



Mid & East Antrim at support conference on sexual assault

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Delivering a stark message with ScamwiseNI

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Find out more about PCSPs:

Delivering a stark message with ScamwiseNI

According to Royal Mail, the average age of a victim of postal scams in Northern Ireland is 75. Raymond Hamilton's mother Audrey was one of them. She was scammed out of £14,000 over a period of 10-12 years after she had sent off for a free gift. Raymond explains: "It wasn't a vast amount, it was a small £20 here and £10 there, but they all added up. Towards the end my mum sent that much money that she couldn't really afford to eat."

"There was a constant drip, drip, drip. Then other ones would get your account details, clear the lot and you'd never hear of them again. There was a vast array of people willing to take advantage of a vulnerable person."

The ScamwiseNI Partnership is highlighting the prevalence of postal scams in a new campaign. Given that Consumer Council statistics show that almost a third of consumers in Northern Ireland receive scam mail, with 80 per cent ignoring it or throwing the mail away, we know that many are not reporting it to police. To raise awareness and encourage reporting, the partnership have teamed up with Royal Mail which has impounded over three million suspected pieces of scam mail at its major distribution centres since November 2016. The company has also set up a dedicated helpline, email and Freepost address to provide information and for customers to report concerns. Speaking at the campaign launch, their Director of Public Affairs and Policy, David Gold, said: **"We are tackling scam mail head on, working with other postal operators to eradicate this type of mail as well as making it easy for potential victims to report it."**

Outlining what the PSNI is doing to help prevent scams, ACC Alan Todd said: **"Scamming is a growth area of crime which can have an impact on the whole of the community. It's a matter of real concern to police and something we want to protect the public from falling victim to. We recognise it is not just the police who can impact on scamming. The ScamwiseNI Partnership aims to foster a collaborative approach between ourselves and partner agencies advising the public that we all need to be vigilant of any contact from an unsolicited source, whether that is doorstep callers, telephone, mail or online."**

Remember, if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam and if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Get more information and advice on scams [here](#)

You can report scam mail to Royal Mail by post to FREEPOST SCAM MAIL, email scam.mail@royalmail.com or by leaving a message on **03456 113 413**.



Pictured at the ScamwiseNI launch are (l-r): ACC Alan Todd, Ards & North Down Manager Alan McKay, Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Belfast PCSP Manager Lorna Somers, Policing Board Director of Partnerships Adrian McNamee, Belfast PCSP Officer Alyson Crompton and Royal Mail's David Gold.

[Listen to Raymond's story of how his late mother Audrey was scammed](#)



FRONT COVER CAPTION:

Launching the postal scams awareness campaign are (l-r): Supt Simon Walls, ACC Alan Todd, Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Raymond Hamilton and Royal Mail's David Gold.



Pictured at the Sexual Assault Conference are: (l-r) Karen Douglas, Rowan Centre manager, Insp Michael Simpson, PSNI, Dr Heather McCorkell, Community Paediatrician, Dr Alison Livingstone, Clinical Lead for Paediatric Medicine, Marjorie Hawkins, PCSP Independent Member, Rhonda Lusty, Co-ordinator Men's Advisory Project and Colette Stewart, Chief Executive ONUS NI

PCSP and partnership working praised at conference on sexual assault

Mid & East Antrim PCSP has been commended for its support of a regional conference held during Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence National Awareness Week.

The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Northern Ireland hosted the 'Supporting Victims with Vulnerabilities Post-Sexual Assault' event in February where the audience heard from those who have been directly impacted by sexual crime, as well as from professionals who offer and provide support services.

Powerful experiences and support were shared by a range of agencies and stakeholders in order to encourage victims to stand up and speak out.

Speaking at the event, Independent PCSP member Marjorie Hawkins praised the partnership for addressing the issue.

"Members of the PCSP work in partnership with statutory bodies to make sure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues. Sexual abuse is one of these issues.

This conference is an example of this partnership working in action as it is the result of partnership working between the Rowan Centre, PSNI, the Department of Justice, the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and a wide range of agencies working in order to support children and adults who have vulnerabilities post-sexual assault.

This cannot be achieved by one agency alone and only by working together can we bring together our knowledge, skills and funding. Having access to a wider variety of ideas and being able to share the financial costs of this project has meant that we can confidently tackle difficult issues collectively."

