



Press Release

Friday 13 April 2007

Police & DPP set out Local Policing Priorities for 07/ 08

Reducing violent crime, domestic burglaries, anti-social behaviour, and the number of road casualties on the district's roads will become the focus of local policing throughout 2007 & 2008, coupled with an emphasis on promoting safer communities and getting tough on the causes of these crimes.

Speaking at the official launch of the plan the Chairman of Cookstown DPP Cllr Ian McCrea MLA said, "the new local policing plan represents a snap shot of some of the work that has taken place between the DPP and local police over the past few months, and represents a 'contract' between police, DPP and the public for delivering local policing for the whole community.

In devising the locally specific plan Cookstown DPP, on behalf of the wider community through various consultative exercises undertaken in the autumn of 2006, has ensured that the plan where possible caters for the policing needs of the district," he continued.

Cllr McCrea said, “in agreeing the objectives and targets with the local District Commander, the Partnership took into account and reviewed evidence and information identified through surveys, focus groups, interactive consultation exercises and feedback from the local community on how they felt their area was being policed and how they felt it should be policed.

The local policing plan for 2007/ 08 was agreed through a process of negotiation between DPP Members and the local District Commander, and covers 6 key priorities which it was felt required particular attention within the district over the coming year. The local priorities, specific to the policing needs of the district, are in addition to the targets set out in the province-wide Northern Ireland Policing Plan which was agreed and recently launched by the Policing Board and PSNI Chief Constable.

The Chairman and local councillor said, “the Partnership will constructively monitor the work of Cookstown police against the targets that have been set, and other priorities set by the Policing Board, at our meetings in public held throughout the year to which I would encourage members of the public to attend.

Referring to the launch of the plan local District Commander, Chief Inspector Brian Williamson said, “We are firmly committed to working with the DPP and the community to tackle the issues that are of key concern to local people.

I also want to say a public thank you to the many members of the Community who have supported us and assisted us. Violent crime, domestic burglaries, anti social behaviour and casualties as a result of road traffic collisions are a major concern to us all. We can't do our job effectively without your support and urge you to continue to report any criminal or suspicious activity to your local police station.

I look forward to maintaining that effective partnership and together working to make Cookstown a safer place for everyone".

Cllr McCrea concluded by saying, “whilst the DPP knows that police must deliver the local plan within the resources made available to them, complete success will require the

assistance of everyone in supporting the police to help keep crime out of our district through reporting any suspicious activity at their earliest opportunity.

Ends

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