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

Scamming from the top

In order to understand how to protect people against scams, it helps to get some perspective on why and how scammers do what they do. According to one of the UK's most prolific scammers, Tony Sales, they do it because they can.

The ScamwiseNI Partnership recently hosted an event to focus on the psychology of scamming which heard from the former scammer who stole an alleged £30 million from the public. After serving a prison sentence, he turned his hand to public speaking, giving his insight about what makes a scammer tick and working with policing services and other agencies to highlight and prevent scams.

The seminar also heard from Gumtree's Head of Communications Fergus Campbell on the most common scams that trip people up online. He outlined the changes Gumtree have made over the last few years to inhibit fraudulent activity, including engaging with police forces and groups like ScamwiseNI.

Chief Superintendent Simon Walls said the event gave **“a unique insight into the mind-set of a scammer, some of the methods and techniques they use and the weaknesses they look for and exploit in potential victims.”**

He added: **“As part of the Partnership's campaign to raise awareness of scams, we have shared many victims' stories so that the public can understand how scams can happen and how people can protect themselves. This event shines the spotlight onto the activities of a scammer which we hope will increase public understanding of how 'genuine' and 'plausible' these people are.**

“Tony's story shows us how easy it is for scammers to con. I would take this opportunity to encourage anyone who has been a victim of a scam to report it and remember, if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam and if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!”



Fergus Campbell of Gumtree, C/Supt Simon Walls, Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters and former scammer Tony Sales.



Fergus Campbell of Gumtree, Tony Sales and C/Supt Simon Walls participating in a Q&A segment.

Find out more about ScamwiseNI or follow their Facebook page for up-to-date information on scams

[click here](#) to find out more



scamwiseNI

PARTNERSHIP

Keep **safe** this Christmas

December 1st has been and gone, which can only mean one thing – it's officially Christmas!

For many, Christmas is a season for sharing good times with friends and family. For some however, it's a chance to take advantage through burglaries and scams, and to take risks.

PCSPs are an integral part of keeping our communities safe. At a time where many are focusing on giving, it's even more important to help protect people from those who are more intent on taking.



Keep safe online

Many people make the most of Black Friday and Cyber Monday to get those big-ticket Christmas presents. This also means more opportunities for scammers behind our computer screens. Even the most seasoned online shoppers may find themselves drawn in to a too-good-to-be-true deal as the financial reality of Christmas shopping takes hold.

When you're shopping online...

- Vary your password for each site, and log out when you're done.
- Double check your address bar for a lock symbol so you know the site's secure.
- Only buy from websites you know and trust, and that have official company pages.
- Don't share personal information online that you don't need to.

Keep yourself safe

De-stressing and over-indulging become priorities for a lot of us at Christmas, but it's important to remember that staying safe should never budge from the top spot. PCSPs and the PSNI are constantly reminding people of simple ways to stay safe, and it's particularly important during the festive period when we're all a little more relaxed.

When you're out and about...

- Never, ever drink and drive.
- Plan your journey home and your journey the next day – it's possible you may still be over the limit.
- Remember even one drink affects your judgement, even if you think it doesn't. Your decision-making abilities take a hit when you take a drink, and a split-second bad choice can have a devastating impact.
- Make sure you're constantly asking yourself "do I feel safe?" while you're out, and while you're on your way home. Drinking can bring defences down and leave people more vulnerable.
- Stay in bright, well-lit and busy areas when walking. Look after your valuables such as bags and mobile phones.

Keep your home safe

A lot of us spend Christmas either out at the shops or visiting friends and family – which can mean an empty house. It's easy when you're rushing around to forget the simple things that are normally second nature, and unfortunately even at Christmas, there are criminals waiting to take advantage.

When you head out...

- Remember to lock all of your doors and windows.
- Plan your journey home and your journey the next day, as it's possible you may still be over the limit the morning after.
- Put away those presents – even Santa keeps his covered up in a sack!
- Mark your valuables with your postcode/house number to make them easier to track. Don't forget to take photos too.
- Always ensure your car is locked and any parcels hidden away – no matter how quick you plan to be.

