



Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Constable's Accountability Report to the Northern Ireland Policing Board

July 2021

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Version 1.0

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**we care
we listen
we act**

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Foreword

Throughout 2021, we have continued to reinforce our organisational commitment to neighbourhood policing, as fundamental to our delivery style and ethos. On this basis, this month's report is primarily focused on providing an overview of the visible and responsive work that our neighbourhood teams routinely deliver across Northern Ireland. This diverse range of work is happening every day and truly reflects who we are, as a public service provider, and the value that we bring to the communities we serve.

The July Accountability Report provides an update to the Northern Ireland Policing Board on the following topics:

- Financial Outlook 2021/22 and Beyond
- Covid-19 Recovery
- Recruitment Campaign 2020
- Neighbourhood Policing
- Serious and Organised Crime

With foreseeable demands, pressures and uncertainty on the horizon, we remain mindful of recent inspection and prosecutorial findings and continue to assess the consequence for the policing response to events over the summer period.

Against the backdrop of widespread and at times contrasting critique in the past year, it is foreseeable that the policing response to bonfires and parading will be complex, in ways that have never before been experienced.

We have adopted a structured advanced planning approach, consistent with national policing practice guidelines and coordinated through a Ministerial led multi-agency group. We welcome this shared approach to planning and resolution, in the interest of better outcomes.

Between the beginning of April and mid-June 2021 we have become aware of forty processions which relate to the Northern Ireland Protocol. Thirty of these were un-notified processions. We continue to approach these events, proportionately and in line with nationally adopted 4E policing guidance using *engagement*, *explanation*, *encouragement* and *enforcement* by way of evidence gathering and subsequent report to the Public Prosecution Service. Investigations are continuing into all of the un-

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notified processions which have taken place in relation to suspected breaches of the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998 and Health Protection Regulations. To date, four investigative files have been submitted for independent consideration by the Public Prosecution Service.

Financial Outlook 2021/22 and Beyond

Our financial outlook has significantly improved for the current financial year, with the additional budgetary allocation of £12.3m now confirmed. Further, in May 2021, the Department of Justice confirmed budget allocations for Covid-19, Legacy Inquests and the Gillen Review, in line with our June Monitoring bid. Sound consistent financial management and planning has been confirmed in the annual audit of accounts.

This has facilitated planning for an investment in resourcing levels, with a growth in officer and staff numbers to 7,100 and 2,580 respectively by March 2022. This is an important step forward, towards the resilient and sustainable resourcing levels committed to under the New Decade New Approach Agreement.

Financial challenges for policing do, however, persist. The reduction in overtime budgets creates an ongoing pressure which has been exacerbated by the policing requirements of public disorder and protest in April and May of this year. This is an area of expenditure that will remain subject to close monitoring over the coming months.

We look forward to budgetary allocations in the June Monitoring Round, notably in relation to funding sought for EU (£5.7m) and Fresh Start/Tackling Paramilitarism (£5.9m). It is our hope to be in a position to provide a positive update on this in September's Accountability Report to the Board.

Future budgetary planning is underway. Ensuring the sustainability of resourcing is an identified priority. Maintaining the increased headcount requires a significant uplift in the police budget baseline going forward. Another issue we will be seeking to progress is a consolidated baseline and more suitable financial framework.

Our new Financial Strategy is central to this focus, providing the framework to maximise the impact of available resources and demonstrate optimised use of resources.

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The vision of the Police Service Financial Strategy is to:

- Ensure resource and capital funds are maximised to support priorities identified in the Policing Plan
- Facilitate investment in new technology and business change to improve service delivery in line with Horizon 2025
- Plan effectively and realistically for future budget scenarios
- Continuously improve efficiency and achieve value for money
- Demonstrate proper accountability for the use of public funds, and
- Provide for long term financial sustainability, as far as possible.

Future deliverables include a new Fleet and Estates Strategy by the Autumn of 2021.

Covid-19 Recovery

We continue to gradually adapt our working practices in line with public health developments, working with focus to mitigate the wellbeing impacts of the pandemic on our people.

From an organisational resilience perspective, our Covid-19 coordination structures remain in place, capable of escalation, as and when required, in response to rising infection rates.

We will begin a transition towards a hybrid working model as a means of retaining the benefits of remote working practices, whilst ensuring appropriate levels of connectivity and team building are in place. The requirement to address backlogs in training and development, accumulated during the pandemic, is acknowledged as a priority.

#Covid-19

Your Police Service will always engage with you, explain and encourage compliance with Public Health Regulations to Keep People Safe.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT	 KEEP DISTANCE	 WEAR FACE COVERING	 WASH HANDS	 FRESH AIR
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Our 4 E Policing Approach:

- Engage
- Explain
- Encourage
- Enforce (when necessary)

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Police Service
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Recruitment Campaign 2020

The most recent Student Officer Recruitment Campaign launched in February 2020 and concluded in May 2021. Following an extensive programme of outreach within local communities, the campaign received support across the political spectrum and from community, sporting and business leaders.



A list of successful applicants has been received from our external recruitment provider. These candidates are now progressing through Police Service managed stages of the recruitment process i.e. Vetting, Physical Competence Assessment, Medical, Substance Misuse Testing and Online Learning.

We welcomed the first candidates from this campaign into the Student Officer Development Programme at the Police College on 30 May 2021.

The learning from equality monitoring analysis of the 2020 campaign has been received and is informing planning for the next recruitment process which is due to commence in the Autumn of 2021.

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Applicant Pool highlights include:

- ✓ The number of people demonstrating an interest in a future career in policing increased by 10% from the 2018 campaign, with a total of 6,879 applications
- ✓ An increase in the female applicant pool to 40.3%, representing the highest female proportion across the last five recruitment campaigns (2013)
- ✓ A marginal increase in applications from the ethnic minority community, at 2.3% compared with 2.0% in 2018
- ✓ An increase in the LGBT applicant pool to 7.2%, from 6.1% in 2018.

Equality Analysis of Applicants from 2020 and 2018 Student Officer Recruitment Campaigns

	2020 Campaign		2018 Campaign	
	Total	% of Total	Final Total	% of Final Total
Total	6,879		6,243	
Protestant	4,520	65.7%	4,113	65.88%
Catholic	2,116	30.08%	1,935	31%
Other	243	3.5%	195	3.12%
Male	4,108	59.7%	3,914	62.69%
Female	2,771	40.3%	2,329	37.31%
Ethnic Minority	161	2.3%	122	2%
LGBT	496	7.2%	378	6.1%

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Merit pool outcomes include:

- ✓ The number of women in the 2020 merit pool **significantly increased** by 8.6% from the 2018 campaign (42.4% compared with 33.8%)
- ✓ LGBT candidates performed strongly in the assessment stages, with candidates successfully entering the merit pool at the **highest ever level** recorded (9% merit list from 5.3% in 2018)
- ✓ Whilst the number of people entering the merit pool from a Catholic community background is higher than the 2018 campaign (24.7% compared with 23.1% in 2018), we recognise that this is an area requiring continued focus in our outreach planning.

Equality Analysis of Merit Pool from 2020 and 2018 Student Officer Recruitment Campaigns

	2020 Campaign		2018 Campaign	
	Total	% of Total	Final Total	% of Final Total
Total	980		1053	
Protestant	718	73.3%	788	74.8%
Catholic	242	24.7%	243	23.1%
Other	20	2.0%	22	2.1%
Male	564	57.6%	698	66.2%
Female	416	42.4%	355	33.8%
Ethnic Minority	8	0.8%	7	0.7%
LGBT	88	9.0%	56	5.3%

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We will continue to focus on outreach with working class communities, the evidence base identifies that the **primary issue facing police recruitment** is one of community background rather than socio-economic class background.

