleraine DPP has used to encourage public participation into the shaping of policing in the Borough.

Section 1

This section outlines the themes of questions which have been asked at public meetings of the District Policing Partnership between August 2008 and August 2009.

Section 2

The District Policing Partnership commissioned Vision Management Services to carry out focus group consultation on behalf of Coleraine DPP in February and March 2009. VMS met with nine groups over a number of weeks as well as carrying out an online survey which 24 groups completed. A full report on the discussions at the groups and the outcome of the online survey was provided to the DPP. This section highlights the main priorities identified by the focus groups in their consultations.

Section 3

Under Section 7 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice on Functions and Responsibilities, the District Policing Partnership is required to undertake a public consultation survey every two years. This section therefore outlines the results from the questions relating to policing in the District Policing Partnership Survey 2008 undertaken by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The survey was sent to a total of 71,500 randomly selected households across Northern Ireland. In the Coleraine area 2,717 households received the survey with an 18% response rate, which was a slight decrease on the 2006 response rate of 22%, the 2004 response rate of 28% and the 2003 response rate of 30%.

Section 4

Based on the information that appears in the previous sections, this part of the report outlines the main areas of concern that the DPP will recommend to the Northern Ireland Policing Board for consideration for the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012.

SECTION ONE

QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Coleraine DPP holds four public meetings in a year plus two themed meetings, thus providing members of the public with an opportunity to hear about the local police performance and ask questions of the District Commander on local policing issues. Between August 2008 and August 2009, a total of 92 questions were asked by both members of the DPP and the public at the four statistical meetings. In order to maintain consistency in the information being analysed, the questions have been classified into the same headings as those in the NISRA survey.

As can be seen, the majority of questions have related to "Other" issues with the largest proportion of this being in relation to police resources (22 out of 49 questions) and the rest of the questions relating to issues such as initiatives and statistical clarification. Anti-social behaviour, road traffic issues and underage drinking can also be identified as the issues of most concern at public meetings.

Questions received at public meetings Aug 08 – Aug 09	
Anti-social Behaviour	13
Assaults	2
Domestic burglary	3
Drugs (dealing and using)	2
Flags and emblems	1
Hate crimes (including racist attacks and sectarian attacks)	4
Public Drunkenness	1
Road Traffic Issues (incl dangerous/careless driving, drink/drug driving, speeding, driving with a mobile phone)	8
Robbery	1
Underage Drinking	7
Young People causing a nuisance	1
Other (please specify)	49
Total	92

SECTION TWO

FOCUS GROUPS

The District Policing Partnership commissioned Vision Management Services to carry out focus group consultation on behalf of Coleraine DPP in February and March 2008. VMS carried out an online survey for community groups in the Borough with 24 completing the consultation online and also met with a range of groups (below) over a number of weeks and provided the DPP with a full report on the discussions at the groups.

1. Age Concern, Coleraine
2. Coleraine Borough Churches Forum
3. Coleraine Disability Development Forum
4. Causeway Asian 50+ Forum
5. Garvagh and District Development Group
6. Killowen Community Association
7. Heights Neighbourhood Watch
8. Dhu Varren Residents Group
9. Northern Regional College Student Services

Both sets of consultations asked groups for their opinions on policing in the Borough, including, their biggest policing concerns, what the police should be doing more of and their opinions and suggestions for the DPP.

The top ten issues identified through the online survey are as below:

1. Criminal damage / vandalism,
2. Attacks on the elderly,
3. Underage drinking,
4. Drug use / abuse,
5. Drug dealing,
6. Child abuse,
7. Young people causing annoyance,
8. Drink / drug driving,
9. Domestic burglary,
10. Robbery.

The combined analysis of the focus group discussions on their policing concerns resulted in the following priorities being identified:

1. Young people causing annoyance,
2. Public drunkenness,
3. Speeding,
4. Drink/drug driving,
5. Drug use/abuse,
6. Drug dealing,
7. Attacks on the elderly,
8. Public disorder,

-
9. Underage drinking,
 10. Criminal damage/vandalism

Following discussions the groups wanted the police to prioritise their resources as follows:

1. Beat/foot patrolling,
2. Increased involvement with young people,
3. Prompt response to emergencies,
4. Enforcing drug laws,
5. Crime prevention

A breakdown showing the individual groups' top priorities for both questions is shown below.

