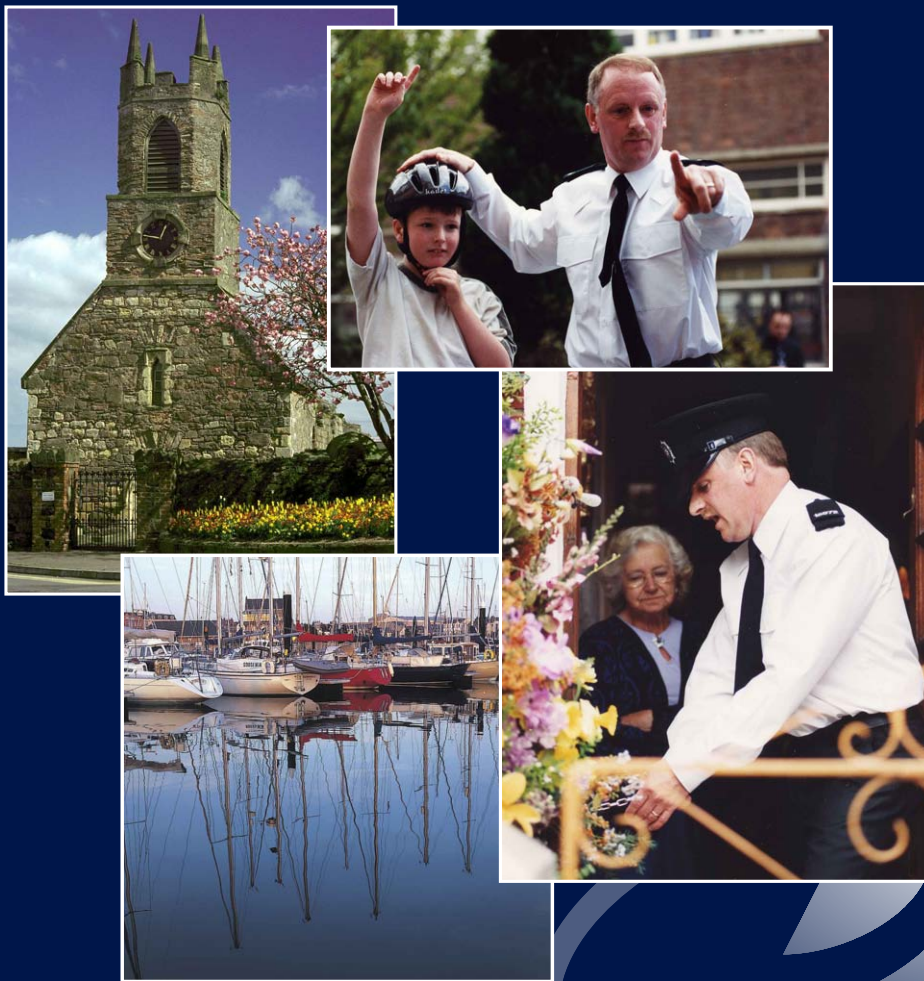




# *North Down*

## *District Policing Partnership*

Local people shaping local policing



**North Down District Policing Partnership**  
Strategy for Gaining the Co-Operation of the Public  
with the Police in Preventing Crime  
March 2004

## North Down District Policing Partnership Strategic Action Plan 2003 – 2005

### Our Vision for Policing in North Down

North Down District Policing Partnership (North Down DPP) shares the vision statement of the North Down District Command Unit which is

*“to create and maintain a service everyone can be proud of because it provides policing at its best”*

In particular the North Down DPP will be working towards creating:

- ➔ A safe community
- ➔ Protection for vulnerable people
- ➔ Active community participation in supporting the police
- ➔ Partnership working between the DPP, Community Safety Partnership, Police and community.

### Values

Our value base which determines the way we will go about our work is summarised below. We will expect all members and our staff to take decisions and act in a way that will stand up to public scrutiny in regard to being :-

- ➔ Efficient and effective
- ➔ Open, accountable and approachable
- ➔ Fair/Impartial/Respectful of Diversity and Inclusive
- ➔ Willing to work in partnership, in a spirit of co-operation and bridge building
- ➔ Focused on the greater good.