This year, we will also be investing in our police staff resources with the appointment of 322 new police staff. Our police staff recruitment plan encompasses roles at various levels and across a range of specialisms including Corporate Services, Strategic Communication and Engagement, Occupation Health, Learning and Development and in operational support roles such as Call Handling, Dispatch and Crime Scene Surveying. We will also be launching a large scale Administrative Support Officer competition in the summer to attract school leavers and will continue our commitment to the student placement scheme. We are focused on increasing the representation of our police staff and have appointed a new advertising agent to provide support in this regard. We will also continue to develop our *Join PSNI* website, which now integrates police officer and police staff recruitment, in order to promote the range of opportunities we have across our police officer and police staff job families.

New officers and staff provide diverse perspective, skills and experience which increases our capability to respond effectively to complex policing challenges and add value in communities, now and in the future.

Community outreach for the 2021 recruitment campaign will continue to focus on ensuring that the police team is representative and inclusive of all the communities we serve.

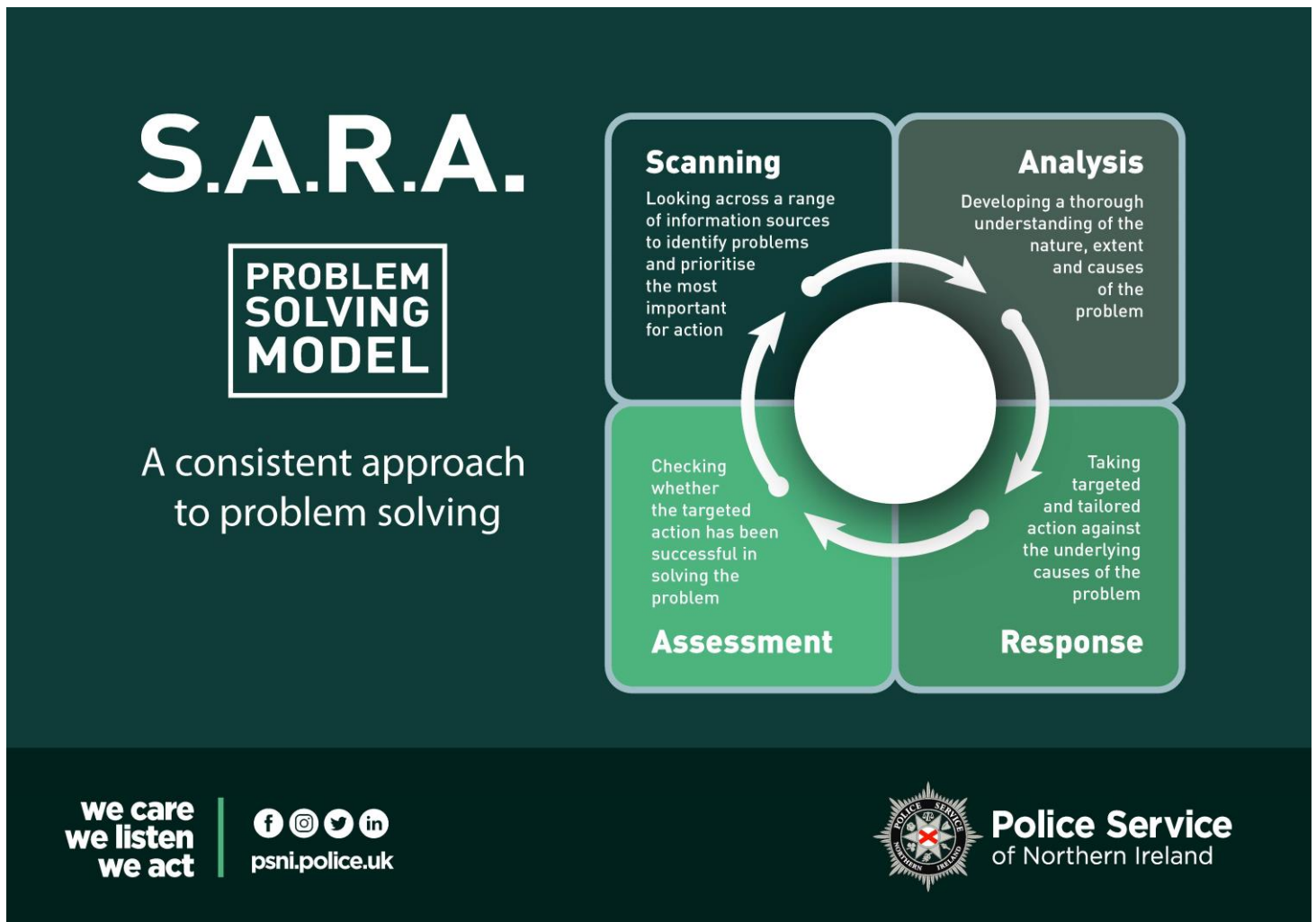
We would seek the continued support of the Board and wider political and community representatives to advocate the benefits and legitimacy of a career in policing.

Problem Solving and Prevention

Effective problem solving is pivotal to our ability to deliver an effective and sustainable service which prevents harm in communities and has the confidence and support of local people.

Prevention First, our Crime Prevention Strategy, provides the framework for this progression in our focus. To support the development of a 'prevention-first' mind-set across the organisation, a new evidence based problem solving model was launched at the beginning of June 2021.

The '**S.A.R.A.**' Problem Solving Model involves the identification of a specific problem, thorough analysis to understand the problem, the development of a tailored response and ongoing assessment.



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This is just one of a number of workstreams being led by our refreshed-focus Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Branch, within Community Safety Department. The implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy Action Plan is a current priority for the team.

The Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Branch collaborates with academic and other partners to promote positive working relationships and develop innovative solutions to problems faced by local communities. The team is held to account for working inclusively with operational colleagues to ensure that learning and innovation influences the policing approach on the frontline, effectively preventing harm in communities.

Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Branch has a proven track record in improving policing effectiveness and community impact. It has previously led on innovative projects, including the development of District Multi-Agency Support Hubs and Open University Community Empowerment online learning modules. The team has a number of interesting projects on the horizon, notably work which will focus on repeat victimisation.

Neighbourhood Policing Snapshot

As we cautiously emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, we are working to define the hallmarks of effective neighbourhood policing. Standards around engagement practices and problem solving will be improved. Consistent learning and development will be coordinated through a new Neighbourhood Policing Faculty at the Police College.

Problem solving and effective engagement is central to neighbourhood policing as a way to work collaboratively with others to resolve community issues. This section of the report provides an overview of just some of the work that neighbourhood officers across Policing Districts have been involved in over the past couple of months.

Belfast

North Belfast

Neighbourhood teams have developed a bespoke policing operation to address local concern about anti-social behaviour in areas such as the Waterworks, Ardoyne, Woodvale and the North Queen Street/Duncairn Gardens areas. Officers meet weekly with statutory partners in the Education Authority, Belfast City Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive as well as maintaining links with members of the local community and other partner agencies. This ensures effective information sharing, tasking and early intervention to divert those involved, or at risk of becoming involved in such activities. This translates into joint operational activity, as demonstrated by this social media post showing police and council officers working together on shared priorities within the local community.



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Other examples include ongoing work with 'Safer Streets' and 'Feet on the Street' to reduce anti-social behaviour at interface areas of Tigers Bay and the Newlodge. Officers are working with children through the Glencairn Youth Initiative who may be at risk of harm through involvement in interface violence and disorder. Neighbourhood officers from the team devised a programme to allow young people the opportunity to understand what police officers do and to prevent them becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and avoid the influence of local paramilitaries. Tactical Support Group (TSG) officers were introduced to the group to discuss how and why police deal with public disorder, including understanding the equipment they use to keep the public, and themselves, safe. This is an important way of humanising the police and allowing young people to see behind the uniform.



