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# Press Release

**Date 23 January 2004**

**Release: Immediate**

## **Cookstown DPP Launches Consultation & Policing Priorities Report**

**Cookstown DPP today (Friday 23 January) launched its consultation and policing priorities report detailing progress it has made in obtaining the views of the public on the policing of the district.**

Established in March 2003, Cookstown DPP was set up to, amongst other things advise Cookstown PSNI on how they should be concentrating resources to ensure the safety of individuals and communities throughout the district.

To ensure the 2004/ 05 policing plan for the district and future plans reflect the policing needs of the district as much as possible the local DPP has developed a comprehensive consultation plan to ensure all residents of the district have an opportunity to put their views across on the way their communities are policed on a daily basis.

Speaking on the launch of the report, Chairman of the DPP Cllr Patsy McGlone MLA said, "consultation taken place between March and December 2003 has allowed the DPP to accumulate a large amount of information on how people of the district feel on the way they are policed.

Cllr McGlone continued, “this information has allowed the DPP to identify key policing priorities which the DPP wish to see included in the forthcoming 2004/ 05 policing plan for the district. The DPP has been able to establish these priority areas safe in the knowledge that they are framed and based around the views and wishes of the wider community.

The consultation plan, elements of which have already been completed, consists of a series of measures which the DPP has committed to undertake by June 2005. The measures include; a policing survey of the district; a number of policing orientated focus groups; the availability of a consultation response form on the DPP website; a paper consultation on DPP policing priorities to be included in future policing plans; and a consultation road show service to key umbrella organisations throughout the district.

Cllr McGlone said, “on reviewing the results of a recent survey undertaken by the DPP it is clear that there are serious issues which are affecting the ability of local communities and individuals to live without the fear of crime being committed against them, issues to which the local police must devote appropriate resources.

The survey highlights that when asked to list the top five perceived crime problems in the district; 59% of respondents indicated speeding and traffic related issues; 56% domestic burglary; 48% underage drinking; 35% attacks on the most vulnerable; and 34% vehicle crime.

Commenting on the results Cllr McGlone, said “this along with other information taken on board as a result of the survey and representations made by the public are reflected in the policing priority areas which we will be putting to the District Commander for inclusion in the forthcoming policing plan.

Policing priority areas which the DPP will be advising the local police to concentrate more resources on to combat crime include; Traffic and Road Management issues; domestic burglary; ensuring the safety of the elderly;

underage drinking; anti-social behaviour; domestic violence; vehicle crime; illegal substance abuse; assaults against the person and tackling organised crime.

Cllr McGlone said, “the DPP will be meeting with senior PSNI officers in late January to negotiate the final policing priorities for the 2004/ 05 District Policing Plan. A series of targets will also be set at this meeting in respect of the priorities.

Cllr McGlone said, “although the survey has provided invaluable information on local policing it does only provide a snapshot of the views held within the district. To this end the DPP will certainly not be complacent in its role and will push ahead with other vital elements of the DPP consultation plan to ensure every one in the district has a channel to put their view forward. Views from the wider public will allow the DPP to make robust representations to the police with a strong voice on behalf of local communities throughout the district.

Once the 2004/ 05 local policing plan becomes operational Members of the DPP will monitor closely the work of the police during its meetings in public and private. In doing this Members will scrutinise the work of the local police against the meeting of targets and priorities set out in the plan.

**Ends.**

**For further information contact  
Philip Moffett, DPP Manager, 07977 249515  
Cllr Patsy McGlone MLA, DPP Chairman 07968 111205.**

## **Note to the Editor**

### **1. Members of Cookstown DPP:**

Cllr Mary Baker  
Mrs Elizabeth Baxter  
Cllr Peter Cassidy  
Mr Eoin Doyle  
Cllr Samuel Glasgow MBE  
Mr Samuel Laughlin  
Cllr Ian McCrea  
Cllr James McGarvey

Mrs Ursula Marshall  
Cllr Patsy McGlone (Chairman)  
Cllr Samuel Parke  
Mrs Ita Pickering  
Mr Tony Quinn  
Mrs Phonsie Eastwood  
Cllr Trevor Wilson (Vice-Chairman)

### **2. Report Requirement**

DPPs were established to consult the public on local policing and in turn the information collated is to be used to help set local policing priorities to be considered for inclusion in all future policing plans in District Command Units. This report is therefore produced in accordance with Section 7.5 of the DPP Code of Practice, and the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.