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Find out more about PCSPs:

Begging for Change

Belfast PCSP and the PSNI along with Belfast City Centre Management and the NIHE are supporting a campaign by Depaul and the Welcome Organisation to challenge views that many people have about people begging on the streets.

The two charities are keen to dispel some of the myths about begging and stress the point that providing cash could help make a problem worse. Instead, they are asking people to support them to provide solutions to problems.

Supporting the campaign, Belfast PCSP Chair Cllr Matt Garrett said: **“It is easy to understand why caring members of the public think they may be helping by handing over money to someone on the**

street – but begging can often be a method used to obtain money to fund addictions and other negative activity. This is clearly a sensitive issue and we hope the campaign will increase awareness of the issues and the alternative and most effective ways to help those most in need and actually make a difference.”

Explaining why handing over money to someone who appears to be in need may cause more than good, CEO of Depaul Kerry Anthony said:

“There has been increased visibility of people begging on the streets of Belfast over the last few years, and people remain confused as to what they can do help. The ‘Begging for Change’ campaign examines why people beg, and the link between begging and homelessness.



People tend to combine the two issues, but in reality most people who beg are not homeless and most people experiencing homelessness do not beg.

We believe that everyone has a right NOT to beg, and we urge the public to work with us, not against us, to achieve this goal.”

To watch the short film [click here](#)

For more information about the campaign [click here](#)

Coffee with the cops

Sitting down drinking coffee with the cops is now going to be a permanent feature in Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP’s engagement with the police and the community every Monday at 11am .

Describing it as a community positive engagement initiative, PCSP Chair Mickey Larkin said: **“The PSNI often fight not just crime but community distrust and disapproval. Local neighbourhood police teams have been working hard to build relations and improve engagement and have done so successfully over the past number of years in partnership with community groups and other statutory bodies. Recent structural changes and budget restrictions have prompted a review of how best to continue and build upon existing relationships and this is just one example of how it can be achieved.”**



Local women have a coffee and a chat with Con Scott McBride.

For information on dates and venues, look up Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP on:



‘Keeping Your Child Safe’ outside schools

Derry & Strabane PCSP has been working with the PSNI to produce a road safety guide for parents and guardians of schoolchildren. The PCSP had been approached about the problems faced by parents not being able to access their schools because of cars blocking the way.

Derry and Strabane PCSP Chair Cllr Eric McGinley explained:

“In recent months, concerns have been raised about inconsiderate driving and how vehicles are parked close to a number of primary schools throughout the district. There are obvious road safety concerns, especially if motorists are driving too fast and if driveways, entrances or footpaths are blocked by parked cars.

I understand that parking can be limited outside some schools, however we ask that consideration is given to the safety of children and other road users at peak times.”

To get your hands on the advice leaflets contact the PCSP on 028 71 253 253 or pcsp@derrystrabane.com.



Pupils from Holy Family PS distribute ‘Keeping Your Child Safe’ leaflets to drivers outside their school

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

Derry and Strabane PCSP Chair Cllr Eric McGinley and Manager Dermot Harrigan with a teacher and pupils from Holy Family PS who helped distribute ‘Keeping Your Child Safe’ leaflets to parents and guardians arriving at the school to collect pupils.

Drugs and alcohol help in Newry, Mourne & Down

Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP along with the Health Development Team in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have developed a Guide to Alcohol and Drug Services in the area to coincide with Northern Ireland Alcohol Awareness Week.

The leaflet is designed to cover both Trust areas in the Council district and includes a roadmap of all the services available from prevention and early intervention to intensive support.

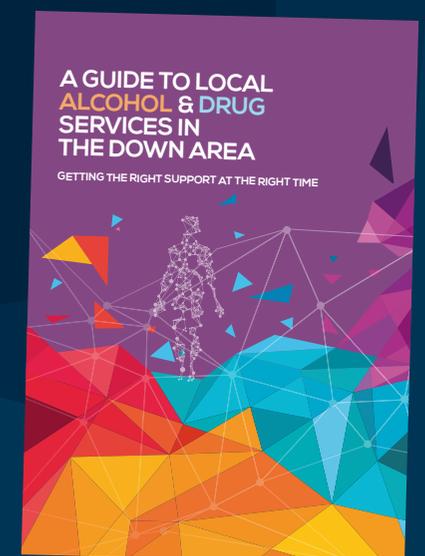
The PCSP is keen to highlight the support available for young people and adults and for family members.

