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Press Release

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DPP Encourages Greater Reporting of Crime

A sustained reduction in the levels of crime within Cookstown and district can only be achieved by police with the support of the entire community was the message from the last public meeting of Cookstown District Policing Partnership.

Speaking at last week's meeting the Chairman of the DPP Cllr Ian McCrea said, although overall crime was down by 13% in 2006/ 2007 compared with 2005/ 2006 figures local police continue to need the support of the public to achieve sustained reductions in crime.

The Assembly Member in welcoming an overall reduction in crime over the period April 2006 to March 2007 said, "although Cookstown and district remains to be one of the safest parts of Northern Ireland our guard must not be dropped, police need the support of everybody and for that reason if you have any information on crime contact either police at Cookstown Station or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111".

The DPP was informed by the Area Commander that the total number of crimes reported in the district declined from 2,192 to 1,897 from 2005/06 to 2006/07 and police cleared 37% of the crimes occurring throughout 2006/07, exceeding all targets set.

Cllr McCrea said, “although local police should be congratulated for their efforts in meeting the targets using a number of initiatives throughout the year there was still more work to be done to keep crime out of our district. The overall reduction in crime and high detection rate has however masked the increase in crime and lower detection rates in a number of crime categories when compared with 2005/ 06 figures”.

The DPP Chairman continued, “it will only be with the support of the public, communities and partnerships in; reporting crime; providing police with all evidence possible; and assisting police in bringing successful prosecutions will we be able to reduce crime further and achieve higher clearance rates which we all yearn for”.

The Area Commander, Chief Inspector Brian Williamson said, “I am pleased, on behalf of the community, that the number of crimes in the Cookstown District during 2006/07 compared with 2005/06 reduced by almost 300 and our clearance rate, that is the number of crimes solved remains high at over 37%, the second highest in the Service.

Cookstown remains one of the lowest crime areas in Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland is the lowest crime area in the UK. However, that does not mean we will be complacent. My officers will continue to work hard in partnership with other statutory, voluntary and community agencies to maintain and improve on last year’s figures.

Chief Inspector Williamson continued, “I am aware that behind each statistic there are victims and I wish to emphasise I am committed to working in partnership with the community and other agencies to support victims and reduce crime and anti social behaviour in Cookstown. Policing relies on the local community to report all incidents and suspicious activity to police as soon as possible and police will respond accordingly. Working together, police, communities and other agencies can have an even greater impact on crime and community safety. Ultimately we rely on the community to report crime and anti-social behaviour and to provide information that will assist police in reducing crime and increasing detection rates.

Cllr McCrea concluded by saying, “whilst the DPP knows police have ultimate responsibility for dealing with crime, complete success will require the assistance of

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

Ends

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