Neighbourhood officers have also been working with young mothers from the Shankill area in co-operation with Extern to discuss local community safety issues. This is part of a pilot project intended to open lines of communication between police and young people. The project consists of four facilitated sessions of meaningful discussion on topics including stop and search, anti-social behaviour and drugs. Additionally, as part of a Tackling Paramilitary Programme which funds a ten week project with a women's group at the Blackmountain Action Group, Public Protection Branch officers joined their neighbourhood colleagues to deliver messages about domestic abuse in the local community.



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North Belfast neighbourhood teams have also been working with local schools and parents following concerns about speeding motorists at school start and finish times. A speeding operation at Blackmountain Primary School gave young people the opportunity to try out laser speed detection devices and to talk to some motorists which was very well received by the local community.



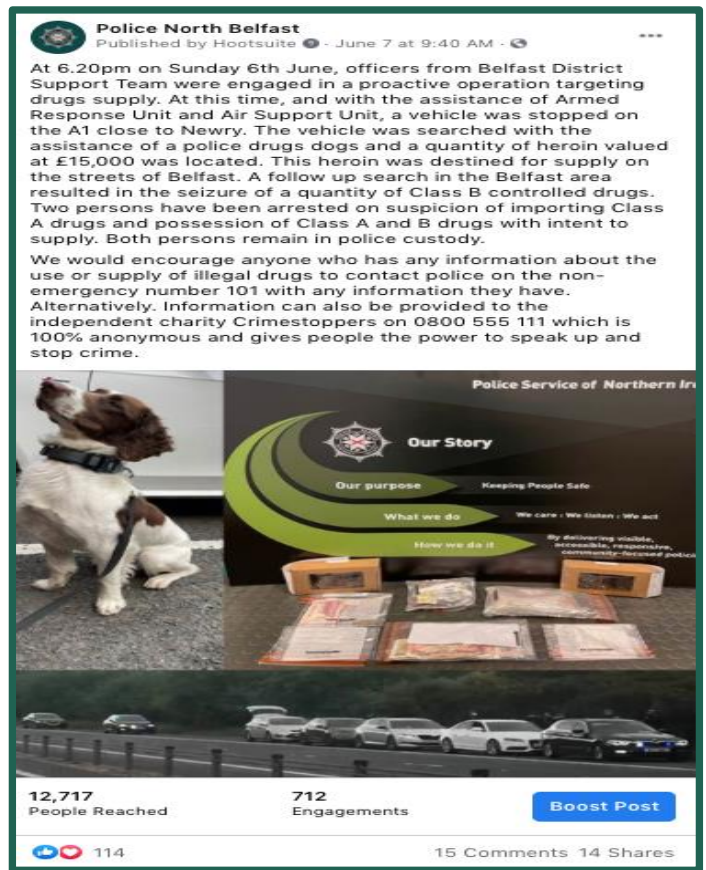
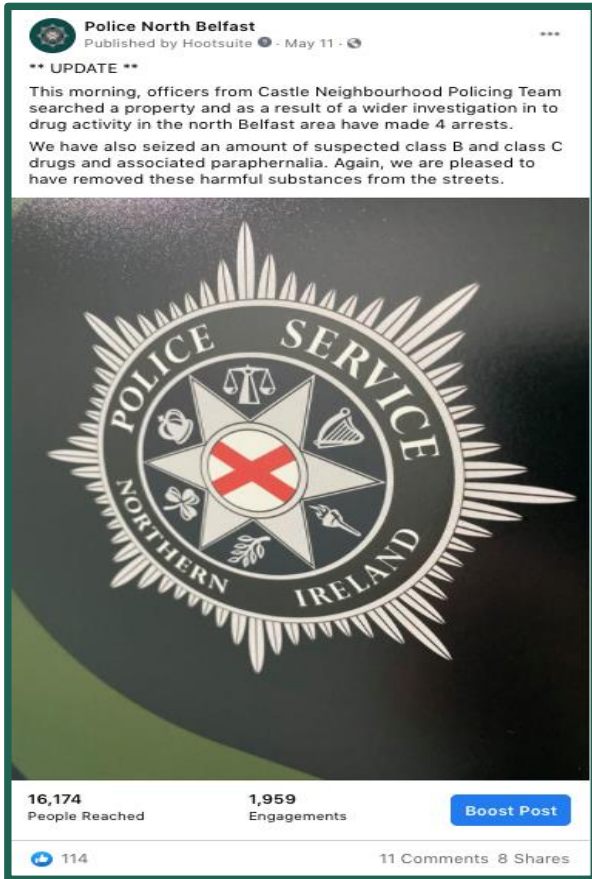
At Harmony Primary School, local officers have completed a series of workshops with both children and parents to enhance awareness of road safety issues and to increase road safety in the longer term.

Reaching out to the wider community, a community driving test initiative allows neighbourhood officers to work with local groups to identify people who may need help with passing their driving theory tests. Officers facilitate computer training to assist people to pass their tests, gain personal independence and drive legally and safely on our roads. This is a longer term focused project that is well respected across the community of the Greater Shankill area.



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North Belfast neighbourhood teams are also taking a proactive approach to community concern about drugs. Recent operations have resulted in search activity, four arrests and the seizure of Class B and C controlled drugs.



South Belfast

In recent months, neighbourhood officers in South Belfast have been focused on confidence building with minority ethnic communities, recognising the need to continue to adapt our approach so that we are increasingly accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of our diverse community.

Dialogue at a local level has been ongoing with the African Caribbean Support Organisation for Northern Ireland via online platforms. This has provided useful perspective and feedback for the local neighbourhood team on issues such as stop and search and the police response to hate crime. The potential benefits of developing neighbourhood “drop in” clinics to report hate crimes/incidents or to discuss concerns

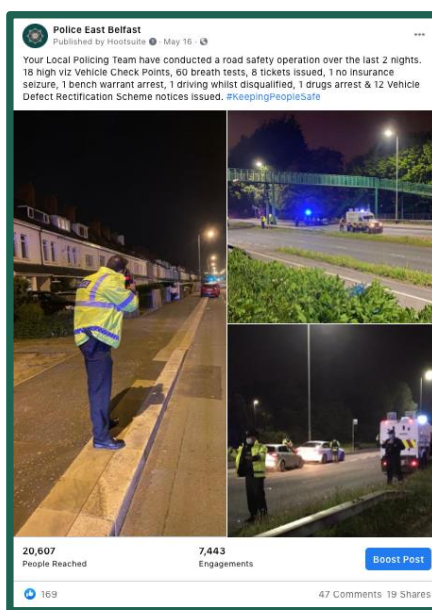
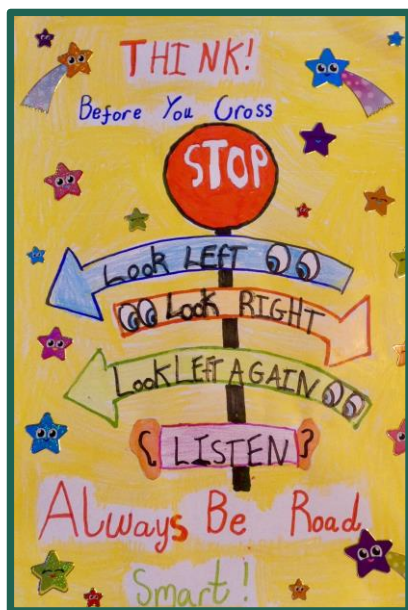
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in a face to face trusting environment have been identified. This would allow relevant factors to be acknowledged and accommodated including gender, ethnicity and cultural barriers to police reporting and engagement.