If you are the victim of crime, phone the police on 101, or 999 if it's an emergency

All the world's a stage

It's 'last orders' for underage drinking

Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP have put the issues of alcohol and anti-social behaviour centre stage for local secondary schools.

Through the performance, Last Orders, students see the real life story of three teenagers on an alcohol-fuelled night who face disastrous consequences. Organised by the PCSP, the aim is to help children become more aware of the lasting physical, mental and emotional impact that risky behaviour can have now and in the future.

Humorous, but with a serious impact, the play was developed with a team of doctors, NSPCC professionals and teachers, and staged by the educational specialist Solomon Theatre Company.

Commenting on the project, PCSP Chair Cllr Margaret Anne McKillop said **"Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP is delighted to offer post-primary schools across the council area the opportunity to take part in this initiative and the level of interest, again this year has been really high. The interactive workshops that take place after the play which include cast in-character improvisation allow students to effectively explore the vital issues of cyber safety, illegal purchase and attitudes to risk."**



PCSP Chair Cllr Margaret Anne McKillop alongside Solomon Theatre Company cast and local schoolchildren.

What's My Scam?

Working with the Armagh Theatre Group, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP have created a play designed to raise awareness about scams.

Developed for their Older Persons Conference, the play took the form of an interactive quiz where contestants had their knowledge of scams tested, battling it out to win the 'What's My Scam' trophy. Arthur the Quizmaster got the audience involved with contestants' answers and encouraged them to think more deeply about how and why scams happen.



Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Paul Duffy (centre), PCSP Officer Stephanie Rock with the Armagh Theatre Group and participants at the event.

Recognition for young people making a difference

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP and Portadown Neighbourhood Policing Team have been working together with local residents and community and voluntary groups to help young people engage in more positive activities.

Lord Mayor Cllr Julie Flaherty recently hosted a reception honouring 9 young people who have made a positive difference in their community.

From training as baristas with Ground Coffee to developing bus shelter artwork; from football coaching to helping out at community fun days, the scheme has had such an impact that two more groups are now taking part.



Pictured are: Lord Mayor Cllr Julie Flaherty, PCSP Officer Lynette Cooke, PCSP Manager Alison Cleneghan, Insp Lisa Badger, Con Pamela McElhinney, Con Sarah Murray, Fuse Ministries' Keith McCann and Y-Zone's Campbell Best with the young people and their parents.



The overall winner of the art competition.

The art of staying safe on the roads

Local children in Derry & Strabane have been getting creative with a Roadsafe NI Road Safety poster competition.

Supported by the PCSP, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue, PSNI Roads Policing, Roadsafe NI, Foyleside Shopping Centre and the Foyle and District Road Safety Committee, the competition was open to all primary schools in the district to illustrate their understanding of road safety.



From (l-r): PCSP Officer Judith Thompson and Independent Member Audrey Byrne at the Positive Ageing event in Killeel.

Positive Ageing

Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP recently took their message to a Positive Ageing event in Killeel, talking to older people about how to recognise scams and keep themselves safe online and in their homes.

Mid & East Antrim teenagers hear hard-hitting Road Safety message

Teenagers from Mid & East Antrim were recently served up a hard hitting road safety message through the award winning 'Roadsafe Roadshow' devised by PSNI Roads Policing Unit and supported by AXA Insurance.

The PCSP, their statutory partners, Cool FM, and Cambridge House Grammar School worked together to improve road safety awareness in young people who are about to learn how to drive.

The interactive experience has been seen by thousands of teenagers across Northern Ireland and graphically depicts how a night out can end in tragedy.

PSNI Roads Safety Education Officer, Con Syd Henry, said: **"The Roadsafe Roadshow has been a major success. We have been able to bring a road safety message to thousands of young people in the highest risk group. I have no doubt that the road show shocks, perhaps even horrifies, our young audiences. We make no apology for that.**

"We believe that realistically showing what happens on our roads, it has an impact on the students who attend. I hope that after seeing the roadshow they realise that they are not indestructible; that they are as vulnerable on the roads as the next person and that they must respect the roads and other users."



