

Omagh District Policing Partnership

Annual Report

March 2003 - April 2004



Omagh

***District Policing
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

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Foreword by Chairman

As Chairman of the Omagh District Policing Partnership in its inaugural year, I am delighted to introduce the first Annual Report of Omagh DPP. This first year of the DPP has been used to set the foundations to allow real engagement between the local community and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to deliver an effective service for our local area.

I hope that you find this Annual Report useful in informing you about the work we have been doing in the last year. We have been given the unique opportunity to engage and consult with the community in order to identify, highlight and prioritise policing issues, and shape the delivery of local policing. A considerable investment has been made in DPP members to develop their knowledge of local policing, and to hone their analytical skills to critically scrutinise the effectiveness of the Omagh District Command Unit. We hope that this level of community involvement in the independent monitoring of local policing will help to build confidence in the changing face of policing in Northern Ireland.

Omagh District Policing Partnership, and DPPs across Northern Ireland, have challenges to face in meeting the statutory obligation placed on them under the Police (NI) Act 2000. We must acknowledge that not all sections of the community have been ready to engage in our work, but we hope that ultimately, whether inside or outside the process, the community as a whole, wishes to see a reduction in crime and the fear of crime.

I would like to commend all those who have made a contribution to the process, particularly the independent members of the DPP, and those members of the public who have sought to influence in a positive and meaningful way, the creation of a safer community for everyone.

Councillor Gerry O' Doherty

Chairman

Acknowledgement from the District Commander

On behalf of Omagh District Command Unit, I welcome this Annual Report of the Omagh District Partnership (DPP).

In accordance with Section 6.9 of the Code of Practice on the Exercise and functions of the District Policing Partnerships, Omagh DPP has consulted with me in the preparation of this report and I concur with the information presented herein.

I would like to thank the members of Omagh DPP for their contribution in the development of the 2004-2005 District Policing Plan and the commitment they have made to reflect the views and concerns of the local community in terms of crime, policing and community safety.

Michael Skuce
Superintendent

SECTION 1.0 – Introduction

Omagh District Policing Partnership (DPP) has a statutory responsibility under the Police (NI) Act 2000 Section 17 (1) and (2) to issue a report on how it has carried out its duties over the year. This report records the work of the DPP during 2003-2004 and provides an overview of how it has performed.

1.1 Background to District Policing Partnerships

During the negotiations that resulted in the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998, participants recognised that policing was an important and central issue for any society.

The Agreement led to the creation of the Independent Commission on Policing, also known as the Patten Commission after its chairman, Chris Patten. The Independent Commission was tasked with making recommendations on future policing arrangements which included encouraging widespread community support. Its 1999 report contained 175 recommendations, Recommendation 27 proposed the establishment of District Policing Partnerships or DPPs.

The Commission's proposal for a new structure of accountability was designed to ensure effective and democratically based oversight of policing and the creation of a close partnership between the police and local communities.

In November 2000 Parliament passed the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, which was based on the Independent Commission's recommendations and made provision for the establishment of DPPs in each of Northern Ireland's 26 district council areas.

On 4 March 2003 25 DPPs came into existence following one of the largest public appointments processes ever undertaken in Northern Ireland.

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the Omagh District Policing Partnership

Omagh District Policing Partnership is a partnership between Omagh District Council and representatives of the community and was set up in co-operation with the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The roles and responsibilities of the DPP are set out in Schedule 3 Part III of the Police (NI) Act 2000. They are to:

Provide views to the District Commander on any matter concerning policing in the district

- Monitor the performance of the police in carrying out the local policing plan
- Obtain the views of the public about matters concerning the policing of the district
- Obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district.

Finding out the community's views, concerns and policing needs enables the District Commander to prioritise and deliver an effective and efficient service for the district. Consulting with the community about local policing is therefore an important role for DPPs.

1.3 Omagh DPP Membership

Omagh DPP was set-up by the Northern Ireland Policing Board in co-operation with Omagh District Council on 4 March 2003.

It is made up of members of the local community who are either members of the public, or councillors elected to Omagh District Council. Members of the public who sit on Omagh DPP are known as 'Independent Members' as they do not represent a political party, while the councillors are known as 'Political Members'.

The Police (NI) Act 2000 gave councils the authority to determine the size of its DPP. Omagh DPP has 15 members, 7 Independent Members and 8 Political Members. (All DPPs have one more Political Member than they have Independent Members.)

