

## Quotation from District Policing Partnership Chairman on launch of Knife Awareness Campaign: Phase II

Speaking on, and welcoming the launch of the second phase of the Northern Ireland Knife Awareness Campaign, Chairman of Cookstown District Policing Partnership Cllr Ian McCrea said, “knife crime is unacceptable and I would urge everyone in the community to support this campaign to help take lethal knives off the streets of Cookstown and district.

Cllr McCrea said, “the carrying of knives should not be viewed as a status symbol amongst peer groups within the community nor should they be seen as a means of protection as you could find someone else using it against you. Carrying such a lethal instrument or using it as a lethal weapon could result in a criminal conviction and even a jail term.

He continued, “anyone found guilty of carrying a knife or any offensive weapon in a public place can on conviction be sent to prison for up to two years and/ or receive a £5,000 fine for their first offence.

Cllr McCrea said, “whilst 886 lethal knives were taken off the streets of Northern Ireland during the first knife awareness campaign there is room for taking even more off our streets to make Cookstown and district an even safer place to live, work and socialise.

The DPP Chairman concluded by, saying, “as the use of knives also have an impact upon various crimes, ranging from burglary to assault I would urge everyone to support local police on this initiative by disposing of any lethal knives in the Cookstown Knife Disposal Bin to stop it being used as part of any future criminal activity.