

scamwiseNI PARTNERSHIP

Get wise to scams

Phishing, vishing, smishing... do you know what these are and how to stop becoming a victim of them?

17%* of people across Northern Ireland have been the victims of scams in the last 3 years, which equates to 314,840 of the population. There are countless ways that criminals have found to scam us out of our money but a new campaign by the Policing Board, PSNI, DoJ, Trading Standards, Consumer Council and the Older People's Commission is urging people to get wise about them: if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA welcomed the campaign from the ScamwiseNI Partnership and said: **"I welcome the work the ScamwiseNI Partnership is doing to tackle the issues and look forward to seeing the impact it has. This initiative gives us the tools we need to protect ourselves and our families from this threat – making us all more scam-wise."**

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said: **"All forms of scamming are crimes but because they can often be online and faceless, many people feel more embarrassed about being duped than angry at being robbed."**

Many people who are scammed feel they are to blame for falling for it, but it's not their fault. If you have - or know someone who has – been a victim of fraud, no matter how small, you should report it to the PSNI or Action Fraud."

Adding his support, Deputy Chief Constable Drew Harris said that scamming is a matter of real concern to police. He said: **"We recognise it is not just the police who can impact on scamming, so we have taken a collaborative approach to highlight what steps can be taken to prevent people becoming victims of scams!"**

The campaign has also been financially supported by Belfast, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Causeway Coast & Glens PCSPs.

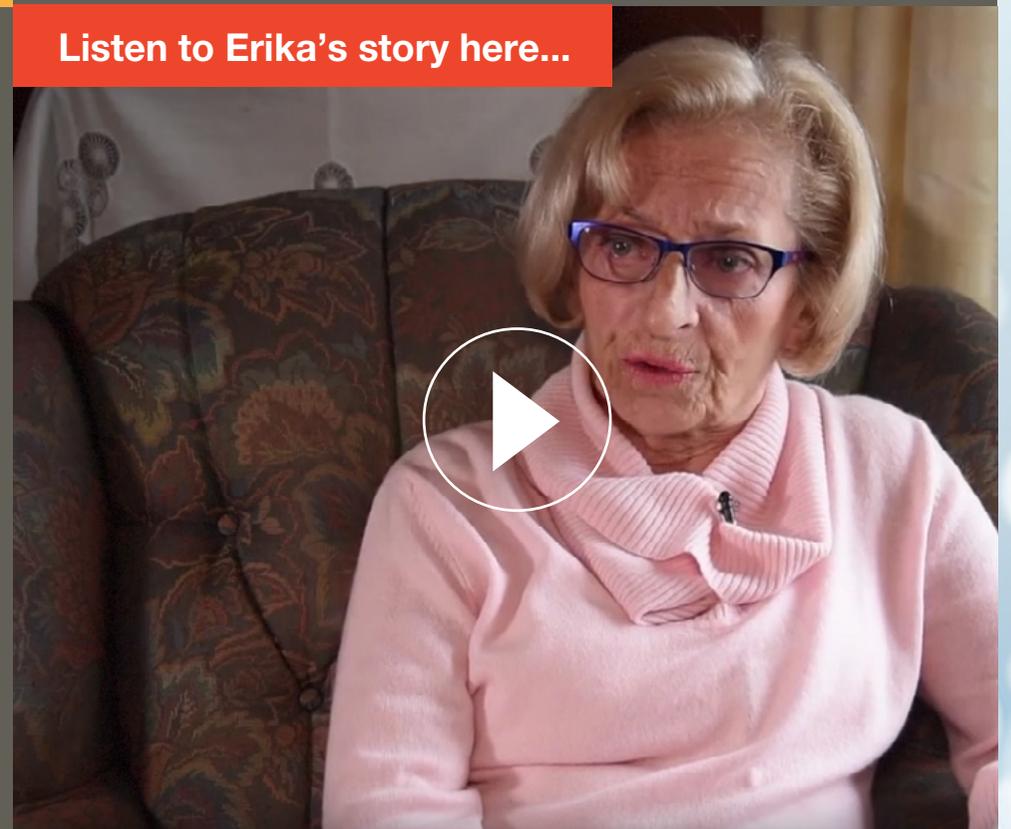
*Figures provided by the Consumer Council at www.consumercouncil.org.uk.

