



Limavady

***District Policing
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

REPORT

ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE

BY LIMAVADY DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

ON POLICING, POLICING ISSUES AND POLICING PRIORITIES

REPORT TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION

BY THE DISTRICT COMMAND UNIT

IN THE FORMULATION OF THE LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2005-2006

AND IN ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC CONCERNS RE POLICING

“The views expressed by the District Policing Partnership Boards should be taken fully into account by the police and by the Policing Board in the formulation of policing plans and strategies”

**The Report on the Independent Commission
on Policing for Northern Ireland
September 1999**

(3) Before issuing or revising a local policing plan, the district commander shall consult the district policing partnership whose district is, or includes, the police district and take account of any views expressed.

Section 22 The Police (NI) Act 2000:

Contents

- Executive Summaryi
- 3
- 1. Background.....1
 - 1.1 Vision.....1
 - 1.2 Location.....1
 - 1.3 Demographics1
 - 1.4 Environmental Scan2
- 2. Methodology.....3
- 3. Local Crime Analysis.....4
- 4. Primary Consultation.....6
- 5. Questions from the public11
- 6. Questions/discussion between the DPP and the police12
- 7. Secondary Consultation13
- 8. Input from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community Groups15
- 9. Media scanning17
- 10. Evaluation of responses to written questions18
- 11. Conclusions and Recommendations.....19

Executive Summary

In order to assist with identifying local policing issues the Limavady District Policing Partnership developed a process to establish policing priorities. This was based on quantitative and qualitative research, using both a structured and a semi-structured process.

Information consisted of an analysis of local crime figures, primary postal consultation, analysis of questions submitted by the public, DPP input, input from local Statutory, Voluntary and Community groups, media scanning, focus groups and meeting with groups and individuals.

Statistically, local people had a higher degree of satisfaction with local policing than the Northern Ireland average. This is to be commended whilst acknowledging that more can be done in order to make local policing acceptable to all communities, and to deliver an effective and efficient service.

As a result of the above, the following conclusions were drawn:

In the development of policing issues and priorities, it is acknowledged that some issues which have been identified will not be included in the policing plan, but are identified as issues which should be considered at corporate level (both PSNI and NIPB) and acted upon, or where appropriate lobbied for.

In Summary

- People want a high visibility police service which is courteous, approachable and friendly with a problem solving approach
- People want feedback
- Soft targets can be more important than hard targets when it comes to shaping policing
- Concern at implications of reduced staffing levels
- Crime clearance as well as crime reduction
- POLICING PRIORITIES

- Volume crimes - criminal damage, offences against the person, burglary and theft
- Drug related issues - education, enforcement, and need for baseline data with a multi-agency approach
- Alcohol abuse, drinking in public places, underage drinking
- Road policing management (including quads)
- Domestic violence
- Emotive Issues – Youths causing annoyance, and anti-social behaviour (multi-agency approach)
- Fear and the perception of crime - fear of burglary exists, esp. in rural areas
- Policing with the Community
- Customer Relations
- Promotion of Public Confidence
- Community Safety Partnership

The key issues which if addressed would assist with improving quality of life and promote public confidence in the police are:

- Abuse of drugs (legal and illegal);
- Road safety offences
- Criminal damage and
- Youths causing annoyance.

This is the outcome of a public consultation report on policing. It also includes policing issues which have been prioritised by the DPP. It is hoped that the contents will assist the District Commander with formulating the Local Policing Plan. It is acknowledged that not all issues will need to be included in the Local Policing Plan as they will have been identified and included in the Annual Policing Plan, and that other issues require to be observed with trends and patterns identified. It is also acknowledged that this information will complement other information collated from the Strategic Assessment and the Community Safety Audit process.

November 2004

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT 2004

1. Background

Limavady District Policing Partnership was established in March 2003 up to the next elections in 2005 with a five-fold purpose to:

1. provide views to the district commander on any matter concerning policing in the district
2. monitor the performance of the police in carrying out the policing plan
3. obtain the views of the public about matters concerning the policing of the district;
4. obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime
5. act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district¹.