For more information on the leaflet and the services

[click here](#)

For additional information on drugs and alcohol

[click here](#)



Pictured at the launch of the Guide to Alcohol and Drug Services are (l-r): C/Insp O’Connor, PCSP Members Harry Harvey, Una Kelly, Cllr Terry Andrews, PCSP Chair Cllr Mickey Larkin, Cllr Kate Loughran, Cllr Brian Quinn and Sgt Donnelly.

PCSP Chairs and Vice Chairs review achievements

PCSP Chairs and Vice Chairs recently gathered at the Board to review their work as they come to the end of their terms of office. Board Chair Anne Connolly acknowledged that the transitional year has not been easy and recognised and congratulated the PCSPs for delivering strong action plans in each area.

Mrs Connolly talked about the specific remit of the Policing Committees to improve local community confidence in policing and said **“it is vital that each Policing Committee is enabled to link into the work of the Board to improve levels of confidence in and satisfaction with policing.”** One way of building on this link, which is already up and running, is for Board Members to attend Policing Committee meetings to provide support and feed issues back to the Board.

Mrs Connolly also said that best use must be made of the collective expertise of the statutory agencies designated as PCSP Members to help ensure that the most effective approaches are taken to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Also at the meeting, the DOJ’s Anthony Harbinson said: **“I hope that, as you come to the end of your role as PCSP Chair and Vice Chair, you will recognise the difference you have made this past year within your community. It is through all the different members within the PCSP and the wealth of experience that a real difference can be made to local policing and community safety issues.”**

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

Board Chair Anne Connolly (3rd left) and Vice Chair Debbie Watters (2nd right) pictured with (l-r): Newry Mourne & Down PCSP Vice Chair Dan McEvoy, DOJ’s Anthony Harbinson, Newry Mourne & Down PCSP Chair Mickey Larkin and Vice Chair of Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP Leanne Abernethy.

Local policing in Causeway Coast and Glens

The Board Chair Anne Connolly joined the recent Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP Policing Committee meeting. Mrs Connolly described PCSPs as a “powerful mechanism” to identify and monitor key issues in communities and said: **“People are very keen that their locality is adequately policed, that there is a visible police presence and that important community concerns such as anti social behaviour are being properly dealt with.”**

Causeway Coast & Glens Chair Ald William King added that the PCSP are committed to working to **“...ensure effective engagement with the police and the local community to reflect the involvement, views and priorities of local people.”**



Pictured at the Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP Annual Public Police Performance meeting are (l-r): PCSP Chair Ald William King, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Supt John Magill and Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy.



Pictured at the update on call blocking are:

Front row (l-r): Truecall recipient, local resident Marilyn Gale, Causeway Coast & Glens Mayor Cllr Maire Hickey and Justice Minister Claire Sugden.

Back row (l-r): PSNI Crime Prevention Officer Judith Lavery, PCSP Chair Ald William King, COAST Manager Jenna O'Hara and COAST Handyman David Laverty.

Blocking the scammers

Causeway Coast & Glens is one of the five PCSPs delivering a call blocking scheme to help tackle the problem of scamming, particularly of older and more vulnerable people.

The project is delivered in partnership with COAST (Causeway Older Active Strategic Team) through their handyman service where devices are installed in the homes of people identified as at risk of falling victim to scams.

Visiting the scheme to get an update on how it is working, Justice Minister Claire Sugden said: **“Scam calls can have an extremely damaging impact on older people’s confidence and sense of safety within their own homes, and can lead to substantial financial losses in the worst cases.”**

This initiative aims to reduce the opportunities that criminals have to exploit older people. I am confident that it will go a long way to preventing and deterring criminals from targeting vulnerable individuals.”

PCSP Chair Ald William King said: **“The need for the scheme was confirmed by PSNI locally, who identified a growing issue of the repeated targeting of elderly and vulnerable individuals which mainstream phone systems are unable to resolve. The PCSP is pleased to have the opportunity to support such a worthwhile project.”**

The four other PCSPs rolling this out are Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon; Derry & Strabane; Lisburn & Castlereagh; and Newry, Mourne & Down.



NIFRS are advising everyone to check their smoke alarms to help reduce accidental fire deaths at home.

People at risk

PCSP partners, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), have developed a strategy to reduce the possibility of people at risk becoming victims of fire. In the past 3 years, 28 people have died because of accidental house fires, many of whom were over 60 and lived alone. NIFRS has now classified people at risk as being anyone over 60, those who may have a mobility or health condition which could limit their ability to respond in an emergency and those referred by a partnership agency.