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

Delegates at the Rowan Centre conference support the 'It's Not Ok' campaign

Over 800 primary school pupils get the 'Beesafe' buzz

Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP have co-ordinated and funded the Beesafe initiative for primary school children covering a wide range of safety issues.

Over the course of one week, more than 800 primary seven pupils from 31 schools in the area took part in the scheme. Presentations were delivered on a range of topics hosted by a number of stakeholder groups including:

- Online safety (PSNI)
- Road safety (PSNI)
- Electricity safety (NI Electricity)
- Farm and rural safety (Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland)
- Fire safety (Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service)
- Safety in the home (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council)
- Travel safety (Translink)
- Water safety (RNLI)

Beesafe is an imaginative way of teaching Primary Seven pupils how to prevent everyday accidents how to deal with dangerous situations safely and effectively.



A Translink official explains issues with safety on the organisation's Safety Bus

The sessions were designed to encourage interaction and involvement by getting pupils to participate in scenarios. The idea is to encourage the children to think for themselves and give them practical experience of how they might deal with potentially dangerous situations.

Speaking at the event, Monica Coyle, Vice Chair of Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP, said, "**The key to the success of 'Beesafe' is the partnership approach in delivery of accident prevention messages.**"

Many organisations have given their time and expertise to highlight accident prevention and safety messages which could potentially save a child's life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisations for taking the time to be part of this worthwhile event."

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

Translink Safety Bus used in the 'Beesafe' initiative hosted by Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP

Meet an Independent PCSP member



Mary Watson

Vice Chair
Mid & East Antrim PCSP

Retired teacher

How long have you been a PCSP Independent Member and why did you want to get involved?

I became an Independent member of Mid & East Antrim PCSP in 2016. Previous to this I was a member of Larne PCSP for 3 years.

Since retiring to Carnlough 9 years ago, I have been an active volunteer with Carnlough Community Association. Before coming to Carnlough I lived in Lancashire for 38 years, and for 28 of those was a primary school teacher, literacy advisor and learning and teaching consultant. I worked within many diverse communities.

I wanted to become involved in Mid & East Antrim PCSP in order to serve my community and offer my skills and experience to make the Borough a safer place to live.

Why is your experience/background relevant to the PCSP?

I have a good knowledge of my local community and the wider council area of Mid and East Antrim and the issues which cause concern.

I take an active part in many aspects of community development and have been involved in formulating our Village Plan. I contribute to the village forum, have campaigned to retain Carnlough Library and volunteer with MEA Museum service to develop a Heritage Hub in Carnlough

Old Town hall. I help with events such as fun days, luncheon club, summer schemes and organise an annual citizenship trip to Stormont for the Y7s in all 3 schools in Glenarm and Carnlough.

I represent Carnlough and the East Antrim area on NIHE platforms and the Rural Residents Forum.

What have been the highlights and challenges of being a PCSP Independent Member?

I have really enjoyed my time as a member of Mid & East Antrim PCSP and in particular, my role as Vice Chair this year. My highlights have been supporting the work of the Northern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnerships and also bringing the Lyric Theatre's 'Blackout' play to three local schools. These projects are close to my heart and I believe my background and experience can help me empathise with those suffering from both domestic violence and those involved in the criminal justice system.

What have you brought to the PCSP to date? What's been the time commitment for you?

I have brought my experience and skills as a teacher, personal experiences, and interest and knowledge of the local area. I am interested in people, I am an effective communicator and can digest and analyse information quickly.

I also help with local community development work and I take an active part in many aspects of community development and have been involved in formulating the Carnlough Village Plan.

I have attended over three quarters of all PCSP meetings and have attended numerous events and training associated with the PCSP.

In your view, what have been the top 3 achievements of the PCSP to date?

- Support for domestic violence programmes and projects such as the Women's Aid Domestic Abuse Support Worker and the ONUS Safe Place scheme.
- The Lyric Theatre's 'Blackout' play which took in 3 local schools in the Borough as it made young people think harder about the effects of drugs and alcohol and perceptions of young people and crime.
- The Neighbourhood Watch scheme. As a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the Carnlough area I am fully supportive of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme which brings local people together to make our community safer.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Mid & East Antrim PCSP



Who is your Chair?

Councillor Brian Collins

What area is covered by the PCSP?

Mid & East Antrim PCSP includes Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus

Who are your members?