FRONT COVER IMAGE

Launching the ScamwiseNI Campaign are (l-r): Deputy Chief Constable Drew Harris, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA, Erika and Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly.

If you can spot
a scam, you can
stop a scam

Listen to Erika's story here...



How to find out more about scams...

Step 1... apply the scam test:

- Seems too good to be true;
- Contacted out of the blue;
- Asked for personal details; and
- Money requested.

Step 2... read the 'Little Book of Big Scams'

Step 3... read up at www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwise

KEEP SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS

While you're out shopping... so are they!



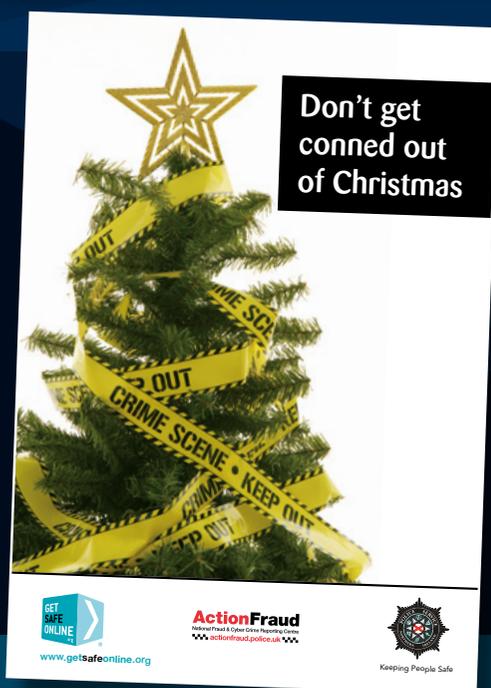
Ok, we are just going to come out with it – it's officially Christmas! At Christmas, there's always a little bit more of everything and unfortunately that also applies to the possibility of being burgled, scammed or having one drink too many. The PCSPs will be promoting ways for you to stay safe over the Christmas season. Here are some of their top tips...

Christmas shopping can either be fun or a major stress and, for many of us, it means getting out of the house to get it done. Before you make your plans though, think how you can make your house and your valuables safe while you are out.

PCSPs and the PSNI are urging people not to turn shopping into a bigger stress by remembering – while you are out shopping, there is a chance criminals will try to take advantage. PCSPs and the local police are reminding us that:

- When you go out, remember to lock all the doors and windows and avoid keeping large amounts of cash in the house.
- Considering taking simple measures like not leaving presents on display, marking valuables with your postcode and house number and the best place to store expensive gifts can help prevent a burglary in your home.
- When you're out, make sure your bag, purse or wallet are somewhere safe and be careful at ATMs.
- Try not to leave parcels and presents in your car and always lock it, even for a two minute dash to pay for petrol.

Some of these tips sounds obvious but when we're in a rush or a stress, sometimes it's the obvious things can that pass us by. Try to keep yourself safe by taking a few simple steps.



Don't get mugged online

Many of us rely on online shopping to get the presents sorted particularly when there are bargains to get.

At Christmas, some criminals take advantage of people's goodwill and it's important to keep aware of how to protect yourself and your money. Thieves increasingly work online and can target you as you get shop done from the safety of your couch.

There are steps you can take to make sure online shopping is safe:

- Vary your passwords for each shopping site, always make sure you log out each time and use a new tab when you log in as scammers can find ways to divert pages to dodgy sites.
- Only buy from official sources and when using auction websites, use insured payment methods like PayPal and never, ever do bank transfers to people you don't know.
- At all times of the year, there are people trying to con you, so keep aware and if that bargain seems too good to be true, the chances are it is.

Don't get mugged online this Christmas; be scamwise and stay safe.

Put safety first on your Christmas list

At Christmas, we are bombarded with messages of all sorts – mostly asking us to part with our cash - and it can become overwhelming.