What they plan to do is provide free home fire safety checks and give practical advice about preventing fire and getting out in case of a fire. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Alan Walmsley said: **“Whilst fire safety is an important issue that everyone needs to be conscious of and responsible for, we can’t ignore the fact that there are people who because of their circumstances are at higher risk. We are working closer than ever with partner agencies, from the wider health & social care family and voluntary sector, to identify people most at risk.”**

For more information [click here](#)

Keeping watch on schools

School Watch continues to build momentum across the PCSPs with more and more schools adding their name to the scheme. Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP and the PSNI have been working in partnership with local schools and Lismore Comprehensive in Craigavon and Scarva Primary School are the latest to sign up.

The idea is that, like Neighbourhood Watch, local communities keep an eye on their local school to reduce crime in and around the premises.

Watch out for School Watch in your area and contact your local PCSP to see how you can get involved.



PCSP Officer Rhonda Abraham with pupils of Scarva Primary School who have recently signed up to the School Watch Scheme

Extra funding for Derry & Strabane initiatives

Derry & Strabane PCSP has secured almost £45k of additional funding from the Department of Justice to help local groups deliver a range of community safety initiatives.

The PCSP awarded £14,640 to Shantallow Community Residents' Association deliver a prevention and intervention programme to young people.

Just under £30,000 came from the Assets Recovery Community Scheme which went to the Playhouse to deliver a Safe Talk Film and to Men's Action Network to deliver their Breaking the Cycle Initiative.



Pictured with Year 13 students at Lismore Comprehensive School are (l-r): Con Ryan Hughes, Vice Principal Dolores Fos and Con Gary McKeown.

Don't walk on eggshells

PCSPs and the PSNI have been working together on a campaign to promote awareness of domestic abuse and prompt people to get help when they need it. With police responding to an incident of domestic abuse every 19 minutes, this is not an issue that is going away. PCSPs and the PSNI have pooled their resources to get the message out to those who may be experiencing domestic abuse but have no idea what to do about it, as well as those who are unaware they are being abused.

Board Chair Anne Connolly said that while the rise in the reporting of domestic abuse incidents is encouraging - indicating that people feel they can report it - it is important to reach out to victims who still feel unable to take the first steps to get away from their abuse.

She said: **“Domestic abuse can take many forms and creep into everyday life so victims barely notice that anything is wrong. The message is clear – it is wrong and we need to stop it.”**

We welcome the involvement of PCSPs in this campaign and, by working in partnership with the police and other agencies, we hope more victims will come forward and seek the help they need.”

The PSNI's DC/Supt George Clarke said: **“It is our job to keep people safe. Our role is about prevention, protection and prosecution – to prevent further violence, to protect the victim, children and other vulnerable people and to facilitate the prosecution of offenders**

We work closely with our partners, statutory and voluntary, to ensure the victims get the help they deserve, to highlight the issue of domestic abuse and to explore ways in which we can keep communities safer.”

28,392
reported from Mar 2015–April 2016

1 incident reported to police every **19 minutes**

The number of incidents that go unreported
UNKNOWN

For more information on domestic abuse [click here](#)



Board Chair Anne Connolly and the PSNI's DC/Supt George Clarke launch the domestic abuse campaign.

PCSPs across the country have been promoting the message on domestic abuse. Here's a quick round up...



Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP get the message out about domestic abuse. Pictured are (l-r): PCSP Chair Cllr Julie Flaherty, PCSP Manager Patricia Gibson and PCSP members Keara Downey, Cathy Donnelly, Dáire Toner and Cllr Máire Cairns



Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Chair Cllr Scott Carson and District Commander Supt Sean Wright promoting the campaign in the area.

Acting against business crime

The Board, DOJ, the PSNI and representatives from the business community across Northern Ireland have been working together to develop an action plan to deal specifically with business crime. Following a series of meetings and workshops to identify the key issues faced by just under 70,000 businesses here, the plan sets out aims and actions to improve protection, share information to prevent criminal activity and improve confidence in the criminal justice system.

The recently launched plan depends on the relevant agencies working in partnership and is, according to Board Chair Anne Connolly, dependent on continued collaboration with the business community.

She said: **“It is vital that as wide a network of people as possible are aware of this plan, and the work being done, in partnership with the business community, to deliver on it.”**

She added that the bodies have listened carefully to the views of the business community, the impact that crimes have on lives and livelihoods and the types of measures that need to be taken to reduce crimes in this sector.

Justice Minister Claire Sugden stressed that the impact of business crime should not be underestimated. She said: **“Far from being a victimless crime, it affects the profitability of businesses and the cost of the goods we buy in shops every day.**

I welcome the commitment from the business community to work with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to develop a cohesive approach to reduce the impact and cost of crime on businesses. The action plan is another positive step in the ongoing fight against business crime.”