Early discussions have also taken place about the potential for neighbourhood officers to deliver group talks about the Police Service's role and powers within of joint partnership working structures. This would include building upon productive links with local groups such as South Belfast Alternatives and Greater Village Regeneration Trust who, in the past, have provided support in addressing community tensions towards newcomer communities.

East Belfast

East Belfast neighbourhood officers have been responding to road safety issues and concerns. They have obtained funding for additional road safety equipment and developed a week long Road Safety Programme which was offered to all primary schools in East Belfast. The programme involved direct interaction with children in schools and pop-up surgeries with parents at collection times. This enabled officers to understand the perspectives and concerns of local parents/carers and to provide appropriate crime prevention advice. A poster competition for Primary 1 to Primary 4 pupils was popular and helped consolidate learning.



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This work has been complimented by increased police visibility around local schools in the interests of promoting road safety. Proactive, visible road safety operations have also been ongoing during this time, resulting in a number of detections for motoring offences.

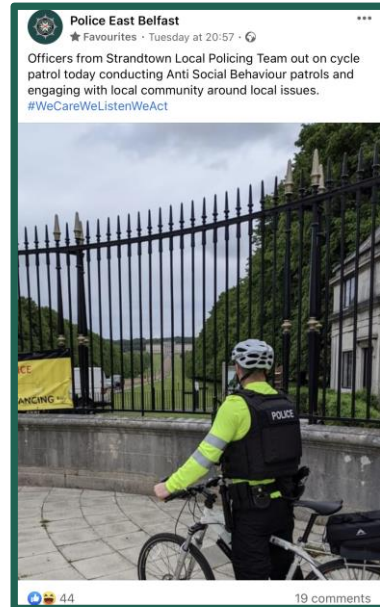
During June 2021, the neighbourhood team has focused on drugs, resulting in eight searches, three arrests and circa £40,000 of drugs seized. This has included a large quantity of sweets, believed to be infused with cannabis.



The team has been travelling regularly on e-bikes and pedal cycles, increasing their effectiveness in patrolling of greenways and parks. This has increased police visibility, accessibility and local reassurance in these areas. This includes a joined up approach with the Education Authority, Belfast City Council and third sector partners to deal with vulnerability, wellbeing and safety of those using public spaces, with regular joint patrolling and meetings.

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Neighbourhood officers were also proud to support their colleagues in Belfast Harbour Police in ensuring the safety of runners for the 25th anniversary event for the Special Olympics.



West Belfast

West Belfast neighbourhood team has been working in partnership with community, statutory and voluntary sector colleagues to address issues of anti-social behaviour. Officers are continuing their visible proactivity against anti-social behaviour by carrying out hotspot-focused patrols, particularly at weekends. This has prevented anti-social behaviour and led to an increase in alcohol seizures, youth diversionary referrals and Community Resolution Notices. Officers regularly work with partner agencies when providing this visible presence in communities, including Belfast City Council, Translink, Colin Safer Neighbourhood, the Education Authority and other youth outreach workers. The team also works with youth workers as part of a new West Belfast Detached Youth Workers Forum, to address persistent anti-social behaviour. Police are an important stakeholder in conversations around Falls Park and City Cemetery and work in grassroots partnership to address safeguarding issues in these spaces on a weekly basis.

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Police West Belfast
Published by Hootsuite · May 24 at 10:05 PM ·

West Belfast Neighbourhood Policing Team have taken advantage of the break in bad weather and have been out and about on our bikes today. We've been in Lenadoon, Suffolk and the Dunmurry Area.



5,491
People Reached

96
Engagements

Boost Post

13

1 Share

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Officers from West Belfast have also focused on addressing local concerns about drugs to increase confidence in policing. They have been carrying out searches, resulting in the seizure of drugs with an estimated street value of £50,000 at one location. Neighbourhood officers will routinely lead on these searches to ensure that the style and tone of the policing approach minimises the community impact. It is important that we take every opportunity to demonstrate the willingness and capability of local police to respond effectively to the drug issues that are impacting on community wellbeing.

Police West Belfast
Published by Hootsuite - May 24 at 4:35 PM

Police in west Belfast seized a quantity of suspected Class A drugs with an estimated street value of £50,000 during a house search on Saturday (22/05/21).

Officers from the Belfast District Support Team along with the Local Policing Team and Police Dog Jonno were involved in the search which also resulted in the seizure of other paraphernalia which is believed to be used in drug dealing.

A 37 year old man who was arrested in connection with the search has since been released on bail pending further enquiries.

We remain committed to tackling the scourge of drugs in our communities and we will continue to proactively investigate and carry out searches linked to the drugs trade.

The sale, supply and consumption of these incredibly harmful drugs is doing nothing but ruining lives and lining the pockets of organised criminals. We are determined to disrupt their activity and anyone involved in the drugs trade, or anyone tempted to become involved should be under no illusion - we will seek to identify them, arrest them and place them before the courts.

I would repeat our appeal to anyone who can help us identify suspects or lines of enquiry to call police on the non emergency number 101. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

Our Story

- Our purpose: Keeping People Safe
- What we do: We care, We listen
- How we do it: By delivering accessible community

8,525 People Reached | 479 Engagements | Boost Post

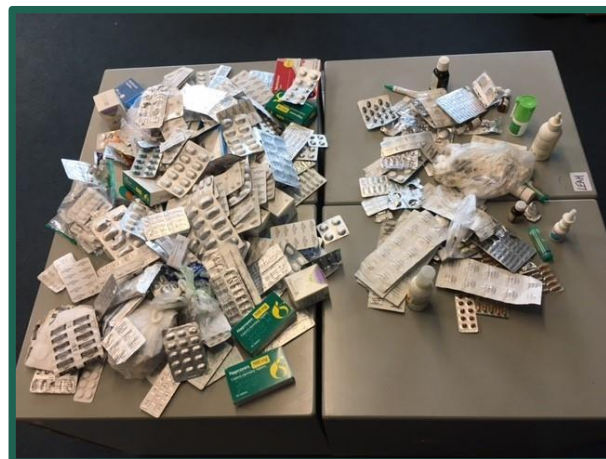
35 | 4 Comments 3 Shares

Police West Belfast
Published by Hootsuite - May 20 at 9:31 PM

West Belfast neighbourhood and local policing teams are continuing to tackle drugs crime as a priority. Over the last 36 hours we have carried out 4 searches, taking drugs off the street in each one, including this large amount of Class A and Class B. We recognise the harm caused to individuals and families by drug use and through supplying drugs to others. We want to say thank you to the community for providing us with information which we can act on. #KeepingPeopleSafe #WeCareWeListenWeAct

15,783 People Reached | 2,544 Engagements | Boost Post

86 | 50 Comments 5 Shares



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In April 2021, neighbourhood officers led a five-week long operation, focused on preventing car crime in West Belfast, linked to a burglary series across the wider Belfast area. Local police resources worked together with the Auto Crime Team, assisted by Tactical Support Groups. The arrest outcomes from this operation were subject to positive feedback from community representatives.

West Belfast neighbourhood officers have recently worked with a repeat victim of racially motivated hate crime to address underlying issues, ensuring council teams have factored the area and feedback into their patrolling strategy. Support has been made available through the Hate Crime Advocacy Service. Additionally, local officers have been working with the District Crime Prevention Officer to access the Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme to provide physical security measures and effectively address the concerns of the victim and their family.

Neighbourhood officers also have regular engagement with youth workers in Holy Trinity Youth Centre and St Theresa's Youth Club on perceptions of policing and our role within the community. Various topics have been discussed with young men aged 14-16, including the influence of paramilitarism and how we can best respond to this.