But one message the PCSP wants you to hear loud and clear is to put safety first on your Christmas list and get home safe.

The PCSP works with the PSNI and others throughout the year to give people the information they need to keep themselves and their things safe and Christmas is no different. In fact, with more reason to be out and about, it is extra important to keep this advice in mind:

- Never, ever drink and drive - simple things like planning journeys home after a night out so driving is not an option; and thinking about how to get to work the next morning if there is a chance you could be over the limit, are all things that could prevent an accident or worse.
- Alcohol, as we all know, can affect people's judgement and vulnerability so at this time of year we are sending out a reminder about how your actions and reactions can have a devastating impact.
- Alcohol can sometimes affect our ability to make a reasoned decision but one quick reaction can have a massive impact on lives.
- We also want you to think about who you head off to a party with or accept a lift from. Always ask – do I feel safe?

Watch a short film on how one punch can kill

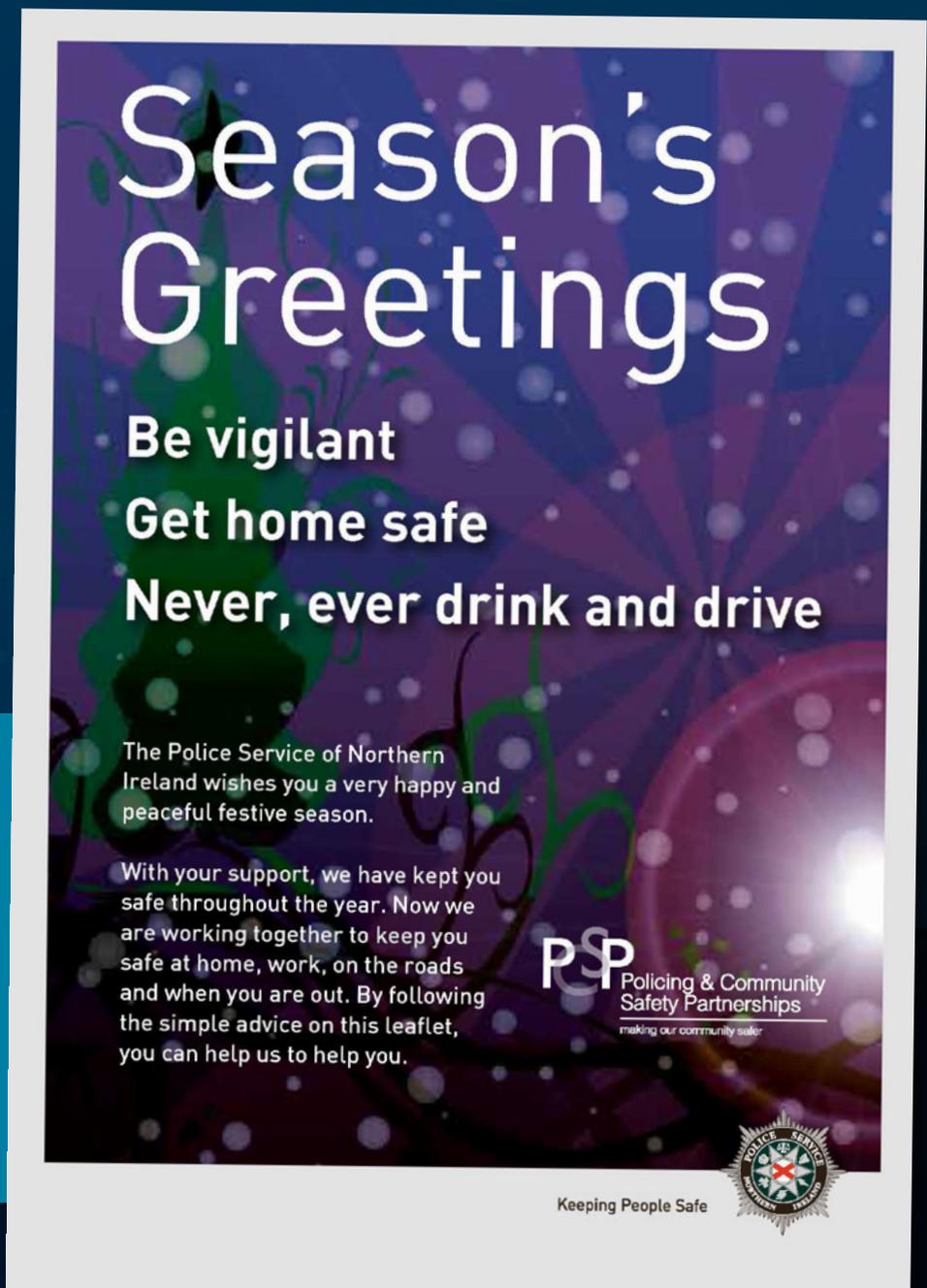


Watch a short film on Without consent, it is rape



For more information on how to stay safe, visit the PCSP website

[click here](#)



Season's Greetings

**Be vigilant
Get home safe
Never, ever drink and drive**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland wishes you a very happy and peaceful festive season.

With your support, we have kept you safe throughout the year. Now we are working together to keep you safe at home, work, on the roads and when you are out. By following the simple advice on this leaflet, you can help us to help you.

PCSP Policing & Community Safety Partnerships
making our community safer

Keeping People Safe





Front row (l-r): CEO of Women's Aid and PCSP Independent Member Sharon Burnett, Sgt Terry McKenna, PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy, Onus Chief Executive Colette Stewart and PCSP Officer Melissa Lemon with local business and community groups representatives who have become Safe Places and Safe Employers.

Northern Ireland's first Safe Village

Bushmills has become Northern Ireland's first 'Safe Village' for victims of domestic abuse thanks to funding support from Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP to Onus.

The PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy, from Bushmills, says that with 2158 incidents of domestic abuse reported to PSNI in the area in the last year, domestic violence and abuse continues to be an ongoing issue.