The PSNI’s C/Supt Chris Noble said that the PSNI recognises that businesses **“are at the heart of prosperous communities and we will continue to work with our strategic partners to implement the recommendations set out in the business crime action plan.”**

Welcoming the plan, Aodhán Connolly, Director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium (NIRC) said: **“This action plan is a testament to the collaborative work of the DOJ, the PSNI, the Board and the business community.**

It will make a real tangible difference to our industry and others. It will make our high streets and towns not only safer, but a better place to invest and do business for everyone from the corner shop to the large multi-national retailer.”

The Board and DOJ will be working with PCSPs to agree a way to take forward some of the objectives on the ground.

To find out more about the Business Crime Action Plan [click here](#)



Pictured at the launch of the Business Crime Action Plan are (l-r): C/Supt Chris Noble, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Justice Minister Claire Sugden and NIRC Director Aodhán Connolly.



No harm done?

Belfast PCSP has funded the production of a short film to help educate young people about the real consequences of crime.

The Youth Justice Agency has developed the film and toolkits which allow young people to examine choices and consequences of crime, the journey of a young person through the justice system and the impact of crime on them, their victim and wider society. The project will run across all the Youth Justice Agency offices and is also being supported by the PSNI.

PCSP Chair Cllr Matt Garrett said:

“The Partnerships aim to help communities feel safer by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and improving confidence in police, as well as the wider justice system. This DVD offers an excellent opportunity to engage with young people and encourage them to make positive, informed decisions.”

The Youth Justice Agency’s Ben Rayot said:

“It is exciting to look ahead to how we might use this resource in secondary schools, youth centres, and youth work training programmes to develop young people’s understanding of the impact of crime on victims and communities and ultimately help them become better citizens and keep safe by avoiding crime and anti-social behaviour.”

Speaking about the project Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters said: **“It is really important that groups work in partnership like this to really get a grip on policing and community safety issues. This film and toolkit will be a great asset for many youth groups and schools across the community and well done to the PCSP and Youth Justice Agency for its development.”**

If you are interested in bringing this to a school or youth group in your area, contact the Youth Justice Agency at 028 9035 1982 or Benjamin.rayot@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk.

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

Launching the No Harm Done project are (l-r): Youth Justice Agency’s Ben Rayot, the main actor Peter Heenan, Patricia Muldoon Youth Justice Agency, Writer and Producer Laurence Doherty, PCSP Chair Cllr Matt Garrett and Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters.

The Blob

The charity Crimestoppers have made a short film ‘The Blob’ on crime in the community to explain how they operate and what they can offer people who prefer not to bring information directly to the police.

To watch the film [click here](#)

For more information on Crimestoppers, you can follow them on **Twitter** and like them on **Facebook**.

Tackling Hate Crime

The PSNI has been reassuring the local community of their commitment to tackling hate crime so that everyone, from whatever background, can live free from prejudice, fear and discrimination.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hamilton said: **“All forms of hate crime are unacceptable in any circumstances. Hatred not only poses serious physical and emotional harm, it damages communities and undermines the diversity and tolerance we should be instead celebrating. Police forces will respond robustly to any incidents and offenders can expect to receive enhanced sentencing.”**

If you or someone in your community is a victim of hate crime, they can report it to:

- the police on 101
- the PSNI website
- the True Vision website
- Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

In an emergency, always dial 999.

[click here](#) for more information



Some of the students who watched 'Think how you drink' in west Belfast during June.

'Think how you drink' in West Belfast

As part of their ongoing response to anti-social behaviour in West Belfast, the DPCSP recently brought the theatre company Spanner in the Works to the area in June to deliver their play 'Think how you drink' to over 800 secondary school students.

The play, which highlights the impact of drug and alcohol misuse among young people and the consequences of a criminal record, was adapted to include issues and areas particularly relevant to West Belfast.

Partnership is key

A recent follow up report by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate shows that progress has been made on how agencies are working together to deal with anti-social behaviour. The report notes that PCSPs, Reducing Offending Partnerships and Youth Engagement Clinics were working effectively to ensure early interventions occurred **"particularly where young people were involved in persistent or low-level offending behaviour"**.

For more detail on the report [click here](#)

What's happening in your PCSP?

PCSPs hold a variety of meetings and events each month.

For details on what is coming up in your local PCSP [click here](#)

PCSPs are funded and supported by the Policing Board and Department of Justice.



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.



Find out more about PCSPs:

www.pcsp.org