



#policingmatters
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The Board is an independent body made up of 19 Members to ensure for all the people of Northern Ireland the delivery of an effective, efficient, accountable and impartial police service which will secure the confidence of the whole community by reducing crime and the fear of crime. **Click here** to see the Board membership.

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We think #policingmatters... do you?



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly addresses the seminar.

The first of the series of #policingmatters seminars recently focused on the Annual Policing Plan - how it is set and the way the Board monitors how the PSNI deliver.

The Plan is a key statutory document which sets out a programme of work for policing under 5 themes. The 9 Strategic Objectives, 25 Measures and 11 lower level measures within the plan are used by the Board to hold the Chief Constable to account by measuring policing performance against a robust monitoring framework.

It is designed to encourage the PSNI to improve overall performance and assist in achieving a continuous improvement approach.

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly described policing as a key public service and stressed the importance of having debate and discussion on issues that impact policing and how the service is delivered to the community.

She said:

“ The latest recorded crime figures are the lowest on record but crime is changing, as are the demands on policing. Whilst the traditional types of

FRONT COVER CAPTION

Supporting the Policing Matters message are (l-r): Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Chief Constable George Hamilton, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly, Deputy Chief Constable Drew Harris and Policing Board Chief Executive Amanda Stewart.

crime continue to have an impact, crimes committed online and crimes against those who are vulnerable are increasing. These types of crime often have a high victim impact and can be much more complex and resource intensive to deal with.

The resourcing challenges for the PSNI in the time ahead are significant and discussions will continue with the Chief Constable on the funding being made available to the service for delivery. As such the public need to better understand the demands placed on policing and how the police prioritise those in day to day delivery of the service to the community. ”

Continued...



Continued...



Chief Constable George Hamilton speaking at the #policingmatters seminar.

To read the Annual Policing Plan and how it works in line with the Strategic Outcomes

[click here](#)

To watch a short film about our work

[click here](#)

To view the Seminar

[click here](#)



Stressing the #policingmatters message are (l-r): Policing Board Member Ryan Feeney, Chair Anne Connolly, Vice Chair Debbie Watters and Member Paul Nolan.

This is why you think #policingmatters...

Speaking about the Policing Plan, Chief Constable George Hamilton said: **“The Policing Plan is an important part of the accountability structures. Through its nine Strategic Outcomes, the Plan sets a clear and sensible direction of travel to which we are fully committed.**

In particular, I welcome the Plan’s focus on vulnerability and I appreciate the Board’s support in ensuring that our reducing resources will be focussed to protect the most vulnerable in our society.”

However, the Chief Constable warned that the Plan sets a **“...high bar for policing at a time of significantly reducing resources.”**

He said: **“Planning for the year is not easy if you are uncertain of your budget; but these were the unusual circumstances in which this Policing Plan was developed. As we continue to get increasing clarity around our budget; a review of the Policing Plan should be a top priority for the new Policing Board. With reducing resources, we will be forced to prioritise our activity in the Plan towards threat, risk, harm and vulnerability.”**

What are the five themes?

Communication and Engagement...how the police engage with the public to build trust and confidence in policing.

Protection of People and Communities...to reduce harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure people are safe on our roads.

Reduction in Offending... to identify and intervene with priority offenders, address serious and organised crime and tackle paramilitarism.

More Efficient and Effective Delivery of Justice... to achieve an effective partnership with the PPS and wider Criminal Justice agencies to deliver positive outcomes for victims.

More Efficient and Effective Policing...to ensure resources are used effectivity.

“Society is progressing and in spite of political inertia, there is significant improvement in politics at a community level. We need to have confidence that the rule of law is applied equally across all of the North.”

“Policing is a key element of any successful society. We’re steps ahead of many on this but there’s more to do.”

“It’s everyone’s responsibility. The Chief Constable’s honest review in layman’s terms is useful for PCSP Members to bring realism to our communities.”