She said: **"We want people to know that there is a range of services available to support anyone who is living with violence or abuse, and to reassure them that our focus is on their safety."**

If your home is not a safe place for you, then there are other places in our village that can signpost you to someone locally who can support you at this time."

Onus Chief Executive Colette Stewart said that Safe Village is designed to facilitate partnership working to support people. She said: **"The aim of Safe Village is to empower local communities to identify the harm caused by domestic violence and abuse and to highlight the range of services available locally that can provide support."**

Anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence can access 24 hour support by calling the Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline free on **0808 802 1414**.

FRONT COVER IMAGE

Pictured at the launch of Safe Village in Bushmills are (l-r): PCSP Officer Melissa Lemon, Sgt Terry McKenna, PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy, Onus Chief Executive Colette Stewart and CEO of Women's Aid and PCSP Independent Member Sharon Burnett.



No Hate Here

North Belfast DPCSP is promoting the No Hate Here message by creating a network of safe spaces where vulnerable people can go for support.

The campaign was developed in partnership with a range of statutory agencies and community organisations who work together in north Belfast to support victims of hate crime, those who are vulnerable in the community, and anyone who wants to tackle hate motivated crime. It encourages local businesses and community groups to come together to support victims of hate crime and promote awareness of the No Hate Here message.

Welcoming the response of North Belfast DPCSP to the needs of their community, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA said: **"Hate and intolerance, whatever form they take, have no place in our society, and we must continue to challenge the prejudiced views that underpin all forms of hate crime."**

[click here](#) to find out more



Pictured at the workshop are (l-r): Elaine McCormill PSNI, Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin Barnardo's NI, Declan Meehan Carafriend, Helen McKenzie SBNI, John Finnegan Barnardo's NI, Lynette Cooke PCSP, Michael McKenna Youth Action and PCSP Chair Cllr Julie Flaherty.

Sexual exploitation of young males

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP have been working with Barnardo's NI and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland to raise awareness about sexual exploitation of boys and young men. A recent workshop focused on the importance of protecting young males who can be overlooked or less likely to ask for help.

