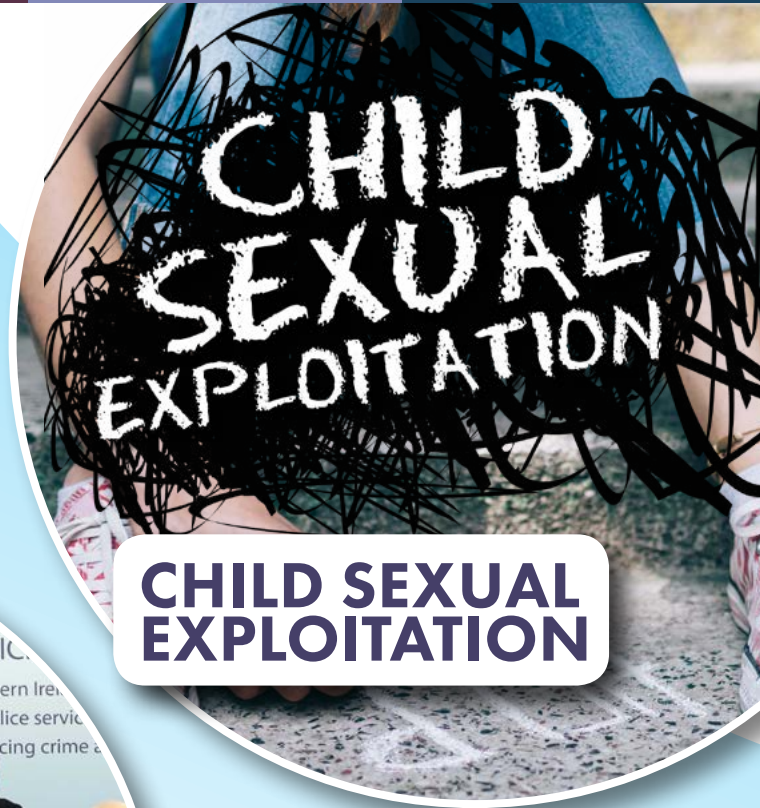




**CYBER  
CRIME**



**CHILD SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION**



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
POLICING**

**POLICING MATTERS  
SEMINAR  
SERIES**

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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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## A challenging year..

**It has been a year of particular challenge given the current political impasse and the impact that the democratic deficit continues to have on the operation of the Board and policing in Northern Ireland in general.**

Without the formation of an Executive, the process to nominate political members to the Policing Board has not been able to happen and as such the Board is not fully constituted as required by legislation.

Over the last period of time, I along with Independent Member colleagues have been working to progress the programme of work that the former Board, at its last meeting in February 2017, agreed. This programme was intended to be short term and the longer term implications are becoming ever more apparent as issues that need actioned can't be progressed without the legal authority of a fully constituted Board.

Whilst work continues to progress, there is clearly not the level of scrutiny that has underpinned the successful civic oversight of our policing service since 2001. That is detrimental for policing and for public confidence in the service. Independent oversight with representation of both political and independent members is essential.

I have publically expressed my concern around the impact of the impasse and the urgent need to get the Board back up and running as intended. That desire is also shared by the Chief Constable who has also stated the importance of scrutiny of the PSNI and the public accountability sessions of the Board as a forum for providing additional context and explanation on a range of policing issues, particularly where PSNI have been challenged on their response to everyday policing issues, or in a historical context.

Despite the challenges of the last number of months, I am encouraged by the continued

commitment and support of all those who work and engage on policing issues across our community. To all the Custody Visitor volunteers for their dedication in ensuring that detainees are well looked after; to the Independent Community Observers who observe the recruitment of PSNI Officers; and to the Policing and Community Safety Partnership Members who work with a range of partners to help make communities safer.

I would also like to record my thanks to the Chief Constable and his staff for their service to the community, particularly in the light of increasing demands and continuing budget pressures. Policing is a challenging job and it is important to recognise and thank the PSNI for their work in keeping people safe.

Finally, on behalf of Board Independent Members and staff, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful and safe New Year.

**Policing Board Chair  
Anne Connolly**





## #POLICINGMATTERS SEMINARS

# Local Policing: Delivering for communities?

The third in our #policingmatters seminar series looked at how well local policing delivers for communities.

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly stressed the importance of local policing in maintaining confidence in the police service. She said policing with the community has been central to policing reform in Northern Ireland which recognises the importance of embedding policing teams in local areas to build relationships and engage with local people.