The selection of 8 Political Members of Omagh DPP is based on the strength of individual political parties on Omagh District Council. All members of the current DPP will serve until 2005 when new appointments will be made.

The Political Members of Omagh DPP are:

Name	Party
Cllr Buchanan MLA	DUP
Cllr O'Doherty	SDLP
Cllr Deehan	SDLP

Cllr McDonnell	SDLP
Cllr McGowan	INDEPENDENT
Cllr McQuaid	SDLP
Cllr Rainey MBE	UUP
Cllr Wilson	UUP

At the outset of the process to establish DPPs, Sinn Fein decided not to take part.

The Independent Members of Omagh DPP are:

- Patrick McClean, a retired teacher from Beragh.
- Rozella Kelly, a parent and carer from Omagh.
- Elaine Waterson MBE, a retired hotelier from Fintona.
- Vida Lake, a reflexologist from Omagh.
- Patrick Hunter, a sports editor from Omagh.
- Briege McClean, a communication consultant from Omagh.
- Margaret Geelan, a drama teacher from Omagh.

1.4 Profile of Omagh District Council Area



1.4.1 Location

The District of Omagh covers an area of almost 113,000 hectares (440 square miles), making it the second largest district council area in Northern Ireland. The district can lay claim to an unspoiled landscape as well as a rich historical heritage. The town of Omagh is at the centre of the region with the rest of Omagh district primarily rural in character with its people living in scattered small towns and in dispersed rural communities.

1.4.2 Population

In 2001, 47,952 people lived in the Omagh District, 2.85% of the Northern Ireland population. There are 21 wards in the Omagh District Council area, ranging in size from 1,780 people living in the ward of Strule to 2,973 people living in the ward of Lisanelly.

In terms of community background, 69.8% of the people living in Omagh are Roman Catholic and 30.2% are non-Roman Catholic and in terms of gender, 50% of the population is female and 50% male.

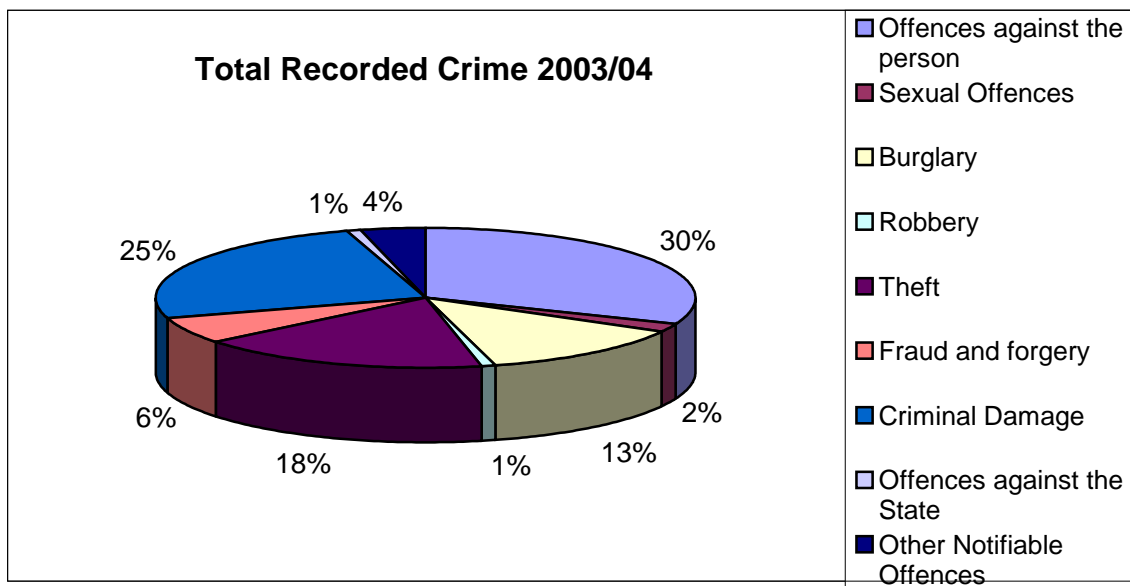
1.4.3 Representativeness of the DPP Membership

The Northern Ireland Policing Board was responsible for appointing the Independent Members to all DPPs including Omagh. While all councils selected from submitted applications, a list of suitable candidates on merit, in making the actual public appointments the Policing Board had to ensure that each full DPP - Independent and Political Members together - were as representative of the local community as possible.