Speaking about the relevance of the PCSP's input into the work, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon PCSP Chair Cllr Julie Flaherty said the partnership have worked in partnership with Barnardo's and the Safeguarding Board on various projects to increase public awareness on the issue of child sexual exploitation. She explained: **"Given the advent of social media, it's even more important now that both professionals and members of the public are alert to potential triggers and signs. We will continue to work in partnership to help decrease the incidents of this type of exploitation."**

Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin from Safe Choices stressed the importance of sexual exploitation of boys being put on the radar: **"We know young men are being exploited but it is very hidden because there are so many other issues including sexuality and substance misuse which mean the victims can be very secretive. It is about professionals being aware of the indicators so they can take steps to protect against this form of abuse."**

Business crime not victimless

Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Chair hosted a recent meeting to discuss progress on the Business Crime Action Plan. The Plan, launched earlier this year, was the result of a series of meetings the DoJ, the Policing Board and the PSNI had with representatives from the business community to identify the key issues that affect businesses across Northern Ireland.

It is clear that business crime is not victimless and that measures were necessary to reduce crime in this area. PCSPs have a key role in delivering elements of the Plan such as working with local businesses to encourage them to recognise how to prevent and protect against crimes and to understand emerging crimes which could affect their businesses. The meeting was designed to examine the next steps in tackling this type of crime, particularly on the ever changing nature of cyber crime and threat this holds for businesses.

[click here](#) To view the Plan



Pictured at the Business Crime Outreach event are (l-r): C/Supt Chris Noble, Vice Chair of Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Christine McCullough and Aodhán Connolly, Director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium.



Pictured at the launch of the Drugs by Post campaign are: (l-r): C/Insp Ian Magee, PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy and PSNI Community Planning Sgt Terry McKenna.

Drugs by Post

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP, the PSNI and Crimestoppers are working together to urge parents to be vigilant about the possibility their children could be buying drugs online. The Drugs by Post campaign is designed to highlight an issue that appears to be growing and can be easy for parents to miss.

PCSP Vice Chair, Leanne Abernethy said: **“It’s vitally important that parents, especially those whose children have online access, are vigilant about what items their children are ordering and receiving by post”.**

C/Insp Ian Magee advises: **“Speak openly to your child about the dangers of illegal drugs including psychoactive substances, ensure the appropriate settings are activated on your devices and if you are suspicious then take an active interest in any packages delivered to your home, addressed directly to your children. The more information we can give young people on the dangers of ordering substances online, the better we can protect them.”**



Pictured at the launch of the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Park Watch scheme are (l-r): Sgt Pete Moneyppenny Armagh Neighbourhood Policing Team, PCSP Staff Annette Blaney, Patricia Gibson and Stephanie Rock, PCSP Chair Cllr Julie Flaherty and Armagh Parkrun committee members Roger Young and Rory Campbell,

Park Life

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon recently signed up to the Park Watch scheme in Armagh’s Mall. The scheme operates in the same way as Neighbourhood Watch where the PCSP and the PSNI work together with park users and local residents to protect the park from vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Chair of the PCSP Cllr Julie Flaherty said it’s important that everyone looks after the park, not just the PCSP and the PSNI. She said: **“We want to encourage local residents and park users to ‘own’ the park, take pride in it, look after it and protect it from vandalism and anti-social behaviour. By doing so they will not only be improving the safety and security of the park but also the surrounding area.”**



Pictured at the launch of the RADAR Centre are (l-r): ACC Todd, Minister for Infrastructure Chris Hazzard MLA, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly, Chief Constable George Hamilton, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA and former Chief Constable Sir Matt Baggott.

On our RADAR

The RADAR Centre had its long awaited official opening at the end of November. The Risk Avoidance and Danger Awareness Resource Centre provides a wide range of practical learning for young people on the dangers and risks they may come across, and educates them how to handle them. With a life-size model street, bus and train stops, police station and a courthouse, young people learn about road and fire safety, the consequences of anti-social behaviour, internet safety and mental health issues. Since the beginning of the year, almost 8,500 young people from across Northern Ireland have used the Centre.