She said: **"This means the police participating in the community and responding to the needs of the community. It also means the community getting involved in policing and supporting the police.**

Good policing depends on that all important community input and



Pictured (l-r) are: Policing Board Chief Executive Amanda Stewart, ACC Alan Todd, Dr Rick Muir the Police Foundation, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly and DCC Drew Harris at Neighbourhood Policing Seminar

According to ACC Alan Todd: **"Neighbourhood policing is what local policing pivots around - it's critically important."**

information... and working with key agencies to get a grip on issues that people are concerned about in their neighbourhoods.

To be really effective, policing needs to stay connected to the community. Without that connection, trust, confidence, victim satisfaction and the ability to manage community tensions become more difficult."

Talking about resources and demand, she said: **"We know that crime levels are low but with 500,000 calls for assistance every year, demands on the service are high and the public have high expectations. Some people want to see police officers very visible in the community but the 'officer on the beat' isn't always the best use of resource."**

Dr Rick Muir from the Police Foundation outlined the changing shape and future of neighbourhood policing. He said: **"Neighbourhood policing is really important for communities. It's important that people know they can contact the police and build up a strong relationship; it's important for community intelligence so police are aware of what is going on in the area and it's important to prevent crime happening in the first place."**

 **Watch our short film on local policing**

 **What the panel said**

 **Watch the whole thing**



"How the police engage and interact with the community is central to building confidence in policing ... and to tackling crime and criminality."  
**Anne Connolly**  
Policing Board Chair



## Protecting the Vulnerable: Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual abuse can take a range of forms and exploitation is just one of them. It can happen online or offline, and without the young person even being aware of it. There's no standard profile of an exploiter; any young person can be a victim.

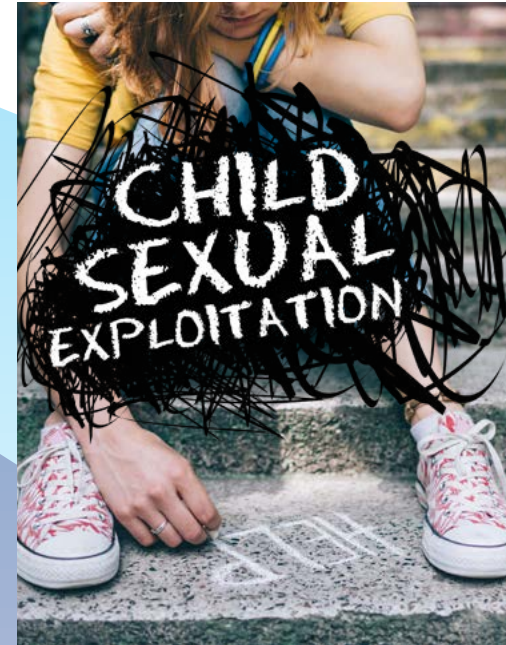
In a powerful presentation, Dr Helen Beckett, Director of the International Research Centre for child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking at the University of Bedfordshire provided insights and challenges on the response and responsibilities of the police and agencies in safeguarding. She explained that child sexual exploitation is only one form of sexual abuse and added:

"The complexity is when the young person is getting something they want or need alongside their abuse.

Just because they are getting something alongside being abused, does not mean they are not a victim."

ACC Stephen Martin outlined the work of the Public Prosecutions Units and how they work to support victims, the detailed engagement with young people and how the PSNI are up for doing things differently to improve service. ACC Martin said:

"We are up for change – if change can help even one victim, it's worth doing."




**29**  
children every day are referred to social services by police.


**7%**  
of these were categorised as victims of sexual abuse.

At the end of March this year, **22,737** children were known to social services as a child in need with **2,132** on the child protection register.

### Children's Social Care Statistics for NI 2016/17

 **Watch our short film on child sexual exploitation**

 **What the panel said**

 **Watch the whole thing**

"Child Sexual Exploitation is quite simply child abuse and happens when a young person is encouraged, or forced, to take part in sexual activity in exchange for something."

**Anne Connolly**

"The issue is not the young person's vulnerability - it is that there is a perpetrator willing to abuse and exploit them."

**Dr Helen Beckett**

"A lot of what we do is geared towards prevention; prevention is much better than protection."

**ACC Stephen Martin**

#### What's coming up next...

Our next seminar will take place on Wednesday 24 January 2018 and will look at *Doing more with less: How police services can optimise their resources to best effect.*

To find out more

[click here](#) 

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

The growing threat of cyber crime and the challenges it presents for policing was the subject of November's lunchtime seminar.