To achieve this the appointment panels considered the perceived backgrounds of each DPP's Political Members, noted their gender, used statistics from the 2001 Census, and considered the make up of each area (taking into account for example, the age, gender, religious background, disability and sexual orientation of candidates).

1.4.4 Crime in Omagh District Council Area 2003-04

Crime	Recorded 03/04	Recorded 02/03	% Change
Offences against the person	873	875	-0.23%
Sexual Offences	52	37	40.54%
Burglary	360	399	-9.77%
Robbery	22	19	15.79%
Theft	490	759	-35.44%
Fraud and forgery	172	208	-17.31%
Criminal Damage	698	730	-4.38%
Offences against the State	19	50	-62.00%
Other Notifiable Offences	112	85	31.76%
Total	2798	3162	-11.51%



Crime Recorded April 2003 – March 2004

Offences against the person continued to be a major crime area in Omagh, representing 30% of all recorded crime. Much of this figure can be attributed to assaults committed in the town centre at weekend nights, and domestic violence incidents that have resulted in assaults being committed.

Criminal Damage, the second highest crime area, accounted for 25% of all recorded crime in the district during the last year. Although theft continued to be high, accounting for 18% of all crime, it reduced significantly from the previous year from 759 to 490 cases. Theft of cars which has been included in these figures dropped significantly by nearly 49% from 90 to 46 incidents of unauthorised taking of a vehicle.

Although burglary as a whole has reduced from the previous year by 9.77%, the PSNI failed to meet its target to reduce Domestic Burglary by 5%. A reduction of 2.6% was achieved with 220 domestic burglaries reported in 2003-04, down from 225 the previous year.

There was a notable reduction in Offences against the State due to the arrest and successful prosecution of a man responsible for making numerous hoax bomb calls in Omagh town centre.

SECTION 2.0 - DPP Function and Processes

2.1 DPP Developing its knowledge and skills

During the first year of the DPP, considerable investment was made by the Policing Board to develop the capacity of local DPPs to become knowledgeable about local policing, crime and the issues that impact on the provision of an effective community police service.

An extensive induction programme, facilitated by Price Waterhouse Coopers on behalf of the NI Policing Board, was delivered in the months following the establishment of the DPP. Training included examining the roles and responsibilities of the DPP, particularly within the area of crime prevention, structures within local District Command Units, the monitoring of performance, the use of the National Intelligence Model and crime analysis. DPP members also attended seminars that focussed on new developments within local policing such as Criminal Justice, Youth Diversion and Domestic Violence. The DPP Manager participated in a number of training and development opportunities, in order to inform the strategic development of Omagh District Policing Partnership within the context of reducing crime and improving community safety as part of the Council's lead in community planning as a whole.

2.2 DPP Meetings

In addition to attending regular planning meetings for the purposes of developing community engagement, monitoring police performance, developing knowledge within the DPP and preparing for meetings in public, the Omagh DPP is required to hold a minimum of six meetings in public a year. Members of the Public have become involved in shaping their local police service in a number of ways. For example:

- Asking the District Commander questions by writing to the Chairperson of the DPP who asks the question on their behalf at the next public meeting (questions should ideally be submitted ten working days before the meeting itself)
- Asking a DPP Member to ask a question on their behalf or
- Attending the public meeting itself where one can put forward questions through the DPP Chairman (all meetings are advertised publicly 14 days in advance).

In order to focus on specific objectives within this year's policing plan and look in detail at single issues, the DPP members decided that throughout 2004, as well as monitoring police performance across all areas of crime, each meeting in public would have a particular theme. Themes that have been covered to date include Domestic Violence and Police Complaints, which were discussed in February and April 2005. Throughout the rest of this year, issues such as roads

policing, fear of crime against the elderly and anti-social behaviour have been chosen for DPP meetings in public.

2.2.1 Issues raised during DPP Meetings in Public

The Omagh DPP has successfully held five Meetings in Public (July, October, December, February and more recently April) after its first Meeting in May had to be abandoned because of protests. Issues raised by members of the Public and DPP members have included:

- Domestic Violence

Attention has been drawn to the percentage of Assaults that have occurred as a result of Domestic Violence, the increasing incidences of domestic violence, the lack of public awareness/acknowledgement of the issue and the need for an improved information system to record and analyse domestic violence reports.