Thanking former Chief Constable Sir Matt Baggott for coming up with the vision for the facility, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said: **“This RADAR centre is a one stop shop for educating our young people on a range of issues that can help save lives and reduce the risk of coming to harm. The positive feedback from those who have visited to date tells us this style of learning really works and has a lasting impact.”**

Chief Constable George Hamilton said: **“The hard hitting and realistic nature of each of the learning zones ensures those young people leave with lasting messages about risk and consequences.”**

If you want to book a group of young people into the RADAR Centre, contact your local PCSP or

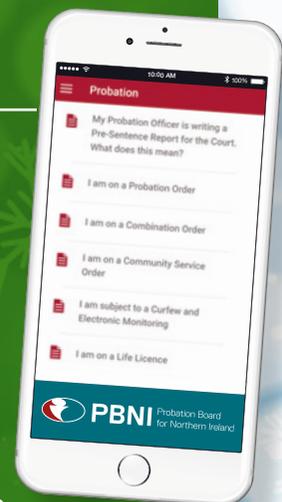
[click here](#)



Changing lives app

If you want to find out what work the Probation Board are doing to change lives for Safer Communities, check out their new app ‘Changing Lives’. The app is designed to help offenders steer themselves away from crime and helps those with mental health challenges or addictions to identify their problems and find support. With over 70% of people on probation supervision having an addiction to alcohol or drugs and over 30% with a mental health issue, the app is a quick route to help and support.

Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA said: **“We know from research that poor mental health and addictions is a major factor in people reoffending. We also know that tackling these two issues is critical if we are to help those who have offended overcome their own difficulties to build a new life, but also and importantly, in reducing reoffending. Hopefully this app will assist those who have offended to desist from crime and contribute to creating a safer NI.”**



[click here](#)

To find out more about the app and changing lives

Launching the app are (l-r): L-R: Vilma Patterson Probation Board Chair, Health Minister Michelle O’Neill MLA, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA and Cheryl Lamont Probation Board Chief Executive.

Protecting the public

PCSPs got an insight into the work of the PSNI's Public Protection Branch at a recent workshop.

Members found out what a typical day is like for a detective within the Rape Crime Unit and took part in a fictitious investigation where they had to focus on investigative strategies and the importance of meeting the needs of victims.

Supt Deirdre Bones of the Public Protection Branch explained that the workshop gave PCSP members the opportunity to get a really good overview of an officer's work.



PCSP Members take part in the Protecting the Public workshop.

She said: **“The focus was not solely on law and procedure but also on the important issues of community concerns, vulnerability and preventing serious harm within communities through partnership working.**

It was also a great opportunity to demonstrate how police, agencies and communities can work together in supporting victims, bringing offenders to justice and keeping people safe.”

Pauline Leeson, from Lisburn and Castlereagh PCSP, and Carmel McKinney, from Belfast PCSP, added: **“This workshop gave a valuable insight into the complexity and aspects of Public Protection that will help raise awareness within PCSPs and communities. This awareness should be an integral piece for all organisations who are charged with the protection of vulnerable people”**

Off road safety

In response to the use of off-road vehicles such as scramblers in public spaces and to tackle the potential dangers posed by them, West Belfast DPCSP and the PSNI have launched warning signs and local police will be getting on their quad bikes to patrol hotspots in the area.

West Belfast DPCSP Chair Cllr Brian Heading said: **“We are aware of concerns in the local community about people riding scramblers and quads recklessly, especially in public parks. Through our ongoing strategic partnership approaches, the DPCSP has clearly identified the need to raise awareness and directly resource this issue.**

The illegal and abusive use of off-road vehicles is causing mayhem within local communities and green spaces within west Belfast and I want to assure the public that we are working



Pictured are (l-r): C/Insp Norman Haslett, Cllr Stephen Magennis, West Belfast DPCSP Chair Cllr Brian Heading and Michael George, Colin Neighbourhood partnership.

in partnership, particularly with the Police, who will take action to curb the nuisance and dangers associated with the use of off-road scramblers and quads in public areas.”

West Belfast area commander C/Insp Norman Haslett added: **“These vehicles are not toys. These vehicles are designed to be used off-road. But this does not mean that they can be driven anywhere off-road.**

These vehicles must only be driven on private land where the landowner has given permission and should never be driven on pavements, roads, public property or parks.”