The term cyber crime means offences that involve the use of the internet to facilitate crime, such as drug dealing and people smuggling, and cyber enabled crime such as identity theft, which may be committed without IT but is expanded significantly by its use. Cyber dependent crimes can only be committed through the use of IT devices which, as explained by Head of Operations at the NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit, Mike Hulett, are **"the kind of offences that didn't exist before the internet"**.

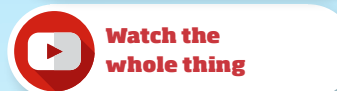
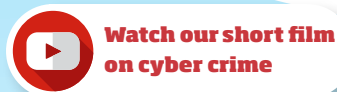
He said: **"Cyber crime is all about stealing things, breaking things or a combination of the two and is no respecter of boundaries. You can be targeted anywhere in the world and you can attack anyone in the world, that is, you have the same propensity to attack and the same chances of being a victim."**

The transformation of traditional criminals to almost anyone with access to technology is also a major challenge when policing in this area, he said.

**"Entry is much easier, and the profile is much younger so we are also addressing criminal pathways in our four pronged approach of 'pursue, prevent, protect and prepare'. Online you can be anyone and anywhere, such as a teenager in the bedroom. Cyber crime is worldwide, but concentrated in some countries and what elite criminals and nation state actors are doing is virtually the same."**

Reporting and recording cyber crime can be difficult as many go undetected and unreported raising challenges on estimating the scale of the problem. According to ACC Stephen Martin there is a significant element of under-reporting because businesses feel that opening up to a wider circle of knowledge would damage reputation. He says:

**"The PSNI has developed cyber specialists and have relationships with sectors such as banking but in an overwhelming majority of cases we know nothing about the breaches."**



"The world is changing as is the type of criminal - over 47% of all crime is now cyber but there is nothing like 47.5% of law enforcement resources available in cyber areas."  
**Mike Hulett Head of Operations, National Cyber Crime Unit, NCA**



"We have 60 people dedicated to this area full-time, digital forensic experts who look at the hardware and local support units who do some digital and video work. Everyone is getting specific training in cyber crime and we're well placed but technology and the criminal mind set develops day and daily and we have to respond to that."  
**ACC Stephen Martin**

An eighth of the UK's GDP comes from the internet economy, highest of all G20 countries.

68% of large UK businesses have identified a cyber security breach or attack in the past 12 months

\*47.5% of all UK crime involves cyber (\*ONS 2016)

\*\*68% of large UK businesses identified a cyber security breach or attack in the past 12 months (\*\*Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2017)



"Criminals are becoming more innovative and police need to become more innovative in response."  
**Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters**





## Pleased to meet you!

The Board's independent members have been out and about engaging with various groups and organisations in recent months. Here's a quick overview.



Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters met with visitors from Tajikistan who discussed the role of the Board and policing structures in Northern Ireland.



Policing Board Member Roisin McGlone (l), Chair Anne Connolly (r) and Chief Constable George Hamilton congratulate new PSNI graduates at the recent Attestation Ceremony.



Visitors from the University of Surrey and the Jamaican Constabulary met with Policing Board Vice Chair to hear about its role in policing change here.



Continued...

## Pleased to meet you!



Policing Board Chair lent her support to the excellent Roadsafe Roadshow brought to the City Hall by Belfast PCSP. Pictured with Anne are (l-r): East Belfast DPCSP Member Cllr Carole Howard, GC Gerard Lennon NIFRS, Sgt Robert Cumiskey PSNI, C/Insp Dianne Pennington and John McPoland NIAS.

To hear their road safety message

[click here](#) 



Policing Board Director of Partnerships Adrian McNamee gave an overview of the work of the Board to over 100 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators in Newcastle recently. Picture with Adrian are (l-r): Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP Chair Harry Harvey, Michael McAvoy DOJ, Ch/Insp Joe McMinn, PCSP Vice Chair Grace McQuiston and PCSP Manager Siobhan Fearon.



Policing Board Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive discussed a variety of issues including race hate crime and Black Minority Ethnic recruitment with the PSNI's Ethnic Minority Police Association.



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly, Vice Chair Debbie Watters and Chief Executive Amanda Stewart recently met with the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People Koulla Yiasouma (centre) and Chief Executive Mairéad McCafferty (left).