The team has also engaged with local Year 10 and 11 school pupils to promote internet safety and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Local officers, along with road policing and dog unit colleagues recognise the importance of early intervention approaches and have spent time in local nurseries as part of the 'people who help us' class. This has been a very positive experience and is encouraging for our future relationship with local young people.

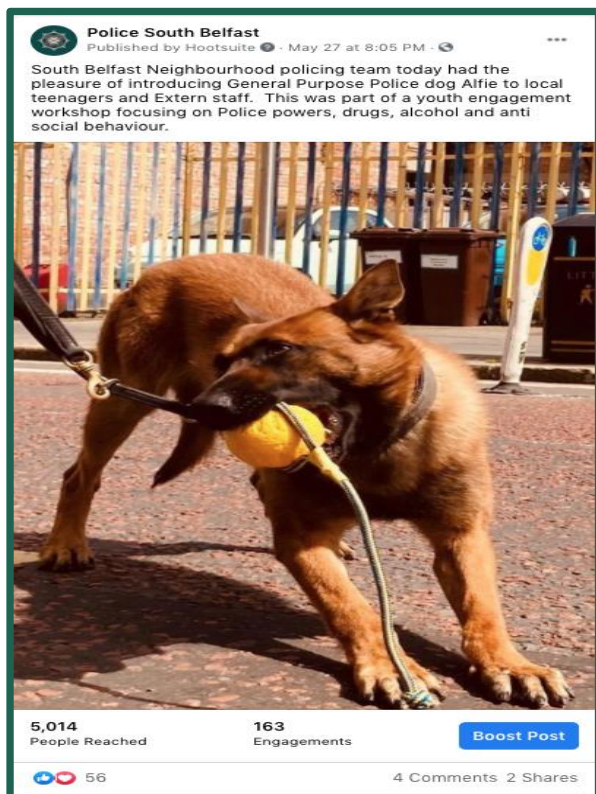
City Centre

We are pleased to see steps towards a return to normality in the city centre with many retail outlets open, alongside the phased return of hospitality. Multi-agency working has been key for our neighbourhood officers throughout this time.

Belfast City Centre neighbourhood officers have taken a partnership approach to drug use in within the area, bringing them into contact with vulnerable people with complex needs. Officers engage on first name terms and take time to listen to the issues which cause drug users to be on the streets and which may contribute to them to become involved in anti-social behaviour and begging. These issues include, but are not limited to, suitable accommodation, substitute prescribing programmes, access to benefits and underlying physical and mental health problems. Officers work closely with partner agencies such as Welcome Organisation, Extern, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Belfast Drug Outreach Team and Belfast City Council on a daily basis in relation to these issues.

By way of example, local officers liaise with stakeholders to secure temporary accommodation and facilitate the safe collection of discarded injecting equipment.

The team has also been working with partners to deliver youth engagement workshops to facilitate discussion on police powers, drugs, alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviour.



Lisburn and Castlereagh

In the second half of 2019, a new social housing development opened in Lisburn City Centre. This later became a matter of concern for residents and the local business community due to a notable increase in anti-social behaviour and criminality, including criminal damage and drug misuse in the immediate vicinity of the development.

The local neighbourhood team has taken a long term problem solving approach to this issue in the interests of community safety. Local officers participated in a multi-agency partnership initiative, coordinated through a Community Development Sub-Group led by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. Other partners included the housing development provider, Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, CityWatch (CCTV) and the local Chamber of Commerce. A dedicated neighbourhood officer was assigned to the development as a point of contact to establish and maintain relationships with tenants. Funding was subsequently obtained for the installation of a fixed CCTV camera which was monitored by CityWatch. This provided necessary information on causes and precursors, increasing evidence gathering capability and the effectiveness of the police response. Police took robust action with regards to any reported offences and utilised community information networks to understand root causes and identify potential solutions. Effective criminal justice outcomes resulted, including the seizure of large amounts of Class A, B and C drugs and the prosecution of offenders through the court system.

Whilst incidents in the area still occur, they are greatly reduced on previous levels. As a result, community confidence and the quality of life of residents has improved. Relationships between the housing provider, residents and local police continue to develop. This has enabled the local neighbourhood team to proactively address criminality and prevent harm in the area. The learning from this initiative has been highlighted as good practice and will be the subject of a presentation at the next Lisburn and Castlereagh Housing Forum in July 2021.

Ards and North Down

Neighbourhood officers continue to address persistent issues of parking and anti-social behaviour at Helens Bay and Crawfordsburn, associated with large numbers of young people and other visitors. Over 17,000 people can attend these beauty spots on a weekend experiencing good weather. It is approximated that up to 1,200 young people will regularly attend, leading to major issues with anti-social behaviour.

A police-led initiative to better engage partner agencies and communicate with the local community by a range of face to face meetings and social media platforms (including text message, email, Facebook and Next Door applications) has made a significant impact over the past two to three months.

Preventative problem solving actions have included:

- ✓ Matrix and other signage to improve communication of parking restrictions and expectations
- ✓ Securing the support of traffic attendants for the first time, with a collective issue of over 500 parking enforcement notices
- ✓ Close liaison with partner agencies including Translink, Local Council, Environment Agency and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- ✓ Meetings and remote communication with local residents and political representatives
- ✓ Support to local residents and partners in progressing preventative planning to mitigate the issue, including fencing around key areas, opening hours and security measures in car parks and road side planters to prevent parking on verges and roadways
- ✓ Dedicated planning documentation to coordinate a consistent police approach, including an increasingly visible police presence with maximised attendance at peak times, utilising dog unit resources directly leading to drugs offence detections, maximising use of powers to seize alcohol and drink drive road safety operations on access routes.

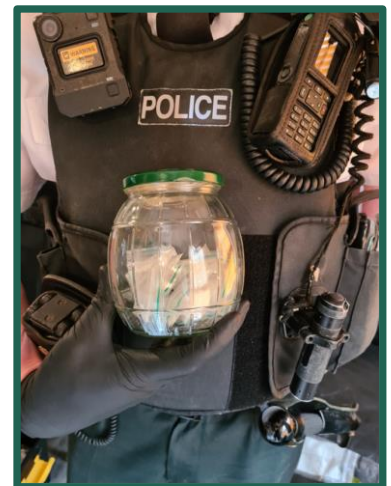
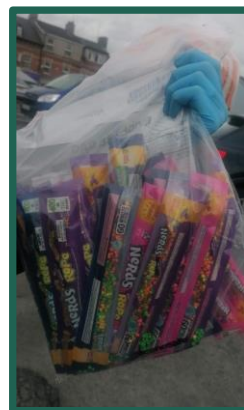
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The below images show the quantities of alcohol that were confiscated by neighbourhood officers during one recent weekend in June 2021.



Newry, Mourne and Down

Responding to identified community priorities, neighbourhood teams across Newry, Mourne and Down have worked hard to disrupt the supply of drugs in local communities with year on year increases in drug seizures and arrests.



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Crotlieve Neighbourhood Team has worked collaboratively with the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Education Authority and local councillors to address anti-social behaviour and criminal damage issues which were impacting on the quality of life of local people in the Rostrevor area. Increased police visibility was complimented by a four week programme for young people called 'Kilbroney Kicks', facilitated by the 'Respect Project' with 17 young people participating.

Anti-social behaviour has reduced greatly and further programmes are now planned for the Warrenpoint area, jointly funded by the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Education Authority.

Officers in the Newcastle area have been working alongside the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Policing and Community Safety Partnership, youth leaders and local councillors to coordinate a daily programme of activities for young people during the month of July. The focus of this programme is to prevent anti-social behaviour and the use scramblers, which has been highlighted as a particular local issue. The programme will culminate in a community event for local residents.