- Police Response times

Concern has been voiced on a number of occasions, particularly from those living in rural areas, that a reduction in resources has resulted in the PSNI becoming less able to respond to reports of crime.

- Underage Drinking / Policing Public Disorder / Dealing with Young People

These areas are frequently discussed at DPP meetings under the theme of anti-social behaviour. The drinking culture that exists has, no doubt, contributed in a large part to the number of assaults and criminal damage cases in the Omagh town area.

- Domestic Burglary / Attacks on the Elderly

Domestic Burglary, particularly when the homes of older people are targeted, has been an issue raised regularly at DPP meetings. Despite continuous reassurance stating the contrary, the fear of burglary and attacks on this vulnerable group in the community continues to exist.

- Road Safety – speeding, car related crime

Speeding, and a growing number of young men driving untaxed vehicles recklessly whilst uninsured, have been regularly raised at DPP meetings.

Such issues have been included in the Omagh District Policing Plan for 2004/5 as priorities for the targeting of resources aimed at reducing levels of crime.

2.3 Public Consultation

Before publishing or revising a Policing Plan both the NI Policing Board and the local PSNI District Commanders are required to consult, and take cognisance of the views of the community as expressed through District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). As well as seeking the views of the

Public attending DPP meetings in Public, the DPP has a commitment to widespread consultation across the District using a range of methods for recording policing issues being raised by local people.

2.3.1 NISRA Public Consultation on Policing Survey Results June 2003

The survey, which was the largest public consultation on policing ever to be undertaken in Northern Ireland, will play an important role in shaping future policing priorities at both local and Northern Ireland levels. The Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) was commissioned to carry out the survey on behalf of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and District Policing Partnerships (DPP's). The postal survey involved questionnaires being sent to just over 60,000 households across Northern Ireland (NI), selected at random from the Valuation and Lands agency list of addresses. Unique identifiers were included with the questionnaires to enable results to be broken down by District Command Unit.

Of the 1705 questionnaires that were sent to homes in the Omagh District Council area (1 in 10 homes received the survey) over a quarter (27%) were returned.

52% were completed by Catholic respondents, 42% were from Protestant respondents, 3% stated a religion other than Protestant or Roman Catholic, 2% respondents stated "No Religion" and 2% of respondents did not answer the question. More females, 49%, returned questionnaires than males (48%), and 3% of respondents did not disclose their gender. Due to the nature of the survey, only 3% of respondents were 16-24 years old, 24% were 25-40 years old, 28% were over 61 years old and the largest percentage of respondents, 45%, were 41-60 years old.

The following summarises some of the key findings to a selection of the 16 questions contained within the survey.

Single biggest issue of crime that causes local Public most concern

The single biggest concern for respondents living in the Omagh District Council area was Domestic Burglary 28% (NI average 23%) followed by Attacks on the Elderly 22% (NI average 13%) and thirdly Assaults 10% (NI average 5%). Respondents living in rural areas were much more concerned about Domestic Burglary (37%) compared to those living in the Omagh Town area (21%). Interestingly, Domestic Violence, which does account for a significant proportion of assaults in the Omagh area, did not rate at all in any responses.

Top five areas of crime that causes concern

Respondents were asked to rank the five areas of crime that cause greatest concern. Within the Omagh District Council area, Domestic Burglary remains within the top five causes of concern for 61% of respondents (NI average 55%) and 53% of respondents (NI average 39%) including attacks on the elderly within their top five areas of concern. Underage Drinking was within the top five for 48% of those questioned (NI average 47%). Similarly Speeding 45% (NI average 43%) and Vehicle Crime 33% (NI average 38%), which are not viewed as being the biggest single issue of crime, are included in the top five biggest concerns.

Local people were significantly more concerned with Attacks on the Elderly, and Assaults 29% (NI average 20%) particularly in the Omagh Town area when compared to the N.I. average, but much less concerned with Paramilitary Activity 7% (NI average 25%) and Young People causing a nuisance 23% (NI average 43%).

Single most important activity on which the PSNI should be concentrating most resources

In terms of resources, 28% of respondents highlighted Beat/foot patrolling as the activity on which the PSNI should concentrate most resources, although this was much less than the NI average of 39% for the same category. Other activities into which local respondents thought PSNI should be putting more resources include Investigating Crime 19% (NI average 10%), Crime Prevention 13% (NI average 9%) and Prompt Response to Emergencies 10% (NI average 15%).