“The Policing Board is an incredibly important accountability mechanism and the ability to be able to discuss policing in such an open and transparent way can only be a good thing.”
Chief Constable George Hamilton

“Policing is a key public service and it is important to have debate and discussion on issues that impact policing and how the service is delivered to the community.”
Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly

Continued...

Policing Board sets recommendations to tackle Race Hate Crime

In 2016/17, the PSNI dealt with 660 race hate crimes, that's an average of two every day. It's widely agreed that hate crime needs to be tackled across society and the police have a key role in that. The Policing Board recently set out 14 recommendations for the PSNI to improve how they deal with race hate crime.

Board's Human Rights Advisor Alyson Kilpatrick set out the key findings of Human Rights Thematic Review at the latest seminar 'Tackling Race Hate Crime: A Review of the PSNI Approach.'

The Review focuses on how the PSNI identify, record and investigate race hate crime, and examines how victims are encouraged to report incidents and how they are supported.

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“Hate crimes can cause enormous damage to individuals and their families, can attack the confidence of minority racial groups and have serious and negative reverberations on the whole community.

Whilst we recognise that tackling racism is a wider societal issue, police officers clearly have a very central role to play in tackling, preventing and supporting victims of hate incidents and hate crimes.

There is never an excuse for any form of racist crime and I welcome the commitment shown by the PSNI to playing their part in tackling it. The Board will continue to work with the PSNI to ensure that victims of hate crime are protected and receive the quality of service to which they are entitled. No victim should ever be deterred from reporting because he or she thinks it is not worth it. ”

Paul Giannasi, Head of the Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, provided a national perspective on the challenges and issues in tackling hate crime and specifically race hate crime.

What is a hate crime?

While there is no actual legal definition for the term hate crime, the PSNI have adopted the definition that race hate crime is “any hate incident which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”



What is the breakdown?

The number of hate incidents recorded by the PSNI in 2016/17 were...

- Religious 44
- Homophobic 278
- Sectarian 995
- Racism 1,054
- Transphobic 20
- Disability 112

Continued...

Discussing the Thematic Report, the PSNI lead for Hate Crime, Superintendent Emma Bond said:

“We continue to review best practice and policy when it comes to tackling hate crime in all its forms and remain fully committed to ensuring that our officers have the appropriate training and skills to properly investigate reports and support all victims.

The prevention and detection of hate crime requires a collaborative approach from a wide range of partners and agencies however the policing response plays an integral part and we will continue to evaluate how we can best deliver a service that meets the needs of every victim.

Hate crime should not be tolerated and victims should feel confident that when they contact police we will take their concerns seriously and respond appropriately.”



Emphasising the #policingmatters message are (l-r): Policing Board Chief Executive Amanda Stewart, Chair Anne Connolly, Chief Constable, Paul Giannasi Head of the Cross Government Hate Crime Programme, Board Human Rights Advisor Alyson Kilpatrick, Supt Emma Bond PSNI Lead for Hate Crime and Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters.



Paul Giannasi Head of the Cross Government Hate Crime Programme speaking at the Race Hate Crime Seminar

Paul Giannasi

“We need to put efforts into relationships with civil society that are meaningful, trustworthy and developed.

Head of the Cross Government Hate Crime Programme



Alyson Kilpatrick

“Simple messages are the strongest. Hate crime is abhorrent and we must stand together against it.”

Board Human Rights Advisor

What's next?

From responding to online criminality to doing more with less, find out what the seminars will focus on next. If you want to take part, let us know by keeping up to date with us...