### Statement of Mission

We see the overall statement of purpose of the North Down DPP as:

*To facilitate community participation in shaping an efficient and effective policing service for North Down*

*This will be achieved by:*

- *Developing practical ways of gaining the public’s co-operation in working with the police to prevent crime and protect the public*

- *Acting as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district*
- *Establishing policing priorities for the local policing plan in conjunction with the District Commander*
- *Monitoring police performance against the policing plan.*

## **Background**

The Partnership set up under the Policing (NI) Act 2000 has been in place for less than a year. In that time Members have recognised both the challenge and the importance of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Borough of North Down. For the first time it allows local people the statutory right to influence local policing. The legislation established clear roles and responsibilities and this provides the framework for the activities that are undertaken by North Down DPP:

- a. Provide views to the police District Commander and to the Policing Board on any matter concerning the policing of the Borough
- b. Monitor the performance of the police in carrying out
  - I. The Annual Policing Plan (laid down by the Northern Ireland Policing Board) as it relates to the Borough
  - II. The Local Policing Plan for the District
- c. Make arrangements for obtaining the views of the public about matters concerning
  - I. The policing of the District
  - II. The co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime
- d. Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district.

This strategic plan identifies therefore specific actions which will help deliver on those responsibilities. These actions will be monitored and reported back to the Partnership.

## Strategic Context

The size of the geographic area covered by North Down DPP is 8,149 hectares and it has a population of 76,323. The town of Bangor functions as a service and administrative centre as well as a market town and seaside resort.



Hollywood maintains its identity as a popular residential area. There are also five villages (Crawfordsburn, Groomsport, Helen's Bay, Conlig and Seahill) and a hamlet (Six Road Ends).

With just thirteen miles from Bangor to Belfast, North Down is linked by road and rail networks to ports and to Belfast City Airport.

The Police District Command Area is made up of three sectors:

- Inner Bangor*            the area of the town within the Ring Road
- Outer Bangor*        the area outside the ring road, including the villages of Crawfordsburn, Helens Bay, Groomsport and Conlig.
- Hollywood*            the area from Tillysburn to Ballyrobert including Hollywood town, Cultra and Craigtlet.

The District Command Unit has 148 regular police officers, 76 full time reserve officers, 42 part time reserve officers and 42 support staff to deliver a policing service in the North Down District.

The annual policing budget for the District Command Unit is £10.7m most of which is spent on staffing costs.

During 2002/03 the District Command Unit in North Down dealt with 20,042 incidents of which 2,311 were designated emergencies. They attended 874

road traffic collisions, of which 45 involved fatal or serious injury. Recorded crimes average 5,849 per year. Burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage and assaults are the most common.<sup>1</sup>

The views of the community on policing were obtained through a Borough wide community survey. The results are reflected in this strategy document. The survey provides an evaluation of the current situation, an aid to future consultation and a basis for identifying Partnership action.

The survey lists the seven main public concerns as:-

- domestic burglary
- attacks on the elderly
- young people causing annoyance
- assaults
- drug dealing
- paramilitary activity and
- speeding.

### **Achievements to Date and Priorities for Action**

The District Policing Partnership Manager for North Down took up post on 1 January 2003. A part-time administrative assistant took up appointment in March 2003. Administrative systems and procedures have been put in place to support the work of the Partnership.

North Down DPP held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 27 March 2003 in Crawfordsburn. The Partnership was publicly launched on Tuesday 10 June 2003 in the Marine Court Hotel, Bangor. The event was attended by over 100 members of the public. Key note speakers were the Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde, OBE and the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Professor Desmond Rea.

During the first year of the Partnership training opportunities have been provided for Members as follows:-

- Teambuilding
- Police Station Visits
- Awareness training re the role and responsibilities of the Police
- An opportunity for sharing of ideas, good practice with Senior Police Officers from Boston Police Department and members of the local North Down Community
- Road Policing Information Day
- Roles and Responsibilities training
- PSNI Training on issues such as domestic violence, restorative justice
- Strategic Action Plan training

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<sup>1</sup> North Down District Command Unit Policing Plan 2003 - 2004

The Partnership has raised the profile of community-based policing in the Borough of North Down. **The latest survey, undertaken during June 2003, has indicated that 62% of those surveyed have heard of the Partnership<sup>2</sup>.** The meetings in public held across the Borough have stimulated interest in both local and district wide issues.