Anyone who sees off-road vehicles being used illegally is asked to report it to police on the non-emergency number 101.

To download a leaflet [click here](#)

It's the little things...

It's ok not to be ok

Derry & Strabane PCSP lent their support to the 'It's ok not to be ok' event organised by Shantallow Community Residents Association. The event was designed to raise awareness of young people's mental health and brought together a number of service providers to outline the support available.



Pictured are: Derry & Strabane PCSP Chair Cllr Gus Hastings with Policing Board Member Raymond McCartney MLA and attendees at the 'It's ok not to be ok' event organised by Shantallow Community Residents Association (SCRA).

A wheelie good idea...

Sometimes it's the small things that have the biggest impact. In another great example of responding to community need, when wheelie bins were being taken from homes and set on fire in Strabane, Derry & Strabane PCSP organised for Strabane Community Search & Rescue to distribute and fit wheelie bin locks for residents.



Pictured with the wheelie bin locks are (l-r): PCSP Chair Cllr Gus Hastings, PCSP Managers Vanessa Russell and Dermot Harrigan and Kevin Flanagan and William McAteer from Strabane Community Search & Rescue.

Intergenerational links

Derry & Strabane PCSP have given out hoodies to members of the Leafair Youth Group. As part of a range of activities, the Youth Group will be involved in intergenerational projects with the Leafair Men's Health Group.



Trying the hoodies on for size are Leafair Youth Group members Orla Jackson, Dervla Duffy and Mary Gallagher pictured with (l-r): Derry & Strabane PCSP Manager Dermot Harrigan, Derry & Strabane PCSP Chair Cllr Gus Hastings and Youth Worker Michaela McGilloy.

Road Safety Week

During Road Safety Week, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP funded a safer driving event at Portadown Campus of Southern Regional College. Over 200 students saw at first hand what a crash seen looks like and the roles the police and firefighters play in saving lives.



Students at SRC Portadown Regional Campus watch a safer driving demonstration.

Stay Onside

The PSNI, Justice Agency, Probation Board and Prison Service have been working together to look at successful ways to divert young people from reoffending. A new programme being rolled out with the Irish Football Association will give many young people who have offended in the past the chance to learn new skills. Many young people simply don't have the necessary support and direction to encourage them away from crime and this programme will offer them skills in problem solving, teamwork and anger management, as well as getting to know some positive role models.

To find out more [click here](#)



Launching 'Stay Onside' with the IFA are ACC Stephen Martin, Policing Board Vice Chair, Debbie Watters and Deputy Director of the Probation Board, Paul Doran.



PCSP Policing & Community Safety Partnership
making Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon safer
#makingourcommunitiesafer

Sampling some mocktails at the wellbeing event are: Aisling Gillespie PCSP Project Coordinator, Theresa Burke Guest speaker, Sherene Reynolds SDACT Connections service key worker.

Well Being

Over 100 people turned up for Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon's health and wellbeing event which had plenty of advice and tips on how to stay safe and well. There was also a variety of information on drugs, alcohol and mental health for all ages.

The DOJ has published its second annual strategy to tackle human trafficking and exploitation.

To read the strategy

[click here](#)



Pictured at the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators event in Lisburn are (l-r): Independent Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Member Donna Hancock, Ulster Bank's Simon Skinner and C/Insp Lorraine Dobson.

Keeping Watch

Knowing how to keep safe online is relevant to all ages and backgrounds and Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP recently hooked up with the PSNI and Ulster Bank to look at online banking safety at a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator's meeting.

The local Chief Inspector gave around 45 Co-ordinators a rundown of some of the issues relevant to Neighbourhood Watch such as burglaries and policing resources.

To find out more about schemes in your area or set up a new scheme, contact the PCSP on 028 9250 9279/284/274.

Check out the facebook page for similar events

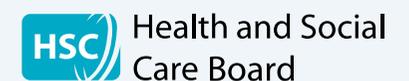


@lisburnandcastlereaghpcsp

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