Wednesday
27 Sept
2017

**Local Policing:
Delivering for
communities?**

Wednesday
25 Oct
2017

**Protecting the Vulnerable:
Preventing Child
Sexual Exploitation**

Wednesday
22 Nov
2017

**Moving from traditional to
technological: How do the police
and other agencies respond
effectively to the growing level
of online criminality?**

Wednesday
17 Jan
2018

**Doing more with less:
How police services
can optimise their
resources to best effect**

Wednesday
28 Feb
2018

**From Crime to Court:
Can our policing and criminal
justice sector deliver faster
and more positive outcomes
for victims?**

To view the Policing Race Hate Crime Seminar

[click here](#)

To read the Policing Race Hate Crime Thematic Report

[click here](#)

To read the Policing Race Hate Crime Summary Report

[click here](#)

To watch our short film

[click here](#)

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The impact of volunteering

It's been a busy month for our 38 Custody Visitors. Between unannounced visits to check the rights of those in custody at any time of the day or night, they have been taking part in the Volunteer Now conference and a couple of them put their hands up to take part in short film about volunteering.

To mark Volunteer Week, the Board hosted an event to say 'thank you' for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in helping deliver a key part of the Board's accountability work.

The Volunteer contribution of the 10 Independent Community Observers who oversee the processes involved during PSNI recruitment campaigns was all recognised.



Board Members Wendy Osborne (l) and Deirdre Toner Blakely (centre) and Director of Partnership Adrian McNamee (second right) pictured with the Board's Independent Custody Visitors at the Volunteer Now Conference.

“Volunteers are our eyes and ears in a Custody Suite and recruitment assessment centres and are able to give us an independent and impartial assessment of how well the PSNI are doing. They continue to play a significant role in our accountability work and we are incredibly grateful for the time they take to help us deliver effective and efficient policing across our community.”

Vice Chair Debbie Watters



Vice Chair Debbie Watters addresses Custody Visitors and Community Observers at a special thank you event to mark Volunteer Week.



Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters and Board Members Deirdre Toner and Ryan Feeney with the Board's Independent Custody Visitors and Community Observers.

To find out what our Custody Visitors Brian Vincent and Mervyn McCurry have to say about what drives them to do the job, watch this short Volunteer Now film

[click here](#)

To find out more about Custody Visiting,

[click here](#)

Pleased to meet you!

We've had a lot of visitors at the Board recently to find out what we do and what learning can be applied in a range of countries. From Somalia, Germany, South Africa, Bradford and New York... it's all in a day's work for our Members.



Members of the South African Parliamentary Portfolio on Policing visited the Policing Board as part of their study visit to the UK where they heard from Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters about the work the Board has done to deliver, develop and monitor policing in Northern Ireland.



Policing Board Members met with David Seymour CB, Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007 to discuss his report and the police use of powers under the Act.



Policing Board Member Róisín McGlone spoke at the recent seminar at Queen's University which examined the key issues raised by the use of Stop and Search powers in Northern Ireland.

Roisin (centre) is pictured with (l-r): Dr Mike Bourne of QUB's George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Prof John Topping Lecturer in Criminology QUB, Tim Gracey Police Ombudsman's Office, T/ACC Barbara Gray, Children's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma, Brian Gormally of CAJ and Bill Priestly CJINI.



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly welcomed a study visit by Somalian senior police and members of civic society organised by the Global Center on Cooperative Security (UK).

Continued...

Continued...

Pleased to meet you!

The Board together with the DOJ sponsored an event to address the growing challenges of Cyber Crime. Organised by the NI Business Crime Partnership the seminar was also an opportunity to launch the British Retail Consortium Cyber Security Toolkit for Retailers. You can see the kit here.



Pictured are: (l-r) C/Supt Chris Noble PSNI; Hugo Rosemount, British Retail Consortium; Laura Gillespie, Pinsent Mason; Anne Connolly, Policing Board; ACC Stephen Martin, PSNI; Jamie Delargy, Facilitator; Aodhan Connolly, Director of the NI Retail Consortium; and Mairead McMahon Federation of Small Businesses.



Board Members Brice Dickson and Róisín McGlone met with visitors from German Trade Union ver.di Forum Nord gGmbH which represent a broad range of public services as part of a week long cultural and educational visit to Dublin, Derry and Belfast.