1.1 Vision

Limavady District Policing Partnership has a vision: “to engage with the public in order to impact on local policing, so that Limavady becomes a safer place for all.”

1.2 Location

Limavady Borough has a population of 32,422 people² and lies in the north west of the Province. It is largely rural with three main centres of population in Limavady, Dungiven and Ballykelly. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty and attracts a tourist population throughout the year.

1.3 Demographics

51% of the population is male and 49% female³. A further breakdown of the statistics reveals that 57% is Catholic and 43% non-Catholic. The age structure is above the Northern Ireland average for both school age and working age categories, while less than 1% of the population are from minority ethnic

¹ Section 16, Police (NI) Act 2000

² N I Statistics and Research Agency – Mid 2001

³ Census 2001

backgrounds⁴. The rural community accounts for approximately 63% of the total population and 2.4% of farm business in Northern Ireland⁵. It is anticipated that between 2000 and 2015 there will be a decrease of 18.4% in the number of children and a 39.1% increase in the elderly population⁶.

1.4 Environmental Scan

As part of the District Policing Partnership's first public consultation process⁷, the social and environmental factors that cause crime and anti-social behaviour within the council district were examined⁸. A further scan of the environment reflects that the situation remains similar to of last year. It is of encouragement to note that the Limavady jobless total has fallen by 21.7% during the last twelve months to a rate of 3.2% of the workforce, compared with the NI average of 3%⁹.

⁴ Census 2001

⁵ Integrated Local Strategy 2003-2006

⁶ NISRA 2000 based population projection and census 2001

⁷ Public Consultation Report 2003

⁸ Code of Practice 2.8

⁹ October 2004

2. Methodology

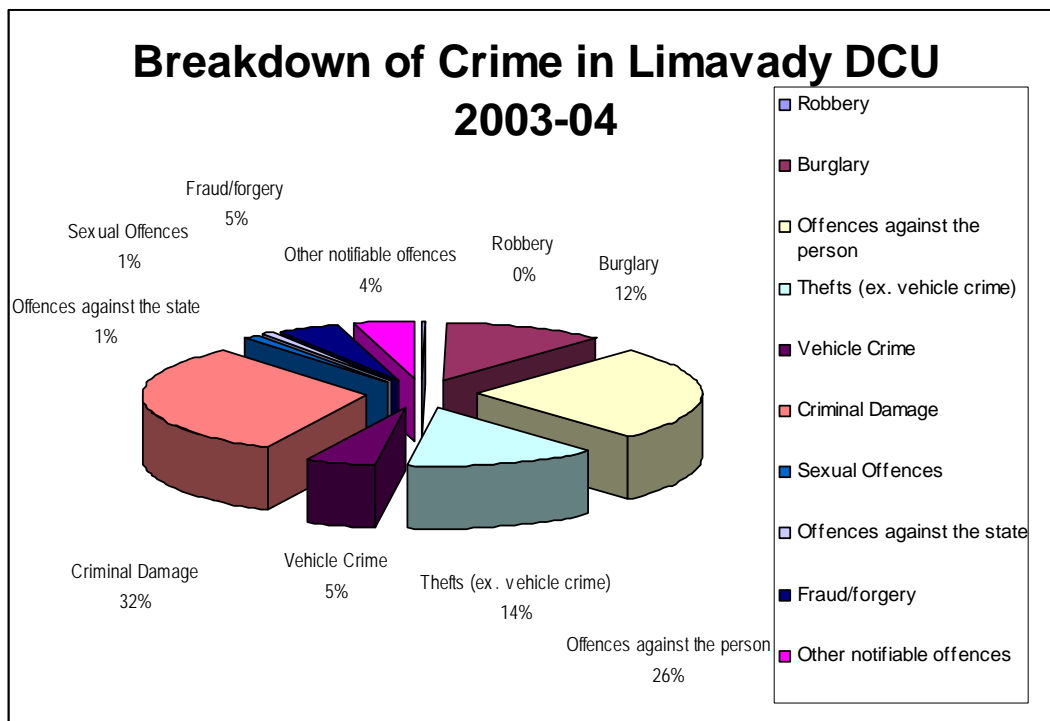
As part of determining local policing issues in order to identify policing priorities for consideration in the formulation of the local policing plan the Limavady District Policing Partnership determined to use the following methodologies to ascertain policing issues based on quantitative and qualitative research, using both a structured and a semi-structured process:

This public consultation report running from the end of November 2003 to the end of November 2004 builds upon the work of last year's consultation.

1. Analysis of local crime figures;
2. A primary consultation undertaken by NIPB in the form of a postal questionnaire;
3. Analysis of questions submitted by the public (i.e. type and frequency of questions received);
4. DPP input and analysis of question/issues discussed with the District Commander;
5. Input from local Statutory, Voluntary and Community groups;
6. A secondary consultation utilising focus groups;
7. Meeting with identified stakeholders e.g. Ulster Farmers Union, Rainbow;
8. Media scanning.

3. Local Crime Analysis

Crime figures



'Offences against the person' continue to be of concern – they account for 26% of crime during 2003-04. Criminal Damage accounted for 32% of crime in 2003-04, and in the first six months of 2004-05, accounted for 35% of all crime. Theft (particularly of mobile phones, bicycles and handbags) continues to increase, up 9% in the first six months of this fiscal year while 67% of all vehicle crime relates to theft from a vehicle (mainly from items on view). Burglary accounted for 12% of all crime in 2003-04, and domestic burglary has increased by 16% in the first six months of this year, compared with the same period last year.

Clearance rates for the year 2003-2004 was 33.3%, an improvement of 2.2% on the previous year. Detection rates for the current year are down compared with the same period last year.

Offences against the person, criminal damage, theft and burglary accounts for 94% of crime;

Sector Analysis (first quarter of 2004-05) identifies the 'hot spot' areas viz:

1. town centre, primarily for criminal damage, offences against the person and thefts;
2. Glen Estate/Edenmore Park/Anderson Park area, primarily for criminal damage burglary and offences against the person;
3. Sperrin Road/Greystone Road, primarily for Offences against the person;

Supplementary to these crime categories, there have been five road traffic fatalities in the first six months of the year, with two of the victims not wearing seat belts.

Domestic Violence continues to be an area of concern, although the number of incidents has decreased. However this may be due to a staff vacancy for part of the current year. Of more concern is the trend in number of violent incidents as a proportion of the total incidents. Information relating to repeat victims has not been requested this year.

DCU Crime figures ¹⁰	Crime	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	First 6 months of 2003/04
Number of incidents		305	373	359	160
Number of violence incidents			160	168	54
Average no. of repeat victims/month		14.5	18		

¹⁰ DCU crime figures

4. Primary Consultation

In May 2002, a random household postal questionnaire to '1 in 10' households was undertaken by the Northern Ireland Policing Board in conjunction with the District Policing Partnership. 318 persons completed the questionnaire, a response rate of 28%, the Northern Ireland average. A similar questionnaire was used in May 2004 and a response rate of 25% was achieved. There were 269 respondents. The N Ireland average was 26%. This year, there was the added breakdown by sector, using the three areas of Limavady town centre, other population centres, and the rural community.

The findings are outlined below. For completeness and where relevant, the Northern Ireland average figures and comparisons with last year have been inserted. Detailed statistics are available upon request.

What do you feel are currently the biggest problems in your District Council?

Respondents were asked to select the five biggest problems in their area from a given list and to rank these five problems in priority areas. For the Borough, the main concerns were speeding (58%), drug dealing (53%), underage drinking (46%), young people causing a nuisance (43%) and vandalism (42%). Drug dealing was the top priority for Protestants (67%) whereas the top concern from the Catholic community was speeding (60%), underage drinking (52%) and young people causing an annoyance (45%). Males and Females had broadly similar concerns with drug dealing of more concern to males than females (61% to 50%), whereas vehicle crime and speeding was of more concern to females.