During the period from March 2003 to February 2004 there have been six meetings in public held

- June 2003 in the Marine Court Hotel  
(25 in attendance)
- August 2003 in the Queens Leisure Complex  
(30 in attendance)
- September 2003 in the Boathouse, Groomsport  
(25 in attendance)
- October 2003 in the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel  
(20 in attendance)
- December 2003 in the Alderman George Green Centre  
(25 in attendance)
- February 2004 in Conlig Community Centre  
(10 in attendance).

Four Consultative Forums have also been established based on electoral areas within the Borough. These cover the areas of Abbey, Bangor West, Holywood and Ballyholme and Groomsport. To date there have been two open meetings of the Consultative Forums.

At these meetings members of the public were given an overview of the role and rationale of District Policing Partnerships and requested to put forward their views, opinions and suggestions with regard to the policing of North Down. These meetings are an opportunity for open but focused debate on policing issues within the Borough of North Down and give members of the public an opportunity to participate fully in the consultation process and to highlight local policing priorities for their area.

During June to September 2003 North Down District Policing Partnership held Roadshows and Awareness Days throughout the Borough, in Springhill and Flagship Shopping Centres, in Holywood Library and at the Eagle Wing Festival in Groomsport. Members of the Partnership were on hand to meet informally with members of the public and discuss any concerns or answer any queries.

A postal survey was carried out by NISRA in June 2003 which targeted over 60,000 households throughout Northern Ireland. In terms of North Down 2,715 questionnaires were issued and 959 of these were returned, resulting in a response rate of 35%, above the Northern Ireland average of 28%.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

The results of this survey were published by the Partnership on Monday 8 December 2003 at an Information Evening for Community Groups throughout the Borough. On the night those present were advised of the main findings of that survey and broken down into three workshops to discuss the three main areas of concern for the Borough of North Down:-

- domestic burglary
- attacks on the elderly and
- young people causing annoyance.

Based on the results of the NISRA survey a contract to carry out focus group work has been awarded to an independent research company, MORI MRC. These focus groups will build upon the information gathered by the NISRA survey through qualitative research. The Partnership has elected a sub committee consisting of elected and independent members to work with the consultant responsible for carrying out the focus group research for the North Down area.

The Partnership has identified concerns over specific types of crime and anti-social behaviour and this has resulted in subsequent police operations as a direct response.

The key priorities emerging as a consequence of this strategy are:

- domestic burglary and drug abuse
- anti-social behaviour
- road safety
- fear of crime.

In summary, the achievements of the Partnership to date have included:-

- ➔ Good relationships within DPP and between the DPP and PSNI community organisations
- ➔ Commitment of PSNI and participation and co-operation
- ➔ Effective training and understanding of policing issues
- ➔ Profile gained through media and information roadshows
- ➔ Good policing/crime statistics and information available
- ➔ Issues raised by DPP and adopted by PSNI e.g. speeding/road safety
- ➔ Initiatives taken to encourage public participation and feedback
- ➔ Good local administrative support

## **Areas for Improvement**

The Partnership has learned from its first year of operation and whilst it has made good progress the members have also identified areas where achievement has been disappointing and need further attention. These include:-

- ➔ Apparent confusion about 'DPP role' in the public mind e.g. the difference between the NDDPP and Community Safety Partnership
- ➔ Overall public apathy about policing
- ➔ Poor participation at meetings in public and public meetings
- ➔ Format of meetings held in public has not encouraged participation
- ➔ Level of support from the Northern Ireland Policing Board (this matter has been addressed with the NIPB)
- ➔ Too much emphasis on statistics and not enough on action/projects on the ground
- ➔ Poor or at least "dull" press reporting
- ➔ Information such as crime briefs not being presented well enough in advance of meetings.

Summarising, the main issues arising from the Partnership's review of progress are:-

- ➔ Engaging the public and increasing participation
- ➔ Developing the NDDPP public profile
- ➔ Drawing up a first NDDPP strategy and action plan covering both mandatory and discretionary action.

## **Action Plan**

The following table summarises our aims and objectives with associated actions for the period next two years up to May 05.

