



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE TONIGHT?**

Police in Cookstown have launched a specially created advertising campaign to help crack down on anti-social behaviour in the run up to and over Halloween. It's aim is to encourage parents to become more aware of where their children are at night time and what exactly they are up to.

Working in partnership with the local Community Safety Partnership and the District Policing Partnership, the PSNI are reinforcing their on the ground operations with poster advertising all over the Cookstown district to raise parental awareness.

Police Commander Chief Inspector Brian Williamson said: "We have operational plans in place to deal with the issue of fireworks and vandalism, but we felt that we needed something extra in order to get the message across to parents. We don't want to spoil anyone's fun but if it goes beyond that then people – both parents and young people – need to know that there will be consequences."

Speaking at the launch of the advertising campaign Cllr Ian McCrea, Chairman of Cookstown District Policing Partnership said: "This campaign is an excellent example of partnership working within the district, involving local police, the Community Safety Partnership and ourselves in the DPP coming together to address what appears to be an increasing problem and annoyance for everyone - anti-social behaviour".

Cllr McCrea continued: "Like other districts anti-social behaviour and the problems associated with it are becoming an increasing problem, which we must all share the responsibility, with the support of the police, for tackling."

The local representative concluded by saying: "Whilst anti-social behaviour is an all year round problem we see a sharp increase in such activity around the Halloween period. I would stress upon parents and guardians to be mindful and know what their kids are up to this Halloween, and call upon anybody who seeks to engage in any anti-social behaviour to stop and think of the annoyance their actions could cause their local community."

Cllr Tony Quinn, Chairperson of the Community Safety Partnership, also attended the launch and commented: "The Community Safety Partnership are pleased to have funded this project and a number of other projects to help address anti-social behaviour over the next two years. This advertising campaign is hitting our streets at an appropriate time. It is important to get the message out to the public about the annoyance that is caused by both young and old at this time of the year. During consultation for the Cookstown Community Safety Strategy, the issues identified as being high priority were anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance. This campaign will display messages addressing antisocial behaviour in a visible way."

The scheme is being piloted in Cookstown and it is hoped to extend the campaign across Northern Ireland next year.

**Ends**