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, officers have been enthusiastic in returning to the school environment. Talks on drugs, internet safety, online gaming awareness and anti-social behaviour have recommenced in ten different schools across the District with further scheduled in coming weeks.

In collaboration with a local media company, new internet safety videos have been produced and rolled out to local schools and youth clubs. These are focused on sextortion which has been identified as an issue of particular local concern.

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A recent engagement day with Syrian families in the Newry area was a great success with over 80 members of the local community from a range of nationalities attending. This event was prompted by a high profile attack on a home of a local Syrian family and sought to reduce community tensions and provide reassurance.

Advice was provided by police and PCSP representatives on crime prevention, the criminal justice system, local council facilities and other topics in a safe space which was conducive to developing trust and confidence in local policing.

Following community concerns about road safety in the Cullaville area, particularly in the vicinity of the local primary school, officers have adopted a visible and responsive presence at the school to enhance road safety as well as to deal with offences by way of enforcement. This, and other planned events at the school, including a 'Kids Court' to raise awareness of the criminal justice system will be rolled out across the District.



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District Commander Superintendent Norman Haslett has led the way on promoting an increasingly visible police presence across the District area over the past number of months.



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Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

In response to the emerging risk of liquid cannabis (commonly referred to as *Spice*), Lurgan Neighbourhood Policing Team created an educational prevention package aimed at young people. This has been delivered virtually to 1,800 students in seven schools across the District. Potential for wider roll out across other District areas is currently being explored.

Armagh Neighbourhood Policing Team and the local Crime Prevention Officer joined with their Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Trading Standards to showcase the establishment of the 100th *No Cold Calling* Zone across the District. This is part of an aspiration to have all 200 Neighbourhood Watch Areas in the District designated as '*No Cold Calling*' zones, raising local awareness and preventing crime, particularly against vulnerable people.



The local Community Planning Team also worked in partnership with the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Halfords to host the first bicycle marking event since lockdown. This proved to be very popular with further events planned in the interests of crime prevention.

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The Neighbourhood Team Sergeant for Banbridge, with the assistance of officers right across the District, delivered educational awareness around drugs and online indecent images, in both Irish and English. This is the first time a lesson has been delivered in a local school by local officers in two languages.

At the same time, officers from Portadown Neighbourhood Team delivered a drugs awareness and prevention talk to younger members of a local loyalist band. This was an important engagement opportunity, opening up lines of communication with young people on issues affecting community safety and during what, traditionally, can be a sensitive period in the town.

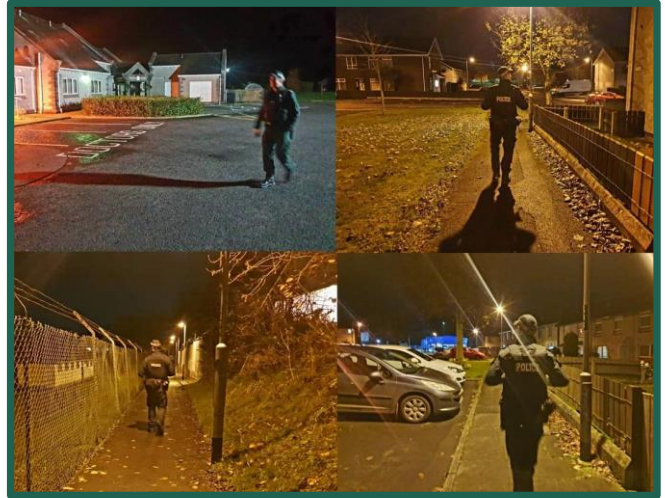
Both examples illustrate how neighbourhood officers routinely adapt to increase the accessibility of policing messages, in the interests of preventing harm to children and young people.

Mid Ulster

Alongside other identified priorities, Cookstown Neighbourhood Policing Team has recently focused on engagement around the Millburn and Monrush localities, focusing on community safety and identifying community priorities. Some examples of recent work includes:

- ✓ Reinstating the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and enlisting a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
- ✓ Community planting project with Beacon Playgroup
- ✓ Visit to local Guiding/Brownie/Rainbow groups
- ✓ Family fun day at Royal British Legion
- ✓ Community clean up in Beechway
- ✓ Beat patrols in local housing areas to increase visibility, accessibility and responsiveness.

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Fermanagh and Omagh

Enniskillen Neighbourhood Policing Team provided a visible, accessible and responsive style and tone at the British-Irish Council Summit in June 2021 at Lough Erne Resort. Foot, bicycle, boat and even golf buggy patrols were used as means of transport during this event.

Neighbourhood officers working in the Mid Tyrone area have been engaging with children from the Little Stars and Rascals Playgroup in Gortin. The children loved to hear all about how police officers work to keep them safe. They enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with their local officers and get up close to a police car's flashing lights and sirens.



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Their colleagues were, meanwhile, turning their attention to rural crime prevention at a trailer marking event at Omagh Mart, accompanied by the local Crime Prevention Officer and PCSP Chair. During the event, the team marked the 1000th trailer in the area which, it is believed, may be a Police Service first. The team celebrated the occasion with farm security and safety gadgets as prizes to the owners of the 999th, 1000th and 1001st trailers marked.

During Mental Health Awareness Week in May, the local School Liaison Officer in Fermanagh delivered a number of awareness training sessions to pupils of all year groups at St Kevin's College in Lisnaskea. Colleagues from neighbourhood and district support roles assisted by providing an insight on how drugs can have a detrimental affect, not only on physical and mental wellbeing, but also on future educational and career opportunities. A member of the local Policing and Community Safety Partnership also attended to provide support. The feedback from the event has been exceptional in what has traditionally been a hard to reach policing area. Officers involved reported a high degree of professional satisfaction from building community trust and confidence in their engagement with local young people.



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Alongside such programmes which focus on drug prevention, local officers have been proactively working to prevent harm by removing drugs from the local area. The attached pictures, show Class C drugs that were recovered during a premises search and stop and search of a vehicle in the Lisnaskea area. Arrests were made in both these cases, with one person currently on remand and another on police bail pending enquiries for drug related offences.



Officers from Enniskillen Neighbourhood Team have also recovered £11,000 worth of controlled drugs during a planned search in the area and, in a separate search operation, recovered a quantity of controlled drugs in the Drumbawn area of Enniskillen.

Meanwhile officers from Erne West Neighbourhood Team are currently progressing an investigation into human trafficking within County Fermanagh involving multi-agency partners.

Alongside this, road safety operations have been carried out in response to vehicular anti-social behaviour, particularly speeding near schools and in border areas.

All local officers have been working closely with licensed premises following the relaxation of Health Protection Regulations, ensuring that full use of the 4E guidance is made locally.