It is intended that by meeting these aims and objectives, the NDDDP will have fulfilled its mandatory role and overall purpose and therefore improves policing and quality of life for people in the Borough.

**Aim 1.0 To gain the co-operation of the public in preventing crime**

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
<p>To provide evidence of effective co-operation between the DPP and the local community in terms of community policing / safety issues</p>	<p>To provide written confirmation in the annual report that the District Commander has been informed of the main findings from this consultation process when developing the local policing plan and the extent to which these have been incorporated into the local policing plan</p> <p>To record and report annually on the nature of contacts and outcomes with local community safety partnerships / agencies, or groups with a similar remit, providing information on the number of meetings attended and community groups involved.</p> <p>To ensure the participation of at least one North Down DPP member in the community safety partnership, or similar group and monitor and report on this to the NIPB<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>Invite DC<sup>4</sup> to attend a special meeting of North Down DPP to discuss Local Policing Partnership</p> <p>Include a section in the Annual Report confirming that DC has been informed of consultation findings</p> <p>Include in the Annual Report a section reporting on activities undertaken during the previous year, including contacts and outcomes arising from meetings and dialogue with stakeholder organisations such as community groups, agencies and community safety partnership</p> <p>Vice Chairman and Independent Member nominated to sit on the Community Safety Partnership, reviewed annually          Verbal reports to be provided to Private meetings of the North Down DPP</p>		<p>Jan 05</p> <p>May 04 May 05</p> <p>April 04</p>

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Policing Board

<sup>4</sup> District Commander

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
To reflect the views of the public in the local policing plan	<p>To consult by agreed methods and at least once per year with representatives from the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non governmental organisations</li> <li>Community groups</li> <li>Statutory agencies</li> </ul> <p>To produce an action plan prioritising issues from the public consultation exercise every two years</p>	Draw up a consultation schedule (target areas, groups, issues) and hold at least four consultation workshops to inform a DPP submission to influence the LPP each year (areas which should be covered included Holywood and Bangor)	Sub Group	Sept – Dec 04
		Consult with police and key stakeholder organisations using workshops and one to one meetings	Members	Sept – Dec 04
		Consult stakeholders and wider public on Draft Local Policing Plan	Members	Jan 05
To produce and publish a strategy document and annually thereafter a report on strategy implementation	<p>Publish a report within 12 months of the inception of the North Down DPP, setting out the strategy for gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime</p> <p>Ensure that the strategy report is publicly available and send copies to the Policing Board, District Commander and the local council</p> <p>Produce annually a report detailing progress against published targets and objectives as set out in this strategy document.</p>	Establish a Strategy Sub Group	DPP Chairman	Jan 04
		Produce 1 <sup>st</sup> Strategy Document	Sub Group	Feb 04
		Draft 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Report	DPPM <sup>5</sup>	Apr 04
		Publish 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Report	DPPM	May 04
		Produce Draft 2 <sup>nd</sup> Strategy Document	Sub Group	Sep-Dec 04
		Produce and Publish final 2 <sup>nd</sup> Strategy Document using both traditional and electronic means of communication and distribution.	DPPM	Feb 05

**Aim 2 To act as a general forum for discussion and consultation**

<sup>5</sup> District Policing Partnership Manager

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
<p>To hold an appropriate number of public meetings of North Down DPP</p> <p>To attract an appropriate number of community representatives to attend public meetings</p> <p>To encourage the local community to submit questions to the North Down DPP</p>	<p>To hold a minimum of 6 meetings in public per year with minimum average attendance of 12 people</p> <p>To hold 3 meetings to get feedback on specific issues or from focus groups</p> <p>To monitor public satisfaction with the way that the North Down DPP processes and responds to questions from the public</p>	<p>Place notice of meeting, with at least 14 days notice, in newspapers and on web site and by direct mail using North Down DPP database</p> <p>Draw up programme of focus groups and issue-based meetings to get feedback for submission for the Local Policing Plan</p> <p>Monitor and report on the number of meetings, number of people attending and the issues raised.</p> <p>Publish responses to questions raised to encourage others to submit questions</p> <p>Issue feedback sheet at each meeting or send one by mail to record and report to North Down DPP on levels of satisfaction and complaints received</p>	<p>DPPM</p> <p>Sub group</p> <p>DPPM</p>	<p>Sep-Dec 04</p>