Activity	Limavady 2003		Northern Ireland 2003		Limavady 2004		Northern Ireland 2004	
	rank	%	rank	%	rank	%	Rank	%
Drug Dealing	1	62	8	28	2	53		
Young people causing a nuisance	2	52	=3	43	4	43	3	43
Vandalism	3	48	=5	39	5	42	5	36
Underage drinking	4	47	2	47	3	46	2	45
Drug Use	5	46	9	26	6	40		
Speeding	6	43	=3	43	1	58	4	42

Domestic Burglary	7	42	1	55	7	37	1	49
Attacks on the elderly	8	33	=5	39				
Assaults	=9	19	=12	20				
Public Drunkenness	=9	19	=12	20				

Drug dealing and drug use:

In 2002/03, there were 77 people from BT47 (63) and BT49 (14), who consented to having their names and addresses to the drug misuse database for drug addiction and treatment. In 2003/04 there were a total of 78 added - BT47 (68) and BT49 (10). (N Ireland had 1438 cases in 2002-03, compared with 1409 in 2003-04)¹¹. Of concern is the fact that Northlands Centre has a one year waiting list. The Youth Service has recently appointed two drug workers. There now seems to be an acknowledgement that there is a local drug problem, and there is now a need to focus resources by all relevant agencies, from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

Which activities from the list below do you think that the PSNI in your District Council should be concentrating most resources on?

Respondents were asked to select and rank the five activities from a given list that they would like to see PSNI concentrating most resources on. Overall, respondents thought that Beat/Foot patrolling was the activity they wished to see more resources concentrated on (25%), followed by enforcing drug laws (24%) which is in keeping with the area of most concern identified by respondents. Protestant respondents were more in favour of increased Beat/Foot patrolling compared with Catholic respondents, (65% to 52%) and Catholic respondents were more likely to want the police to improve community relations (41% to 27%) and to have an increased involvement with young people (46% to 39%). Male and females have largely similar priorities except more males than females wished to see increased Beat/Foot patrolling (63% to 55%) whereas females more than males want to see attention paid to road traffic duties (28% to 22%). The results were similar in 2003.

¹¹ DHSS November 2004

Within 5 biggest priorities	Limavady 2003	Limavady 2004	NI average 2004	NI average 2004
Enforcing Drugs Laws	67%	67%	42%	43%
Beat Patrols	64%	59%	68%	70%
Investigating Crime	58%	60%	58%	58%
Crime Prevention	50%	52%	55%	61%
999 response times	56%	56%	57%	64%

Religious Differences	Protestant 2003	Catholic 2003	Protestant 2004	Catholic 2004
Beat/Foot patrolling	76%	51%	65%	52%
Improve Community Relations	16%	32%	27%	41%

Gender Differences	Male 2003	Female 2003	Male 2004	Female 2004
Vehicle Patrolling	48%	36%	29%	30%
Road Traffic Duties	18%	27%	22%	28%

Overall, how satisfied are you with policing in your District Council?

Public satisfaction with local police continues to improve. Overall there is a satisfaction rate of 40%, compared with the Northern Ireland of 33%, and 32% for the Borough in 2003. Protestants respondents (43%) had a slightly higher satisfaction level than Catholic respondents (38%) and more Protestants were dissatisfied with local policing than Catholics.

NI responses to local policing satisfied and very satisfied		Limavady response satisfied and very satisfied	
2003	2004	2003	2004
27%	33%	30%	40%
Dissatisfied and very Dissatisfied		Dissatisfied and very Dissatisfied	
22%	18%	25%	22%

	Local policing	Local policing 2004
How satisfied with policing (very satisfied and satisfied)		
Protestant	39%	43%
Catholic	23%	38%
Male	29%	37%
Female	33%	42%
Dissatisfied and very dissatisfied		
Protestant	24%	23%
Catholic	27%	18%
Male	30%	27%
Female	21%	18%

How satisfied are you with the levels of foot patrols in your District Council?