10 Political Members

Cllr Brian Collins (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Wilson
Cllr Reuben Glover
Ald Sam Hanna
Cllr Cheryl Johnston
Cllr Lynn McClurg
Ald Gregg McKeen
Ald William McNeilly
Cllr Paul Sinclair
Cllr Patrice Hardy

9 Independent Members

Mary Watson (Vice Chair)
Marjorie Hawkins
Brenda Leslie
Jonathan Cooke
Emma McIlveen
Wendy Kerr
Ashleigh Perry
Rodney Quigley
Marian Maguire

7 Designated Statutory Bodies

- NIHE
- PSNI
- Probation Board
- Youth Justice Agency
- NHSCT
- Education Authority
- NI Fire & Rescue Service

What are the current and emerging issues?

Drugs and alcohol misuse is an issue across the Borough which impacts on a range of other community safety issues including domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Domestic violence and sexual abuse is also a huge issue with crime figures due to rise because of an increase in domestic crimes being reported and recognised in our communities.

Mid & East Antrim PCSP are working to raise awareness of these and other community safety issues in the Borough in order to make our communities safer.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Mid & East Antrim PCSP



What impacts have been achieved?

- Over **1000** young people have been engaged by Bytes Detached Youth Workers across the Borough and diverted into long-term youth provision. There has been particular success in the Dunclug area where, of the 40 young people initially engaged, 30 young people are still working with the local youth centre.
- Over **10,000** people have been reached though the PCSP Facebook page highlighting the work of the Domestic Abuse Support Worker which demonstrates local community support for the initiative.
- Over **200** people attended the PCSP Drugs and Alcohol conference in March.

What delivery themes have been progressed?

Mid & East Antrim PCSP have been working on the following initiatives throughout the year

- **Bytes Detached Youth Work project.** This involved two teams - one working in Ballymena and another team in Larne/Carrick - engaging with young people on the streets, twice during the week and one night at the weekend. The aim is to reduce anti-social behaviour and risk-taking behaviour and ultimately signpost them into long-term youth provision.
- With support from the PCSP a **Domestic Abuse Support Worker** has been employed by Women's Aid and based in Ballymena PSNI Station. This aids those willing to engage with the criminal justice process as the worker has a relationship with police officers which can assist in keeping women engaged and supported at every juncture.
- **Mid and East Antrim Support Hub** was launched in September 2017 to support the most vulnerable individuals in our community through a multi-agency approach.
- The **Community Safety Warden Scheme** has been a major, high-profile project that has had an impact on a range of problems including anti-social behaviour, alcohol related problems, drug abuse, litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti, safety perception and retail crime issues.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

What are the priorities for the PCSP going forward?

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour by addressing: domestic abuse, sexual crime and adult safeguarding; hate crime and fear of crime; and anti-social behaviour.

Our **Small Grants Programme** will continue to tackle rural crime, road safety, business and retail crime, cyber-crime and burglaries.

We will focus on those most affected by **drugs and alcohol** and work in partnership to address the influence of **paramilitary activity** locally. We will also look at those young people most at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

We will continue to work towards improving community confidence in policing.

Mid & East Antrim PCSP

What projects are planned to deal with these?

Mid and East Antrim PCSP will:

- Build on the success of the Bytes Detached Youth Work project by targeting hotspot areas at key times as identified by PSNI, PCSP or local community.
- Take on board the suggestions of local residents in relation to community safety as shown through the Mid and East Antrim E-Survey.
- Monitor PSNI performance through Policing Committee meetings and monitor the impact of projects by asking:
 - How much did we do?
 - How well did we do it?
 - Is anyone better off?



Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP helped Newry, Mourne and Down Road Safety Committee distribute hi vis vests to members of the public at various public locations throughout the Council area. PCSP officers, local community volunteers and members of the PSNI all pitched in with the distribution



A 'Discovering Me' programme funded through **Derry & Strabane PCSP's** Small Project Support Programme has been organised by Foyle Women's Aid and featured a celebration event for women who completed their OCN Level 1 Certificate in Interpersonal Skills. The programme was delivered to 12 young parents living at Shepherd's View sheltered accommodation in the city. Pictured is Louise Kitson, PCSP Project Coordinator with Eleanor McGuckin and Jacqueline Hamill of Foyle Women's Aid



Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP took part in an emotional wellbeing event in Crumlin at the end of February. The Crumlin Mental Health and Wellbeing Fair showcased some of the service resources available to the community. Pictured at the event are members of Crumlin Senior Citizens Group



Pictured at the Winter Well event are l-r: Joanne Collinson, Bronagh McFadden, Paula Meenan, Marie Mitchell, Judith Lavery, Valerie McKeary, Gwyneth Peden, Rachael Wauchope, Jenna Allen and Rhys Quigley

Winter Well event



Serious messages for older people get the last laugh

A 'Winter Well' event recently brought together 130 older people from the Causeway Coast & Glens area to keep them up to date with available support services

The event took place at Windy Hall community centre in Coleraine at the end of February in partnership with Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP, Causeway Older Active Strategic Team (COAST) and the Community Navigator for Older People.