Additional Activities on which the PSNI should be concentrating

When asked to state other activities / initiatives the PSNI could engage in to improve the local area, responses included working with young people and parents, tighter controls on underage drinking and licensing laws, improvements in the justice system, more visible and accessible policing in all parts of the community.

Public Satisfaction with local Policing

Satisfaction with the local PSNI was higher than the NI average, with 38% of respondents very satisfied or satisfied with local policing compared to 25% NI average. Indeed 8% of local people surveyed are very satisfied with local policing compared to a NI average of 4%. A larger proportion of Protestant respondents (38%) were satisfied with local policing than Catholic

respondents (23%) and a larger proportion of women (35%) were satisfied with local policing than men (25%).

Public Satisfaction with Policing in Northern Ireland

There was less satisfaction with policing in NI as a whole 22% (NI average 20%). Again a larger percentage of Protestant respondents (30%) were satisfied with overall policing in NI than Roman Catholic respondents (17%) and a larger proportion of women (25%) were satisfied with overall policing than men (19%).

Experience of witnessing a Crime

Fewer than one third of respondents have ever witnessed a crime and 72% of those who have witnessed a crime say they did report it. Of the 27% of respondents who have witnessed a crime but did not report it, fear of reprisal and lack of trust in the police are given as the main reasons for not reporting the crime.

Tackling Underage Drinking

In response to considering who should take more responsibility for Underage Drinking and Youths Causing Annoyance, all respondents and particularly Protestant respondents thought that parents (74%) should take more responsibility, followed by Licensees (54%) and the Police at (33%). Other groups mentioned by respondents were Friends (19%), Schools (18%), Community (16%) and the District Council (15%).

Awareness of District Policing Partnerships

The Omagh DPP was pleased that there appeared to be a higher awareness of the DPP among people in Omagh in comparison to the NI average. Of those surveyed, 61% of respondents had heard of the DPP (NI average 59%), 31% of respondents knew who the DPP members were (NI average 16%) and 21% of respondents knew how to contact the local DPP (NI average 14%).

The results of the survey will form a baseline from which to measure the results of future DPP Consultation Surveys that will be conducted every two years.

2.3.2 DPP Presentations at local community forums

There has been limited consultation conducted by the DPP since its establishment in March, particularly given the uncertain political climate that has required the Partnership to proceed

cautiously. Initial discussions with Community Police Liaison Committees (CPLCs) have focussed around developing the relationship between CPLCs and the DPP and ensuring issues raised at community level through the CPLCs are considered and addressed by the DPP at a strategic level.

Presentations on the Survey Results have been made to a number of groups representing urban and rural community groups, ethnic minorities and the business community. As with meetings with CPLCs, these presentations focussed on raising awareness and any discussions arising from those presentations were around the role of the DPP and how groups can feed into the process.

However, feedback from CPLCs and Community Groups in relation to the Survey Results was positive and confirmed Public perceptions as reported.

Additional views expressed during consultation with local community forums were

- Within the Rural Community people are more vulnerable to crime
- Rural communities have fewer PSNI resources to support them than people living in towns
- Police Officers are not known in local Communities
- In both Rural and Town Sectors, police response times are inadequate

2.3.3 Outline of Focus Group Consultation

The Omagh DPP has begun discussions with MORI MRC to identify and to agree a FOCUS Group strategy for the Omagh District in 2004-5, following the NISRA survey Results and as part of its continuing consultation.

As the NISRA household survey was not targeted at young people, who represent a sizeable percentage of the local population, and in order that the views of young people are heard, the DPP has made a commitment to conduct additional research in 2004, into the attitudes to policing amongst young people.

The DPP has been keen to develop opportunities for consultation with community, voluntary and statutory groups throughout the District and to listen to their ideas and concerns about policing and as such will continue to actively seeking opportunities to meet with a range of representative groups in 2004.