Derry City and Strabane

Just some examples of the progressive work ongoing with communities and partner agencies across neighbourhood areas of Waterside, Strabane, Foyleside and Moor and Ballyarnett include:

- ✓ Local officers continue to work closely with the Education Authority Youth Service with a view to safeguarding and protecting young people in the area. Joint 'Common Purpose' training' is being pursued to promote a more collaborative approach between the Education Authority Youth Service and local Police. All frontline officers will take part in this five week training programme, commencing in July 2021, which will clarify goals, roles, responsibilities and encourage the strengthening of relationships.
- ✓ Local officers are also currently working with the Irish Football Association's 'Stay Onside' Programme and the Education Authority to identify young people from across the city to take part in 'Fresh Start through Sport'. The Irish Football Association, Ulster Rugby, Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association and Belfast Giants have come together to deliver this new and innovative programme across Fresh Start areas, involving male and female participants aged 16-24. The programme will run from July – September 2021 and will continue to be supported by local police.
- ✓ Proactive work is ongoing with licenced premises in response to the easing of Health Protection Regulations. Throughout the pandemic, this has presented particular challenges in Derry City and Strabane policing area, given the geographical proximity to border areas of Donegal and the fact that local transmission rates remained comparatively high. Through good engagement with the Council, City Centre Initiative and licensed premises, local officers were able to successfully support the City and wider area as it started to open up again. This work and the approach taken led to a letter of thanks being sent to the Chief Constable from the City Centre Initiative Manager.
- ✓ In response to negative feedback on the style and tone of police searches and the potential impact on the wider community, Derry City and Strabane has proactively reviewed its operating model in the interest of community

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confidence in policing. Officers participated in numerous meetings where they listened to the concerns of the community and reacted by making searches community focused, i.e. by critically evaluating the style and tone and the potential for adverse childhood experience on every search. Officers are as open and transparent as possible when engaging with the community. These changes are supported by monthly internal reviews with all involved stakeholders to ensure effective communication and a collaborative approach. Reviews are informed by feedback from community representatives after each search. Since changes were implemented, three months ago, over twenty searches have taken place with no negative feedback or public disorder. This responsive approach received positive comment at the last local Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting.

- ✓ Derry City and Strabane has also developed a new policing role of '*Vulnerability Navigator*' which promotes early intervention and a trauma informed approach. The Vulnerability Navigator works with neighbourhood and local police officers and the Support Hub to identify those who are most vulnerable within the community and to ensure that effective signposting takes place at the earliest possible stage. From November 2020 to March 2021, 165 calls were made to vulnerable people with over 50% of people accepting help.

Causeway Coast and Glens

Alongside the easement of Public Health Regulations, visible patrolling has recommenced on Rathlin Island, to provide reassurance to residents as tourist visiting increases over the summer months. The local neighbourhood team has also begun work with Rathlin Development Association to address vulnerability and provide training on mental health identification, signposting and support.

Local officers have been working with Portballintrae 'La Girona' Association, local political representatives and the Department for Infrastructure to provide support to ongoing issues of parking, anti-social behaviour and speeding in the village.

Increased road policing visibility has been put in place across coastal areas. Planning with the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and local Council has also progressed to ensure effective control and placement of speed indicator devices.

The local Schools Liaison Officer continues to deliver appropriate lessons across all schools from Primary to Sixth Formers on themes including online safety, sexting, stranger danger and scams.

Neighbourhood officers working in the Coleraine area have carried out 120 joint licensed premises inspections with Environmental Health Officers over recent bank holiday periods. This indicated a high level of compliance in licensed premises in the area.

An area of priority focus for anti-social behaviour has been the promenade and beach areas of Portrush. Local neighbourhood officers have worked closely with lifeguards and the community search and rescue team, utilising the police quad bike to access hard to reach areas of beaches, increasing the visibility of local teams. An effective partnership approach to addressing anti-social behaviour on public transport and at train stations has been put in place along with the Safer Transport Team. These efforts have resulted in a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour.

A joint operation has been put in place with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, HM Revenue and Customs tax enforcement officers and the local council to address so-called 'car cruises' in Portrush and Portstewart and associated anti-social behaviour. This proactive partnership intervention has reduced anti-social behaviour caused by modified cars. So far this year, over forty vehicles have been seized due

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to their dangerous condition and in excess of 150 enforcement notices have been issued to drivers for anti-social behaviour related traffic offences.

Coleraine Neighbourhood Policing Team has also been working closely with the Somerset Residents' Association regarding persistent anti-social behaviour at the Riverside Retail Park. Much of this behaviour centres on noise caused by modified exhausts during the evenings and at night. Local officers have increased visibility in the area and worked hard with key stakeholders who own, occupy or use the Retail Park. Recently, following months of meetings and negotiations, a solution has been agreed involving restricting access to the area during certain times. This has been a very favourable outcome for residents with an impact on local police-community relations.

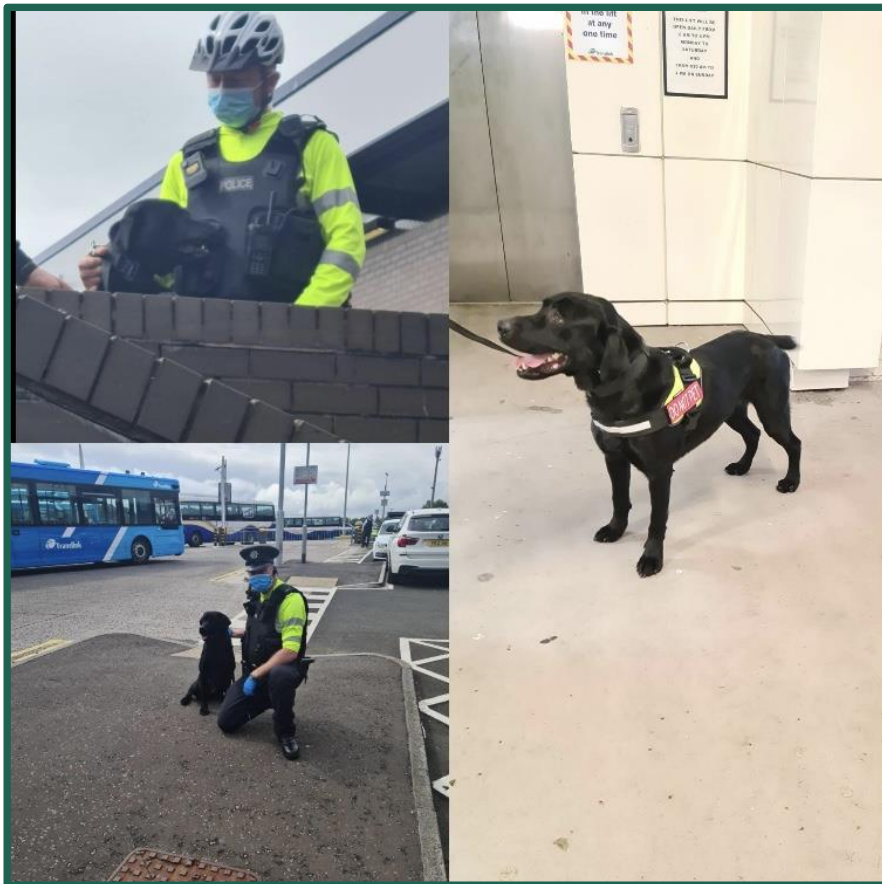
The teams also continue to tackle illegal drugs as an operational priority. Last month three premises searches resulted in the seizure of significant amounts of drugs. Officers in the team have also made a number of stop and search related drugs seizures.

Dedicated engagement continues across all areas of the District in advance of the summer period, with particular focus on areas where there are acknowledged sensitivities.

Mid and East Antrim

Neighbourhood officers in Ballymena have made good use of the mobile police clinic to increase accessibility of police in rural areas such as Ahoghill, Kells, Portglenone and Broughshane. The District Crime Prevention Officer has joined the neighbourhood team at clinics to offer crime prevention advice.

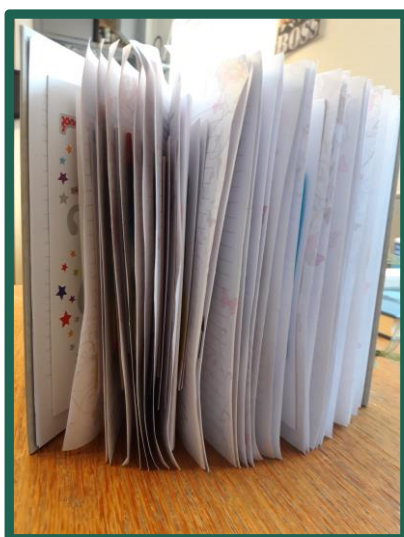
Police Dog Merlin has also been on patrol with the Neighbourhood Team to conduct drugs operations at Ballymena Train and Bus Station and around the town centre.