They learned about crime prevention, fire safety and keeping safe at home while discussing services such as 'Laughter Yoga' and the importance of positive wellbeing.

Jenna Allen, Project Manager with COAST, said: ***"The benefits of partnership working have enabled us to run four of these events across the Borough. We aim to get a range of serious messages across in a fun and engaging manner. It is great to see so many older people enjoying life and learning about what help is available."***

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

Older people from the Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP area gather for the Winter Well event

Attendees and speakers at the Winter Well event

What does your online profile say about you?

A programme designed to help young people question and protect their online reputation is being run by Mid Ulster PCSP.

Delivered by 'Digital Ninja' Wayne Denner, the initiative is currently being rolled out with Year 9 students in eight post-primary schools in the area.

The programme asks young people to think about what their online reputation says about them right now but also how it might affect them in the future when it comes to looking for employment.

It highlights how they create an image of themselves through the information shared in blogs comments, tweets, snapshots, videos and links and how that can be interpreted.



Some of the students finding out about how to shape their digital reputation.

Internet Safety play nets large audiences

'Internet Safety Day' in February, was marked in schools across Lisburn and Castlereagh via an interactive play which highlighted the dangers of using the web inappropriately.

The play, which was hosted by Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP, PSNI and Lisburn YMCA, showed the dangers of making friends online, grooming and sexting and the use of social media generally.

It was shown to Years 8, 9 and 10 pupils from Dundonald High, Lagan College, St Patrick's Academy, Laurel Hill College, Friends School and Lisnagarvey High as well as a number of primary schools from across the council area. A Q&A session followed each of the plays with representatives from the PSNI, YMCA and NSPCC offering their professional advice to the students.

PCSP Chair Cllr Aaron McIntyre said he was encouraged that so many of the schools wanted to take part and added:

"There are genuine concerns to be addressed regarding online safety and protecting our young people. I hope that everyone who saw the play and was involved in the discussions have now an increased awareness of the importance of protecting their identities and knowing who they are talking to when online."



Pictured with students from Friends School, Lisburn are (l-r): Jenny Magee, Lisburn YMCA, Con Heather Crompton, Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Chair Cllr Aaron McIntyre, teacher Jamie Artt and actors from C21 Drama Group.

Ards & North Down quick to pick up on RAPID bins success

A drugs disposal initiative which has proven successful across a number of PCSP regions has been adopted in the Ards & North Down area for the first time.

Installation of a RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) drugs disposal bin is part of a community safety initiative between Ards & North Down PCSP, PSNI, and the PHA's South Eastern Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team.

The bin can be used by anyone in the community to safely dispose of any unused or out of date medicines, illegal drugs or legal highs. All individuals depositing drugs in the disposal safe can do so in complete anonymity and are legally protected from further investigation or prosecution.

Speaking about the initiative, PCSP Chair, Cllr Scott Wilson said, "I welcome the installation of this bin in Redburn and Loughview which was initiated by the local community. We are all aware of the dangers of illegal drugs and the effects that these have in communities but prescribed drugs can be as dangerous in the wrong hands or if taken with other substances. I would urge the community to make use of this new facility. It is free from any investigations or prosecutions and this initiative is designed to dispose of prescribed and illegal drugs safely."



Launching the RAPID bins in Ards & North Down are from (l-r): Barry Craig, volunteer, Owen Brady, District Manager of Housing Executive, Insp Jonathan Francey, PSNI, Cllr Jimmy Menagh, PCSP Member, Supt Brian Kee, PSNI, Louise Green, PCSP Vice Chair, Cllr John Barry, PCSP Member
l-r front: Marty McCann, SEDCAT Connections Worker and Stanley Chapman, Chairman of Redburn Loughview Community Forum

Find out more about your PCSP...

To contact your PCSP [click here](#)

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www.pcsp.org

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



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