2.4 How we have impacted on Local Policing

Before publishing or revising a Policing Plan both the NI Policing Board and the local PSNI District Commanders are required to consult, and take cognisance of the views of the community as expressed through District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

The Omagh District DPP was aware that in order to address the key issues, the police must not only have a list of priorities, but these priorities must be ranked in order of importance. In reaching their conclusions the DPP considered the following:

- impact upon the quality of life of residents in the district
- financial impact
- magnitude – how widespread the problem is within the District
- complexity – would a multi-agency approach be required to resolve the problem
- urgency – what would happen if no action was taken.

In 2003, the local PSNI successfully reduced crime in the Omagh District Area. Overall recorded crime is down, particularly in priority areas such as Domestic Burglary, Vehicle Crime and Theft, while the clearance rate for all crime has consistently been one of the highest in the Province.

The DPP bore in mind the fact that the survey results used in making its recommendations was based on the Public's perceptions of crime, rather than actual crime figures, and also that 80% of all crime is committed in the Omagh Town sector of the District.

However, it was important that the Public's views on Policing were considered when establishing priorities for the District, as the fear of crime can be as detrimental to the health and well being of the community as crime itself. In addition, if one considered that not all crime is reported, crime figures as they are currently recorded may not be enough to base our judgements when planning policing in the local community.

While acknowledging the achievements to date, the DPP wanted to see the downward trend in levels of crime continuing and specific attention being given to areas where crime continues to rise.

In 2004/5 the priority areas recommended for the Omagh District Policing plan by the Omagh DPP can be summarised as follows:

1. Continued Reduction of Overall Crime, particularly
 - Domestic Burglary

- Assaults
- Criminal Damage

2. Developing Partnership Initiatives Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour

Much of the criminal damage and assaults could be described as anti-social behaviour, and stem from excess alcohol consumption, underage drinking and vandalism. The DPP wanted to see further Partnership working, primarily through the Community Safety Partnership, with Statutory, Voluntary and Community Organisations, to identify crime hotspots in the District and develop joint initiatives for tackling the underlying causes of crime.

3. Domestic Violence

The DPP wanted to see a system in place for monitoring the rate of Domestic Violence in terms of assaults and levels of re-offending.

Given the poor awareness of the problem among respondents of the NISRA survey, the DPP wanted initiatives developed locally, through the Community Safety Partnership and through organisations such as Women's Aid and Victim Support.

4. Crime Prevention Initiatives

Domestic Burglary is one of the main crime areas for the District and it was therefore no surprise that it was identified as the top area of crime that was of concern for respondents of the NISRA survey on Policing.

Although the PSNI promotes the message that domestic burglaries are opportunistic, and the most effective way of reducing this type of crime is for members of the public to take more care to secure their homes and property, there is a perception that the police should be doing more to prevent this type of crime.

The DPP was conscious of the local PSNI Crime Prevention Officer's work in educating the public, and delivering this programme through Good Neighbourhood Schemes, if established, could have a positive impact not only in reducing the number of burglaries, but in overall crime reduction for the area.

2.4.1 Omagh Policing Objectives, Performance Indicators and Targets 2004/05

The table below outlines the policing objectives, performance indicators and targets for Omagh D.C.U. in 2004-5, that were developed and agreed in consultation with Omagh DPP.

Objective	Performance Indicator	Target
To promote safety and reduce disorder		
1.0 To maintain public order, thereby providing for the protection and security of the public	1.2 Number of inspections of licensed establishments conducted.	1.2.1 Monitor all licensed establishments in the District Command Unit
2.0 To work in partnership with others to reduce the number of those killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions.	2.1 Contribution, through increased education and targeted enforcement, towards delivery of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy.	2.1.2 To increase the number of detections for driving while impaired through drink and/or drugs 2.1.3 To increase the number of detections for non-wearing of seat belts.
To reduce crime and the fear of crime		
3.0 To work in partnership with other relevant agencies to help reduce the incidence of crime including organised crime, in line with The Government's published targets and to diminish the fear of crime.	3.1 The number of domestic burglaries 3.5 The number of domestic incidents and domestic violence offences. 3.7 The number of criminal damage offences reported.	3.1.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 2% by March 2005 3.5.3 To reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic violence 3.7.1 To reduce the number of criminal damage offences
4.0 To disrupt the illegal supply of controlled drugs and to work in partnership with other agencies in tackling the problem of drug misuse.	4.1 The number of seizures of illicit drugs within the Omagh District Command Unit	4.2.1 To increase the number and quantity of seizures of illicit drugs in Omagh District Command Unit
5.0 To uphold and maintain the rule of law, counter the terrorist threat; and bring to justice those responsible for crime	5.7 The number of violent crimes reported	5.7.1 To reduce the number of violent crimes within the Omagh District Command Unit

(Extract from Omagh District Policing Plan 2004-2005)

These objectives that have been set do not include everything that the police can deal with. As the performance of local police will be monitored against all aspects of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2004/05 the numbering used above reflects the priorities set within that plan.