The majority who were dissatisfied with the amount of patrols, were in the age range 41-60 year olds (48%) and Protestant (46%). Compared with 52% of 41-60 years old and Protestant (58%) last year. However, local residents have a higher satisfaction rate (21%) for foot patrols than across Northern Ireland, where the average was 14%.

Levels of foot patrols in Borough – satisfied/very satisfied		
	Local policing 2003	Local policing 2004
All	19%	21%
Male	17%	19%
Female	20%	23%
Levels of foot patrols in Borough – dissatisfied		
Male	60%	47%
Female	53%	38%

How satisfied are you with the levels of police vehicle patrols in your District Council?

Satisfaction rates with vehicle patrols had also improved compared with 2003. There was a 32% satisfaction rate as opposed to a Northern Ireland average of 23%. The figure has improved from 24% in 2003.

Levels of vehicle patrols in Borough – satisfied/very satisfied		
	2003	2004
All	24%	32%
Male	21%	29%
Female	26%	33%
Levels of vehicle patrols in Borough – dissatisfied		
Male	48%	36%
Female	36%	27%
Protestant	43%	34%
Catholic	39%	33%

Additional questions:

- 31% of respondents stated that they had been in contact with the police in the previous year.
- 50% of these were satisfied with the way they had been treated.
- 14% of respondents stated that they had been the victim of crime in the

previous year

- 86% of these had reported it
- 25% of respondents stated that they were aware of a crime in the neighbourhood or community which had not been reported. This is a slight decrease from 2003 from 28%. The most common offences not reported are criminal damage, followed by vehicle crime. In response to this identified figure, the DPP needs to proactively encourage people to report all crime.

Why do you think that crime is not reported?

Of the 61 responses, comments ranged from nothing can be done/police not interested (22), the courts do not offer deterrents (1). Of note, was the fear of reprisals had 10 specific mentions last year and only one this year.

Areas that the local police have performed well or very well in the last twelve months

Of the 107 responses, the majority indicated that local policing had improved, in particular dealing with drug offences (21 mentions).

Areas that the local police have performed poorly or very poorly in the last twelve months

Out of the 113, down from 164 responses last year, the majority (17) related to lack of failure to deal with joy riding/boy racers/speeding up from ten comments last year. Poor crime detection/investigation had 14 mentions. The Edenmore Road area, and problems associated were enumerated eleven times in 2003, and only four times this year. This year however, the areas of Coolestan, Dungiven, Ballykelly and Anderson Park were also enumerated. The subject of flags was mentioned seven times in 2003 and only once this year. The subject of parades was mentioned eleven times in 2003, and only three times this year. Several people mentioned lack of policing resources in the Dungiven area.

Drug Dealing/Abuse was referred to 22 times in 2003, and only six times this year.

5. Questions from the public

A database of over 250 contacts continues to be developed, enumerating all community associations, resident associations, ministers of religion, voluntary sector organisations, council officers and the media.

Regular updates on DPP business was sent to those on the database (including press) and inviting individuals and organisations to participate in the process.

Based on the thematic approach to several meetings held in public during the first year, it was agreed that for the second year of operation, to hold four meetings in public focusing on quarterly crime statistics, and two meetings looking at themes – with statistics pertaining to the theme only. These were Road Policing and Crime Against the Older Person. The DPP has continued to rotate around different venues, including a hotel, and has held meetings at different times and days in order to facilitate accessibility by as many as possible. All venues had disability access.

There continues to be disappointment with the number of questions submitted and the level of attendance and participation by the public at meetings held in public.