Also this month, following concerns raised by members of the public regarding excessive speed, neighbourhood officers carried out proactive speed operations at Leighinmohr Avenue, Grove Road, Ballymoney Road and Woodside Road in Ballymena.

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In May 2021, officers in Carrickfergus Police Station were delighted to receive a handmade book of thanks compiled by members of the local community. It contains numerous thankyou cards filled with notes of gratitude and praise for our local officers. It clearly it took a lot of time and effort to compile which is reflective of the great work officers in the District are doing every day and their pride in public service.



Just a little note of thanki's
for all you do to keep our
Community safe. My husband and
I really appreciate you. from the
bottom of our hearts - Thank You!



The same group of officers, working in neighbourhood roles in the Carrickfergus and Larne areas, are currently engaged with a self-generated project with the Adult Learning Centre in Larne.

A local liaison officer visits the centre regularly to provide support to staff, those who attend the centre and families. This has proved to be an important means of sharing information on a range of issues such as scams, internet safety and other crime prevention and community safety topics. A “pizza with police” event was arranged with service users during June 2021. This event was very well received with staff, service users and their families who are predominantly residents of the local area.

The work of local officers has been recognised by their District Commander as being ‘above and beyond’ with officers currently giving up their time off with their families to

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continue their service to the community by coordinating a refurbishment of the centre and rolling up their own sleeves in the redecoration effort.

The dedication shown by local officers to their community is commendable, showcasing the very essence and ethos of Neighbourhood Policing which, at its core is a caring profession. The daily work of neighbourhood officers, like this, routinely goes unseen. It ultimately has a far reaching impact on local community relations and goes to the heart of our pride in policing.

Antrim and Newtownabbey

Taking advantage of the innovative new teaching methods that have arisen out of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Glengormley Integrated Primary School came up with a creative and engaging way to teach their Primary 1 pupils about farm life and community safety in partnership with their local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

During an interactive immersive play, the children worked as part of their local policing teams to prevent theft and bring offenders to justice. The positive outcomes from cross-community working with the police provided a great learning opportunity for the children in relation to crime prevention and community safety. The children benefitted from developing early relationships with their local police officers and gained an age appropriate understanding of the criminal justice system and restorative justice practices. We hope that positive developmental experiences like this will encourage children to aspire to a future career in policing.



The Neighbourhood Team Sergeant provided the following thoughts on behalf of his team, “It was great to assist the children and staff who worked very hard to make the play, especially during these Covid-19 times. We actively seek to engage with everyone, starting at a very young age and right up to the elderly with our senior citizen forums and groups. We use all the resources we can to spread important crime and educational messages to everyone and it is always rewarding.”

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

During May 2021:

- ✓ Officers from our Crime Department carried out a number of searches in the Fintona area and seized a quantity of suspected cocaine, with an estimated street value of approximately £500,000. As a result of these searches, they uncovered a suspected drugs factory used in the production of Class A drugs. Two men, aged 35 and 25, were arrested on suspicion of a number of drugs-related offences and charged to court.
- ✓ Officers from the Paramilitary Crime Task Force conducted searches at an address in the Belfast area. During this search operation, various items were seized including a sum of cash and a large quantity of white powder which was assessed to be cocaine and valued at approximately £350,000. A man was arrested and charged with the following offences - possessing criminal property, concealing criminal property, possession of a Class A drug and possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply.
- ✓ Four kilograms of herbal cannabis were recovered from a vehicle stopped by police at Junction One Retail Park in Antrim. A man and woman were subsequently arrested for various drug offences and a number of follow up searches were carried out in Bangor, Newtownards and Donaghadee. As a result of these searches, a further 60 kilograms of herbal cannabis and £33,000 in cash were seized and a further person was arrested. All were charged to court and remanded into custody.
- ✓ A multi-agency road operation was conducted in Newry, as part of Operation FUSION, involving the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. As part of this operation, approximately 59 kilograms of herbal cannabis was seized along with £1000 cash. The suspect was subsequently charged and remanded in relation to drugs importation,

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possession and supply offences. By working together, as part of a collective effort to target criminals who seek to exploit the Common Travel Area, members of the Organised Crime Task Force and EU Exit Crime Subgroup have, once again, demonstrated their commitment to disrupting those who seek to cause harm through the illegal importation and supply of drugs in Northern Ireland.

- ✓ Detectives from Musgrave Criminal Investigation Department (CID) led a high-risk missing person investigation to locate two young brothers aged 5 and 8 years, following a request for assistance from social services. These children were deemed to be at serious risk of suffering significant harm and were believed to have been abducted by family members. The detectives worked with internal and external partner agencies including An Garda Síochána (AGS), Social Services and Interpol. By successful collaboration and quick-time information sharing, the children were discovered in a derelict property in Tipperary with family members and others who had assisted in their abduction. The children were discovered hours before they were due to be taken on a ferry from Rosslare to Cherbourg in France. They have now been returned safely to the care of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and four people have been charged with their abduction. CID officers continue to work with AGS and the Public Prosecution Service to secure justice in both jurisdictions and keep people vulnerable safe.

In June 2021:

- ✓ Officers from C1 Organised Crime Unit conducted warranted searches, alongside UK Border Force, intercepting approximately 2.35 kilograms of cocaine. A man was arrested and charged to court with the offences of conspiracy to import a Class A drug, attempted possession of Class A drug and attempted possession with intent to supply a Class A drug.
- ✓ One man was re-arraigned and pleaded guilty to engaging in the preparation of terrorist acts which related to the discovery of a dissident arms dumps in the Larne area in 2016. He will be sentenced at a later date. A number of other charges will remain on the books.

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- ✓ Another man was re-arraigned and pleaded guilty to the murder of Alice Morrow in March 2019. He will be sentenced in September 2021.

- ✓ As part of an ongoing operation by the Paramilitary Crime Taskforce, a main principal of an Organised Crime Group in the Derry/Londonderry area was arrested and remanded into custody. Police officers searched premises linked to this principal, whilst simultaneous searches were conducted in the Republic of Ireland by An Garda Síochána, coordinated by the Cross Border Joint Agency Task Force. Investigation resulted in the identification of other suspects with significant links to a drugs network under the hierarchy of this principal. Seven addresses were subsequently searched in the areas of Derry/Londonderry and Limavady. A significant quantity of suspected drugs were discovered during the operation and a large amount of currency, both in Euro and Sterling. Six people were arrested and charged for related offences.

- ✓ Officers from the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit conducted two searches in the Belfast area during a joint operation with judicial authorities and police in Romania. Two men, aged 29 and 34, were arrested on suspicion of a number of offences in Northern Ireland and nine others were arrested in Romania on suspicion of offences relating to the same Organised Crime Group. A total of 15 premises were searched and cash, vehicles and other suspected proceeds of crime were seized. Seven people, including one in Northern Ireland, were charged and remanded for a number of human trafficking and money laundering offences. This Organised Crime Group is believed to be responsible for recruiting and trafficking people from Romania into Northern Ireland for the purpose of prostitution and money laundering. This operation was facilitated by a Joint Investigation Team agreement between the UK and Romania, with part funding by 'Eurojust', the EU agency set up to promote co-ordination between member states in relation to serious and organised crime. The operation was assisted and supported by Europol, the Public Prosecution Service and Service for Countering Organised Crime in Romania.

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