2.5 Communicating the work of the DPP

Within the first year of the DPP, it was essential to communicate effectively the rationale, role and work of the DPP so that the community living within the District of Omagh would see the DPP as an important and integral part of the new policing arrangements. It was also essential that the community see and understand the unique and independent role that the DPP has in fulfilling its statutory obligations, in gaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime, as well as building public confidence in effective community policing.

To achieve this, the Omagh DPP has been proactive in communicating with our target audiences and, at the same time, developing relationships with the media. Through the generation of news releases, public notices, proactive engagement of local media, articles in newsletters and news sheets, creating speaking opportunities and attending events, we have successfully created an awareness of the rationale, role, work and benefit of the Omagh DPP.

The Omagh DPP is committed to operating in an open, accessible and transparent manner and all DPP documents are listed in the Omagh DPP Freedom of Information Scheme, detailing the public's rights to access this information.

2.6 Strategy for Gaining the Co-operation of the Public

A significant responsibility of the DPP is to develop the co-operation between the community and the police to prevent crime. The following table outlines specific objectives and outcomes to be achieved in terms of crime prevention until the end of the term of this DPP in May 2005. In formulating a strategy to gain the co-operation of the public with the police to prevent crime, the DPP has identified opportunities that will involve working effectively with other organisations, community groups, statutory organisations and partnerships.

2.6.1 Strategy for Gaining the Co-operation of the Public in Preventing Crime 2004 - 2005

Objectives for Omagh DPP linked to Policing Plan	Outcomes Target	Target Audience	Actions
1. Reduce the number of those killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions	1 day Road Safe Road Show	Post Primary Schools in local District	Develop project in conjunction with Omagh Community Safety Partnership (CSP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsorship - PR - Venue - Liaison with schools
2. Reduce incidence of crime (domestic burglary)	Seasonal PR campaign Neighbourhood Watch established	All community 10 Community Groups (rural/urban)	Design insert for local papers in partnership with CSP Design and produce leaflets. Information and consultation sessions with schemes as they are established
3. Reduce incidence of domestic violence	Drama on Domestic Violence Lobby Businesses and Organisations to adopt Domestic Violence Policy in the workplace	All community CSP organisations	Project group established with CSP, Women's Aid, Omagh Women's Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify date and location - PR / Sponsorship - Discussion Forum <p>Write to CSP requesting their consideration of Domestic Violence Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify Organisations that have already adopted policy within their organisation.
4. Reduce fear of crime among older people	Directory for Older People Advice and helpline information Senior Citizens Newsletter	Older People living in the Community Older People living in the Community	Project lead by Senior Citizens Consortium DPP and CSP to provide sponsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One page providing info. on DPP and crime prevention message. <p>Create an insert to be placed inside Newsletter sent to over 1500 older people in local area</p>
5. Reduce Anti-social Behaviour amongst young people (Under Age Drinking, use of illicit drugs, criminal damage and assaults)	Deliver a 1 day youth conference aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour	Post primary schools, parents, teachers, youth workers	Develop project in partnership with CSP (Omagh Forum for Rural Associations, F.O.C.U.S and WELB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsorship, PR, Venue - Liaison with schools - Guest Speakers Facilitators

SECTION 3.0 – How is the DPP doing?

3.1 Successes and Challenges

By making small sound steps, the Omagh District Policing Partnership is pleased with the steady progress that has been made in the last year, accomplishing a number of unique achievements.

For the first time the community has been effectively engaged in a process that identifies local policing issues. Furthermore, the Omagh DPP, as an independent body, has monitored how well our local police service is performing and through the development of local policing plans, has ensured that the community has had an input into the type of local policing it wants.

All this despite the continuing political uncertainty that has the issue of policing in the centre of the ongoing debate, as well as the threats and intimidation that DPP members have had to face. DPP members have demonstrated a commitment and a conviction to continue to offer the opportunity for discussion and debate with the community that will, in turn, shape local policing, accepting the challenges that come with striving to meet their objectives.