	Written questions		Questions from the floor	
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total	28 questions (40 sub questions)	18	4	25+
Drugs	0	2	0	+
Alcohol Abuse	5	4	0	+
Theft	1	2	1	+
Public Nuisance	11	5	1	+++
Violence	1	0	0	+
Policing Practices	9	6	0	++
Societal issues	8	1	1	++
Others to DPP	5	3	2	++

From the subjects raised through members of the public at meetings, the main issues of policing practices, alcohol abuse and related crime, public nuisance and societal issues were identified.

6. Questions/discussion between the DPP and the police

Analysis of the minutes, reflect that discussion have centred around:

- Need for a fully resourced police service, who are skilled, experienced and available at hotspot times
 - need for the new community police to be recruited as soon as possible
 - to proceed with civilianisation to release officers to front line positions
 - to proceed with outsourcing where appropriate and the transfer of duties to other agencies where appropriate to allow officers to undertake core functions of the police service
 - to ensure adequate levels of police officers to meet public expectations
- Public confidence is promoted by providing feedback and crime detection
- Commended for tackling drugs issue, and zero tolerance of drinking in public places
- Alcohol related crime (Ballykelly, and Greystone Road area)
- Criminal Damage
- Road safety issues (road traffic collision/quads/boy racers)
- Domestic Violence
- Youths causing annoyance and anti-social behaviour
- Benone Beach project and associated anti-social behaviour
- Criminal justice context
- Problems areas/estates of Coolestan, Anderson Park, Edenmore Road area, Glen Estate, Ballykelly
- A meeting was held with the Parades Commission, where they commended the police for the management of the parades including zero tolerance of drinking in public places and traffic management.
- Appropriate sentencing through the criminal justice system
- As call grading and crime management systems are implemented, there is a need to look at an interagency approach to the sharing of info e.g. if an abandoned car is reported to either the police, council or Roads Service that the info is logged into a management information system and automatically acted upon by the relevant agency

7. Secondary Consultation

Having analysed the gaps identified from the primary consultation process in 2003, it was decided to request MORI MRC to conduct three focus groups. (Further details are available in Public Consultation Report 2003)

- Single identity, Roman Catholic, female gender and all ages from across the Borough
- Youths under the age of 25, both genders and identities and if possible to include one member of an ethnic minority
- Rural Community, both genders and identities

Due to recruitment difficulties, five focus groups were untaken in April 2004. Recruitment difficulties were due to the subject area and also the fact that interviews were scheduled for the Easter period. Two groups involved representatives from the rural community, two groups involving catholic women, and one group of young people from Limavady Further Education College¹².

In October 2004, there were a further three groups consulted this time based geographically. These comprised a young mother, a parent of a school aged child, a young adult, a senior citizen and a business owner. There were no recruitment difficulties, which may support the primary consultation result that there is an increase in public confidence in the police. The three geographical areas were:

- Ballykelly
- Dungiven
- Greysteel.

Supplementary to this, in-depth interviews took place with a Minister of Religion (a priest) and a young person.

One of the purposes was to clarify fact from perception, in relation to policing issues, and the scale of location of the issues.

From these focus groups, it was identified that:

- Young people feel that there is a lack of things to do in the Borough
- There is an issue of quad bikes/motor bikes in Greysteel
- Drugs abuse - legal and illegal continues
- Public drunknesses/assaults, primarily in Ballykelly and Limavady
- Anti-social behaviour/vandalism
- Road safety issues (to include boy racers, speeding)
- People want a responsive, proactive, visible police service
- Policing not acceptable in Dungiven and Greysteel
- Lack of policing in Dungiven and Greysteel

¹² MORI MRC Report April 2004

8. Input from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community Groups

In September 2004, over 170 letters were sent out to Community Associations, Voluntary Organisation, Charities etc, and invited members to attend a facilitated discussion re policing issues. Approximately twenty people attended. The letters also offered any interested party to meet with representatives of the DPP.

Informal discussions have also taken place with shop keepers, members of the public and community/voluntary organisations.

The DPP Manager also met with interested organisations within the Borough for example Probus, Rotary Club and various Church groups.

