

Newry and Mourne DPP voices support for Knife Awareness Campaign

Members of Newry and Mourne DPP today gave their backing to a new campaign to take knives off our streets by raising awareness of the issue of knife related crime and encouraging the safe disposal of knives.

The Northern Ireland wide public information campaign is being supported by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). It signals a commitment to tackle knife related crime, which has become an issue of increasing public concern and media interest in recent months.

Cllr William Burns, Chair of Newry and Mourne DPP, welcomed the campaign saying:

“Knife crime is unacceptable and I would urge everyone in the community to support this campaign and help take knives off our streets for good.”

“Many of our young people think it is acceptable to carry a knife. For many of them, a knife is a status symbol, something that makes them more ‘cool’ and acceptable to their peers. For others, it is seen as a form of protection, but nothing can protect them from the consequences of carrying a knife. Despite the perceptions of young people, the fact is that knives are dangerous – people do get hurt and lives can be ruined.”

“The campaign message, ‘Never carry a knife’, is good advice and I would urge anyone who does carry a knife to get rid of it now by placing it in one of the disposal bins at Council Houses, Monaghan Row, Newry or Council office, Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry.”

“Newry and Mourne DPP is committed to making the community safer for everyone, but in order to do this we need your co-operation in taking knives off our streets.”

Cllr Michael Carr, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership also welcomed the campaign and said **“the amnesty provides an opportunity for the public to give up knives they may be holding for no legitimate reason, to give up one knife through the amnesty is one less knife to be used illegally and as a Community Safety Partnership we want to make this an inclusive and safer community for everyone.”**