Consultation fatigue and apathy may be felt by some, fear of engagement and lack of confidence may be a barrier for others. There may now be a policing service that truly believes in its vision of improving the safety and well being of the community, but it has to deal with the reality of a community that has not automatically given it the authority to do so.

However, the Omagh DPP has demonstrated its ability to successfully exercise its role and responsibilities under the Police (NI) Act 2000, and has used its position as one of 25 DPPs across NI to effectively lobby Government through the NI Policing Board.

In its first year of operation, the Omagh DPP participated in, and hosted, a number of successful events.

The Omagh District Policing Partnership was delighted when, for the first time in its 28th month history, the NI Policing Board held both its private session and meeting in public outside its Belfast headquarters when it came to Omagh in February. “ In coming to Omagh, the Board wanted to recognise the essential work that the DPPs undertake on behalf of the community by

people who have come forward to play their part in their community's service, many of them for the first time," said Professor Rea, Chairman of the NI Policing Board.

The Police Ombudsman for NI, Mrs Nuala O'Loan was a guest speaker at our most recent meeting in Public, which was well attended by the public and generated good discussion and debate. The DPP in promoting real engagement and participation by the community in its meetings in public, has been flexible in how it approaches the format of meetings. The decision to theme meetings and focus on particular issues has been working well.

3.2 DPP and Community Safety

The Omagh Community Safety Partnership was developed in light of the Government's Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland, launched in 2003, which set out a range of proposed structures and actions, to be delivered and designed to create the conditions for improving community safety throughout NI. The Strategy considers community safety as the means of preventing, reducing or containing the social, environmental and intimidatory factors which affect people's right to live without fear of crime, and which impact upon their quality of life.

In recognising that improvements in community safety cannot be delivered by a single agency, the Community Safety Partnership, made up of representatives of organisations from the statutory, community, business and voluntary sectors, and the Omagh DPP, held its first meeting in December 2003. The Partnership aims to develop and deliver local community safety initiatives that are sustainable and that provide solutions to problems identified by local people through forums such as the Omagh DPP.

By April 2005, the Omagh Community Safety Partnership will have produced a strategy to reduce crime, anti social behaviour, fear of crime, and address other safety concerns in the Omagh District Council area. In developing such a strategy, the Community Safety Partnership will be conducting a comprehensive audit and consultation exercise in conjunction with the DPP across the community, to identify key community safety issues and reflect local circumstances.

SECTION 4.0 – DPP Finance

4.1 Statement of Income and Expenditure

The Northern Ireland Policing Board funds 75% of Omagh DPP while Omagh District Council funds the remaining 25%. Overall responsibility for ensuring the effective operation of the DPP lies with Omagh District Council's Chief Executive, while the DPP Manager undertakes day-to-day management of the DPPs affairs.

Year ending 31st March 2004

Salary Costs		
Salaries	28334	
Wages (Support Staff)	10561	
Travel & subsistence	1888	
Training	<u>605</u>	
		41388
Assistance Given to Groups		
Existing Groups	60	
New Groups	<u>155</u>	
		215
Public Meetings		
Room Hire, Security & Catering	2156	
	<u> </u>	2156
Public Consultation		
Central R/C (Mori)	<u>2156</u>	
		2156
Publicity		
Printing & Stationery	2790	
Publicity	<u>2724</u>	
		5514
Running Costs		
Attendance Allowance(Members)	39091	
Member T & S	2766	
Postage	191	
Telephone	551	
Printing & Stationery	1684	
Photocopies	333	
Insurance	1575	
Computer Equipment	<u>2881</u>	
		49072
Other Costs		
Audit Fee	1300	
Sundries	436	
Central Support	<u>3468</u>	
		5204
Central Costs		
Core Training	9583	
Establishment Costs (03/04)	<u>5460</u>	
		<u>15043</u>
Total Costs		£ 120,748

SECTION 5.0 – Contact Details

5.1 How to contact the Omagh DPP

The DPP is keen to hear your views on local policing issues and would encourage you to attend their meetings in public held every two months or to send comments or questions in writing. For further details of meetings in Public or how to raise questions on local policing issues, you can contact the DPP Manager at the District Council offices, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh BT79 7BL, Tel: 8224 5321 or you can email dpp@omagh.gov.uk.