Students from New York's Fordham University paid their annual visit to the Policing Board as part of a study visit.



Students from Bradford University put their questions to the Board's Vice Chair Debbie Watters on how the Board works, what its challenges are and what learning there is for other policing organisations.

scamwiseNI

PARTNERSHIP

Trading on goodwill

The ScamwiseNI Partnership continue to highlight the various ways scammers will try to get their hands on our money. The Partnership which includes the Policing Board, PSNI, DoJ and a range of voluntary and statutory and business organisations, recently focused on rogue traders.

Rogue traders, or cold callers, are people who come to your house without invitation offering services or goods – like power washing paths, painting, clearing out guttering, fixing roof tiles, tarmac or painting.

But they have no intention of doing a good job for a fair price; they will overcharge for unnecessary work, they may damage property deliberately to get more money and will often intimidate their victim to give them more and more money – coming back again and again and again.

Mary was the victim of a rogue trader scammed out of £4,600 in just 24 hours.

To find out what happened

[click here](#)

To stay Scamwise

[click here](#)



Northern
Ireland
Children's
Hospice

Policing Board staff have kicked off their year of fundraising for chosen charity NI Hospice. Staff will be doing a range of fundraisers during the year so anyone who knows us, dig deep!



Pictured are (l-r): Director of Resources David Wilson, Gayle Carson, Jonathan Lambertson of the NI Hospice, Chief Executive Amanda Stewart and Director of Partnership Adrian McNamee.

Policing a changing Europe

The increase in online crime, terrorism and changing borders has brought new challenges to policing.

The Board and Queen's University Belfast recently held a joint workshop with the Norwegian Police University College to discuss **'Twenty-First Century Policing Challenges: Crime, Terrorism and Borders in a Changing Europe'**

Speaking at the workshop, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly stressed that policing needs to be resourced to respond to the threats faced and the changing environment we live in.

She said: **“There are no borders when it comes to dealing with terrorism, crime and criminality – so there can be no diminution in the ability of police and law enforcement to co-operate and collaborate.**

In dealing with the threat of terrorism, or dealing with crime and criminality, policing does need the support and help of the community to do so – community intelligence is critically important.

She also emphasised the need for oversight and accountability in policing, and the use of policing powers.



(l-r) Cato Hemmingby, Anne Connolly, Richard English, T/ACC Barbara Gray, Sten Kjekli and Haavard Reksten

“We also know that where police officers work within a rights based framework – public confidence can be secured.

A Human Rights based approach to policing has been shown to enhance public confidence and integrate the police into the community. With the co-operation and knowledge of the community it serves, police are better equipped to fulfil their statutory duties.



Pictured (l-r) Mark Lindsay, Police Federation Chairman, Anne Connolly, Policing Board Chair and Chief Constable George Hamilton.

Board Chair addresses Police Federation Conference

Policing Board Chair recently addressed the 45th Police Federation Conference where she spoke about the role of the Board and the challenges facing policing and police officers in the delivery of the service.



In with the new

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly and independent Board Members recently congratulated new officers about to start out on their policing careers. Speaking at the Attestation Ceremony, Mrs Connolly said:

“Policing is a job like no other, it really does matter. Policing is the service that the public expects to be there in their moment of need. You are now part of a service that delivers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year; and you will deal with some of the most challenging and traumatic of situations. We wish you well in your career and in your service to the community.”



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly with Chief Constable George Hamilton, C/S Paula Hilman and guests from the NIO and Department of Communities at the recent Attestation Ceremony for new officers

Seeing policing first hand



Pictured here with T/C/I Jill Duffie are Board Members Roisin McGlone, Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Chair Anne Connolly and Deirdre Toner with Kato and Vinny.

Over the last number of weeks Board Members have been out and about, meeting with police officers and staff who are delivering a range of policing services. On a visit to the PSNI's Operational Training Unit, Members were also able to see how the PSNI's police dogs are trained to support front line policing operations.