**Aim 3: To achieve public confidence and satisfaction in the work of the DPP**

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
To maximise the opportunity for people, from across the district, to attend public meetings of the DPP	To produce and implement a robust PR strategy to raise the profile and accessibility of the DPP within the community, having regard to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To advertise public meetings of the North Down DPP in ways that reach all parts of the community</li> <li>- To spread the word through active community networks and groups</li> <li>- Where practical, venues for North Down DPP meetings to be rotated</li> <li>- Time and place of meeting to be arranged to maximise the opportunity of the public to attend</li> <li>- To monitor the mediums through which information is available e.g. internet, written hard copies, audio, etc.</li> <li>- To ensure maximum access, within the local community, to North Down DPP information and reports.</li> </ul>	Linked to Aims 2 & 3 above, develop a Public Relations (PR) strategy that clearly specifies tailored communications towards target groups.  Draw on the Council's expertise/advisors on communications in developing the PR strategy  Produce an annual PR strategy by April each year  Place information on North Down DPP meetings on the web site and promote the web site as an up-to-date source for information  Develop a publications and reports distribution plan including both traditional and electronic delivery systems  Set a target of holding 2 events to brief and engage with members of the public  Develop and brief a cohort of "ambassadors" by briefing community workers and networks within schools etc and keeping them informed	Strategy Sub Group    DPPM  DPPM  DPPM	April 04 April 05  Ongoing  Jun 04

**Aim 3 To achieve public confidence and satisfaction in the work of the DPP**

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
<p>To maximise the number of people who have heard of DPPs</p> <p>To maximise the number of people who think the DPP does a good job</p> <p>To maximise the level of confidence in DPP addressing local policing issues</p> <p>To maximise the number of people who are prepared to contact their local DPP</p> <p>To maximise the level of satisfaction with the DPP in obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime</p>	<p>At least 70% awareness of DPP amongst general public</p> <p>An average of over 60% rating in terms of public perception that the DPP is doing a good job</p> <p>At least 60% confidence in the way DPP is addressing local policing issues</p> <p>Over 60% people prepared to contact the DPP</p> <p>Over 60% satisfaction with the DPP in obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime</p>	<p>Linked to actions for Aims 1-3 (above) which are intended to inform, involve and gain participation of the community in regard to policing.</p> <p>Review public survey in order to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ monitor the percentage of people in the district who have heard of the DPP</li> <li>▪ monitor the percentage of people in the district who think that the DPP does a good job</li> <li>▪ monitor the percentage of people in the district who are confident that the DPP is addressing local policing problems</li> <li>▪ monitor the percentage of people who would be prepared to contact their local DPP</li> <li>▪ monitor the percentage of people who are satisfied with the work of the DPP in relation to obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime</li> </ul>	<p>DPPM</p>	<p>May 05</p>

**Aim 4 To monitor police performance against the local policing plan and annual policing plan**

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
<p>To monitor and report on the level of police performance on a regular basis</p>	<p>100% compliance with monitoring schedule including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publish reports including information on how the DPP has made provision for this in accordance with the code of practice</li> <li>▪ Monitor annually the number of ad hoc community / police meetings in each beat patrol area and detail outcomes achieved</li> <li>▪ Monitor annually the number of consultative forum meetings in each police sector and report on the contribution the police are making towards community safety / community policing in the district</li> <li>▪ Report every six months and in the annual report on the achievement of the police against each target in the local policing plan and annual policing plan</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the North Down DPP approves and delivers all monitoring reports on time in accordance with timescales set out in the code of practice or agreed with the NIPB.</p>	<p>DPPM</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**Aim 5 To provide detailed reports to the Board as set out in the code of practice**

Objectives	Targets	Actions	Accountability	Timescale
To report on the activities of the North Down DPP to the NI Policing Board on a regular basis	100% return rate on all reports required by the Board within specified timescales as listed in the Code of Practice  This assumes that reasonable notice has been given	Produce and deliver reports on time in accordance with the requirements of the code of practice	DPPM	Ongoing