Supplementary to the work of focus groups, the DPP felt that the specific concerns of:

- The farming community should be heard
- The voice of the emergency services as there had been newspaper reports on attacks on the emergency services
- Minority groups – the gay/lesbian community and the ethnic communities

The DPP Manager met with a representative of the Fire Service, representatives of the Ulster Farmers Union, Rainbow and a minority ethnic person, and 'Hands that Talk' a Dungiven based community organisations for the deaf community.

These groups confirmed previous findings, and added the following information.

- People want crime clearance
- People want a responsive, visible police service
- People want to see nuisance and emotive issues tackled
- The rural community feel vulnerable, and their thefts are high value

Over 100 questionnaires were sent out to statutory agencies, churches, schools, doctors, play groups, voluntary organisations, the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, The Vintner's Association, Foyle Women's Aid, and section 75

organisations requesting their input. The offer to meet with organisations and/or facilitate a meeting was made. A 25% response rate was obtained.

From these questionnaires, the following was identified:

- Speeding
- Youths causing annoyance
- Drug abuse (legal and illegal)
- Underage drinking/drinking in public places
- Child abuse (mentioned by two schools)
- Generally people are satisfied with policing in the Borough

Several schools mentioned that they would like to have a school strategy developed similar to that currently being implement in Foyle DCU.

There was no pattern to the urban/rural mix or type of stakeholder.

9. Media scanning

Weekly scanning of the local newspapers, reflected the key issues of:

- Road traffic offences, including driving without insurance or a driving licence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Criminal damage – to include criminal damage to public places, and by arson
- Vehicle crime – theft from (tools from vehicles) and a recent spate of attempted creeper burglaries

A murder and subsequent investigation in the summer of 2004 occupied many column inches, as did the disappearance of a local women.

10. Evaluation of responses to written questions

Letters and questionnaires were sent out to those who had submitted a written question and supplied their address. Only two people responded, both of which indicated that they were happy with their response, and that they said it had improved their confidence in the police and the DPP.

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Limavady District Policing Partnership acknowledges that it shall be the general duty of police officers:-

- (a) to protect life and property;
- (b) to preserve order;
- (c) to prevent the commission of offences;
- (d) where an offence has been committed, to take measures to bring the offender to justice¹³.”

And that “so far as practicable, carry out their functions in co-operation with, and with the aim of securing the support of, the local community¹⁴” in order that the police service has the confidence of the whole community.

In the development of policing issues and priorities, it is acknowledged that some issues which have been identified will not be included in the policing plan, but are identified as issues which should be considered at corporate level (both PSNI and NIPB) and acted upon, or where appropriate lobbied for.

- that the new community police should be recruited, trained and allocated as soon as possible, with a phased approach implemented to ensure that the impending disbandment of the PSNI Reserve does not leave a void which would impact upon policing in the local community.
- To proceed with civilianisation where possible to release fully trained PSNI officers to positions whereby their skills would be most effective to address current crime statistics front line positions
- To proceed with outsourcing where appropriate and the transfer of duties to other organisations where appropriate, to allow officers to undertake the core functions of the police service
- To ensure adequate levels of police officers to meet public expectations
- Appropriate sentencing through the criminal justice system
- As call grading and crime management systems are implemented, there is a need to look at an interagency approach to the sharing of information

¹³ Police Act (NI) 2000, Section 32(1)

¹⁴ Police Act (NI) 2000, Section 32(5)

Policing Plan 2004-05. Limavady DCU continues to perform well against targets compared with other DCUs in the region and province-wide. The police are to be commended for their persistent enforcement of relevant legislation relating to drugs and their approach to on-street drinking

Staffing levels. Staffing levels appear adequate at present. They will require to be monitored, especially in light of the Chief Constables decision relating to the Full-time and Part-time Reserves.

Policing Priorities.

The **Volume Crimes** of Criminal Damage, Offences against the person, theft and burglary need to be given continued attention – both to prevention and resolution.