Breakdown for Prioritisation of Policing Concerns

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8	Group 9
Attacks on the elderly	✓				✓		✓		✓
Bogus callers					✓				
Dangerous / careless driving			✓						
Domestic burglary					✓		✓		
Domestic violence							✓		
Drug dealing		✓				✓		✓	✓
Drug use / abuse		✓				✓		✓	✓
Drink / drug driving	✓								✓
Flags and emblems					✓				
Public disorder			✓		✓	✓		✓	
Public drunkenness	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Sectarian crimes / incidents				✓					
Speeding	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Street robbery / mugging	✓			✓					
Underage drinking		✓				✓			✓
Vehicle crime								✓	
Young people causing annoyance	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Breakdown for Prioritisation of Police Resources

Groups were asked to identify the activities that they think Coleraine PSNI should be concentrating most resources on. Preferences were indicated where 1 indicates high importance and 5 indicates low importance.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8	Group 9
Beat/Foot Patrolling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prompt Response to Emergencies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Crime Prevention	1	1	3	1	3	2	2	4	2
Investigating Crime	2	3	3	1	1	4	4	3	4
Enforcing Drug Laws	2	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	1
Increased involvement with young people	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Policing Public Disorder	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	3	4
Vehicle Patrolling	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
Providing more help/Support to Victims	5	2	5	5		5	5	2	3
Road Traffic Duties	5	2	2	4	2	3	3	4	3
Improving Community Relations	4	4	1	1	3	3	3	4	5
Working in Partnership with other agencies	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	1	1
Not Answered									
Other (please specify)									

On a more qualitative level, fear of crime and a low level of satisfaction with local policing were highlighted this year. Consultees felt that these could be addressed by more police on the beat and through 'good news stories' and positive clearance rates being more widely publicised.

SECTION THREE

NISRA SURVEY

Under Section 7 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice on Functions and Responsibilities, the District Policing Partnership is required to undertake a public consultation survey every two years.

This section therefore outlines the results from some of the questions relating to policing in the District Policing Partnership Survey 2008 undertaken by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The survey was sent to a total of 71,500 randomly selected households across Northern Ireland. In the Coleraine area 2,717 households received the survey with an 18% response rate, which was a slight decrease on the 2006 response rate of 22%, the 2004 response rate of 28% and the 2003 response rate of 30%.

The following tables detail the % responses for each question. Where the base was less than 100, the actual number is given in brackets []. Where a question was asked in the 2003, 2004 and 2006 NISRA surveys, the response rate is shown for comparison purposes.

1. What do you feel are currently the biggest policing problems in your District Council area? (all mentions)

Respondents were asked to select the five biggest problems in their area from a list of 25 options and to rank these problems in order of priority. The table below highlights the top fifteen concerns identified within the NISRA survey. The table shows that vandalism, underage drinking, young people causing a nuisance, drug dealing and speeding are the top five concerns in the Borough in 2006. This is broadly similar to the concerns for 2003 and 2004 although domestic burglary is no longer in the top five priorities and has been replaced by drug dealing.

A further breakdown shows the following differences in responses:

- Male respondents included domestic burglary in their top five priorities whereas female respondents included dangerous/careless driving within their top five priorities,
- Respondents aged between 16-24 identified drug use/abuse as their top priority, respondents in the 25-40 age group identified public drunkenness and speeding within their top five, 41-60 year old respondents included drug dealing and underage drinking as their second priorities and the 61+ age group identified vandalism as their top priority rather than young people causing a nuisance as per all other age groups,
- Protestant respondents included domestic burglary and vandalism within their top five priorities whereas Roman Catholic respondents included dangerous/careless driving and speeding within their top five priorities,
- Respondents from Coleraine area included underage drinking within their top five priorities, the Portrush/Portstewart/Portballintrae area identified public drunkenness in their top five priorities and the Garvagh/Kilrea area identified dangerous/careless driving and speeding within their top five priorities.

Rating %	Public Consultation Survey			
	Total			
	2008	2006	2004	2003
Young people causing a nuisance	48	39	41	40
Underage Drinking	42	39	45	42
Vandalism (eg Graffiti)	39	41	39	40
Drug Dealing	38	33	34	37
Speeding	32	32	39	38
Dangerous / careless driving	32	30	-	-
Domestic Burglary	32	29	40	56
Public Drunkenness	30	28	37	29
Drug Use / abuse	27	25	26	34
Assaults	25	23	23	25
Public Disorder	20	16	17	15
Drink/Drug Driving	19	19	18	19
Attacks on the Elderly	17	23	18	35
Flags and Emblems	13	21	26	-
Paramilitary	12	12	20	26

2. Which activities from the list below do you think that the PSNI in your area should be concentrating most resources on? (all mentions)

Respondents were asked to select and prioritise five activities from a list of thirteen that they thought the PSNI should be concentrating more resources on. The table shows that the respondents thought that the PSNI should be concentrating on Beat/Foot Patrolling, Prompt Response to Emergencies, Crime Prevention, Investigating Crime and Enforcing Drug Laws, which is in exactly the same order as the previous year's survey.

A further breakdown shows:

- Male respondents identified beat/foot patrolling as the top priority and female respondents identified a prompt response to emergencies as their top priority,
- The 16-24 age group was the only age group to identify increased involvement with young people as their top priority, the 25-40 age group ranked investigating crime higher than the other age groups, the 41-60 and 61+ age groups ranked their top five priorities in the same order,
- Protestant respondents identified beat/foot patrolling as their top priority whereas Roman Catholic respondents identified prompt response to emergencies as their top priority,
- The Coleraine area rated investigating crime higher than the other two areas, the Portrush/Portstewart/Portballintrae area ranked crime prevention and enforcing drug laws higher than the other two areas and the Garvagh/Kilrea area ranked a prompt response to emergencies as their number one priority.

