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Press Release

Tuesday 21 November

‘Neighbours Watch’

The Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown will play host to a drama illustrating the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch in your Community. The drama, written and produced by theatre company *Nor Nothin* will be held on Monday 27 September commencing at 7.30pm.

The performance, which is free to attend is being organised by Cookstown District Policing & Community Safety Partnerships and Cookstown PSNI with financial support from the Community Safety Unit, NI Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The drama is the first of its kind to be staged in Northern Ireland.

Speaking on the drama, Chairman of Cookstown District Policing Partnership, Cllr Ian McCrea said, “Neighbourhood Watch schemes play an important part in preventing crime in local communities and go some way to reducing the fear of crime in a way that involves everyone in the community.

He said, “I am delighted that the Partnership has been associated with the organisation of the event and would encourage anybody who is interested in the safety and security of their community to come along and find out more on how Neighbourhood Watch could benefit their area.

The DPP Chairman concluded by stating that, “it is only with the help of people in local communities that crime, anti-social nuisance behaviour and the fear of crime can be halted and lowered to a level which generates a permanent sense of safety on our streets. It is important that local communities help local police in the fight against crime by taking ownership of their own communities and playing their part through schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch.

Neighbourhood watch is a community led initiative that aims to: prevent crime through improved home security and interaction in the community; provide reassurance to people within communities to reduce the fear of crime; and encourage local people to be alert in looking after themselves and others in their community.

The local PSNI District Commander Chief Inspector Brian Williamson in welcoming the drama to Cookstown said, "Neighbourhood Watch currently covers an area of 250 households in Cookstown. The PSNI regard it as a tried and trusted method of involving the community in helping police to fight crime and build a safer society to live in."

Three Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been successfully and are in the stages of being set up within Cookstown and District.

Cllr Tony Quinn, Chairman of Cookstown Community Safety Partnership said, “The Community Safety Partnership are delighted to be involved in bringing this informative drama to Cookstown to help reinforce the message that crime prevention is not solely the responsibility of the police and that local people should contribute to make their own areas a safer place to live. The Community Safety Partnership would encourage greater community participation in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes help to build community spirit and pride in neighbourhoods while also enhancing the feeling of safety and improving people’s quality of life”

So if you are interested in improving the safety of your local area and in establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your community why not come along and find out what it is all about and how such a scheme can benefit your community.

Anyone requiring further information on the performance should contact either:

- Philip Moffett 028 8676 2205 (DPP)
- Sgt Florence Ferry 028 8676 6000 (PSNI)
- Shauna McCloskey 028 8676 4714 (CSP)

Ends

Notes to Editor

1. The evening's activities will commence at 7.30pm with opening remarks from the Chairman of Cookstown District Policing Partnership and Chairman of Cookstown Community Safety Partnership.

The performance will commence at approximately 7.45pma and run until approximately 8.45pm followed by remarks from Chief Inspector Brian Williamson/ PSNI Representative on the benefits Neighbourhood Watch can bring to make communities safer.

Admission is free.