Drug related activities continue to be of particular concern, legal and illegal; both drug dealing and drug use. Based on the NISRA survey, 67% of people have indicated that drug dealing is the top priority for policing. Statistics do not reveal high numbers of drug addicts obtaining treatment, or a corresponding rate of anti-social activities. There is a necessity for a baseline survey to be undertaken to identify the scale of the problem. It is a growing problem which needs a multi-agency approach and the police should continue lead the campaign in stamping out this insidious problem. Increased seizures, increased searches and the promotion of a zero tolerance policy with an increased educational aspect could be considered as targets. Of concern is the identified gap re support/treatment/counseling services for addiction problems, and that there is a one year waiting list for treatment at the Northlands Center.

Alcohol abuse, drinking in public places, and underage drinking. Byelaws relating to the consumption of drinking intoxicating liquor in public places should be fully implemented. Of particular concern, is the underage drink issue. Continued work with the Vintners Association, local licensees and the support of the 'Behave or be Banned' programme is recommended. It is acknowledged that this requires an educational input and multi-agency approach.

Road policing management. From the postal questionnaire, speeding has now been identified as the biggest problem in the Borough. This has

been confirmed from the focus groups and through local consultation. Of particular concern is the number of fatalities as a result of road traffic collisions this year and the issue of Quad Bikes. Attention to road policing management needs to be continued, especially to those who drink/drug drive, do not have driving licences or insurance, or fail to wear seat belts.

Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence continues to be an area of concern. It requires a multi-agency approach and the role of the police in seeking to attend, investigate and initiate charges is to be commended. It is recommended that all appropriate personnel undertake regular training in order to deal with victims and perpetrators in an appropriate way.

Emotive issues: Public Nuisance issues. Youths causing annoyance, low level anti-social behaviour has been identified as a growing issue. A multi-agency approach is required to tackle societal issues. Enforcement of relevant legislation is encouraged.

Fear and Perception of Crime. It is acknowledged that people have a fear of burglary (in particular in the rural areas) and of a growing drug culture, even though statistically this is not confirmed. It is of encouragement to note, that this year, questions to the DPP on the subject of drugs and parades were almost non-existent. The police are encouraged (in partnership where necessary) to proactively use an educational approach to address these fears.

Crime Prevention. Crime Prevention is a core activity of the police.

Policing with the Community. Policing with the community is also a core activity and should be extended to as many areas as possible. It is acknowledged that Community-based Officers within Limavady know their communities. This is also to be encouraged in rural communities where fear of crime is higher.

Customer Relations. Local people have an increasing confidence and higher than average satisfaction level with the police (based on the NISRA survey and local consultation outcomes). However, customer service training should be considered especially as call management systems are introduced, and officers are encouraged to indicate to callers when a response team will be available to attend.

Community Safety Partnership. The DPP encourages the police to work in partnership with CSP, in particular on issues identified in the policing plan.

Promotion of public confidence. It is recommended to continue providing feedback to those who report suspicious activity. This could be a suitable target under 'agenda for change'.

A summary of the key issues which if addressed would assist with improving quality of life and promote public confidence in the police are: youths causing annoyance, criminal damage, road safety issues and the abuse of drugs (legal and illegal).

It is acknowledged that not all the issues will need to be included in the Local Policing Plan, as they will have been identified and included in the Annual Policing Plan, and that other issues require to be observed with trends and patterns identified. While the report contains policing issues which have been prioritised, it also includes outcomes of the public consultation exercise which related to public and DPP expectations of the police.

It is hoped that the contents of this report will assist the District Commander with formulating the local policing plan. The District Commander is encouraged to use the information contained within. It is also acknowledged that this information will complement other information collated from the Strategic Assessment and the Community Safety Audit process.

Limavady District Policing Partnership actively seeks views on issues relating to policing. The DPP can be contacted via email at dpp@limavady.gov.uk or by writing to:

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7 Connell Street
LIMAVADY
BT49 OHA.

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