Rating %	Public Consultation Survey			
	Total			
	2008	2006	2004	2003
Beat/Foot Patrolling	72	76	79	75
Prompt Response to Emergencies	69	60	58	56
Crime Prevention	57	59	52	51
Investigating Crime	55	51	59	60
Enforcing Drug Laws	50	48	48	50
Increased involvement with young people	40	42	38	34
Policing Public Disorder	32	32	35	31
Vehicle Patrolling	25	24	28	43
Providing more help/Support to Victims	23	16	19	16
Road Traffic Duties	21	23	19	20
Improving Community Relations	17	28	29	21
Working in Partnership with other agencies	12	9	15	9
Not Answered	4	2	3	-
Other (please specify)	3	3	1	2

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with policing in your District Council area?

The Table shows that more people in the area were satisfied with policing (34%) than were dissatisfied (21%). However, a larger proportion of respondents are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

A breakdown shows that

- Female respondents are slightly more satisfied than male respondents (37% compared to 32%),
- The 41-60 age group is more dissatisfied than the 61+ age group (24% compared to 15%) and the 61+ age group is the most satisfied group (38%),
- Both religious groups have similar responses,
- All three geographical areas have also got a similar level of responses.

Rating %	Public Consultation Survey			
	Total			
	2008	2006	2004	2003
Very satisfied	3	5	4	5
Satisfied	31	33	32	33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	40	37	40	34
Dissatisfied	17	17	17	20
Very dissatisfied	4	5	7	7
Not Answered	5	4	1	-

4. How satisfied are you with levels of police foot patrols in your District Council area?

The table continues to show high levels of dissatisfaction with the levels of foot patrols in the area with a slight drop on figures from 2006.

A breakdown shows that:

- Male respondents are more dissatisfied (48%) and female respondents are more satisfied (19%),
- The 41-60 age group is most dissatisfied from all age groups,
- Both religious groups have levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction,
- The Portrush/Portstewart/Portballintrae area are most dissatisfied with the levels of foot patrols.

Rating %	Public Consultation Survey			
	Total			
	2008	2006	2004	2003
Very Satisfied	2	2	2	1
Satisfied	15	17	12	10
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	31	31	29	24
Dissatisfied	33	31	38	44
Very dissatisfied	13	10	16	20
Not Answered	6	9	3	-

5. How satisfied are you with levels of police vehicle patrols in your District Council area?

The table shows that levels of dissatisfaction have risen slightly from the 2006 survey but they are still not as high as the 2003 survey.

A further breakdown shows that:

- Male and female respondents show similar levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction,
- The 25-40 and 41-60 age groups are substantially more dissatisfied than the other age groups,
- Both religious groups again have similar responses,
- The Portrush/Portstewart/Portballintrae area is most dissatisfied with both other sectors having similar levels of responses.

Rating %	Public Consultation Survey			
	Total			
	2008	2006	2004	2003
Very Satisfied	3	2	2	1
Satisfied	20	21	24	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	35	35	34	32
Dissatisfied	26	25	25	36
Very Dissatisfied	9	7	10	10
Not Answered	8	11	5	-

SECTION FOUR

DPP PRIORITIES AND CONCLUSIONS

The members of Coleraine District Policing Partnership have considered the information within this report along with their local knowledge of the Borough and the PSNI crime statistics supplied at the annual public meeting. This section summarises the issues prioritised by the DPP for consideration by the Northern Ireland Policing Board for the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012.

Some of the issues identified may also be perceptions of problems in the Borough but, statistically, they do not need to be a high policing priority and the DPP agreed that these issues may be better addressed through other methods, such as raising public awareness or positive media, rather than through the local policing plan.

The DPP has therefore agreed the following as suggestions for the Northern Ireland Policing Plan:

- ❖ Anti-social behaviour,
- ❖ Road traffic offences,
- ❖ Drugs,
- ❖ Violent crime,
- ❖ Community/neighbourhood policing,
- ❖ Domestic abuse,
- ❖ Hate crime,
- ❖ Domestic burglary and theft.

The DPP will also meet with the local District Commander during November to identify recommendations for the Local Policing Plan 2010-2011. During these discussions members will take into account the information contained within this report, the statistics received from the District Commander and the draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan.

ANNEX

COLERAINE DPP RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The rationale that Coleraine District Policing Partnership has used for identifying key stakeholders is as follows.

The DPP will, as far as possible, try to meet with groups that are representative of all Section 75 groups as well as mainstream groups that are not specifically representing minority groups. The DPP will also ensure that they meet with groups from the different geographical areas within the Borough, for example, rural, urban and seaside.

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