An overturned car gives young people an idea of the scene that could greet them after a road traffic collision.

Taking a Byte out of prejudice

Mid & East Antrim PCSP have been working with the local Council and the Housing Executive to continue to deliver their diversionary project, Bytes Youth. Bytes is designed to address anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in hotspot areas throughout the district by encouraging young people to join events in local community centres at times when tensions are most likely to occur.

At the group's most recent meeting, young people discussed how prejudice and stereotyping can negatively impact how we see the world. Through enjoyable, interactive sessions, the group began to realise how easily we can prejudge people.



Young people on the Bytes project discuss the details of stereotyping and prejudice.

Meet an Independent PCSP member

Cathy Donnelly Vice Chair Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP



Youth Support Worker Cathy Donnelly has been involved with the PCSP and its predecessor, the District Policing Partnership for almost 20 years. She applied because she saw how problems like anti-social behaviour were affecting her area, how young people felt like they didn't have a voice, and she wanted to be part of the solution.

Challenges?

The main challenge I've faced through my work with the PCSP is the negative perception many people within our area have of the police. We've been working to change this, and encourage local people to interact more with the PSNI to help solve their issues.

Through my youth work, I've seen more young people involved in risk taking behaviours from a younger age, which our diversionary schemes aim to tackle.

Personal highlights?

Our PCSP is at its best when we can work together with both our designated partners and the community as a whole. When we do this, we create schemes that make a real difference to local people, like Community Safety Wardens and Neighbourhood Watch, as well as educational activities like our Schools Road Safety Campaign, which sets up the next generation for success.

How is the PCSP dealing with the challenges?

On a personal level, I've been able to highlight issues facing young people which may not have been dealt with without PCSP intervention. We're also engaging much more with partners like Youth Justice, the Education Authority, PSNI and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which means we have a stronger presence with more power to change our community.

What is the benefit of the PCSP locally?

Having a local PCSP means that people in our community have a voice – we engage and consult with them to find out the real issues that affect their day-to-day lives, and we can then take these directly to the Commander and his policing team. We can point resources in the right direction, and monitor the progress within the community.

**Find out more
on the work of
Armagh, Banbridge
& Craigavon PCSP**

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP

Who is your Chair?

Councillor Joe Nelson, SDLP

What area is covered by the PCSP?

Our PCSP activity covers the whole of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon district.

What are the current and emerging issues?

We conduct a yearly Community Consultation Survey to ensure local views are accurately represented through our work, and 72% of people surveyed identified drug and alcohol abuse as the main issue affecting our community.

Anti-social behaviour remains a big issue and was highlighted as a major concern during the consultation process for our Strategic Plan 2016-2019. Our PCSP continues to work alongside our partners to deliver locally based initiatives, especially in hotspot areas.

Who are your members?

Independents:

- Cathy Donnelly, Vice Chair
- Aaron Dowe
- Keara Downey
- Thomas Larkham
- Rachel Long
- Beverley Burns
- Eamon McNeill
- Sylvia McRoberts
- Daire Toner

Political members:

- Alderman Robert Smith, DUP
- Councillor Mark Baxter, DUP
- Alderman Junior McCrum, DUP
- Alderman Freda Donnelly, DUP
- Councillor Julie Flaherty, UUP
- Councillor Gordon Kennedy, UUP
- Alderman Ian Burns, UUP
- Councillor Catherine Nelson, SF
- Councillor Darren McNally, SF
- Councillor Joe Nelson (Chair), SDLP



Police engage with the Killicomaine Residents at their fun day (also front cover).



Launch of agri-crime prevention scheme, Farm Watch.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP

What delivery themes have been progressed?

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP is involved in delivering a wide range of projects, working alongside partners and the community itself to improve our area.

Issue: Anti-social Behaviour

Action: Almost 4,500 pupils throughout the district have taken part in our educational schemes to help stamp out anti-social behaviour. We've supported 14 diversionary schemes in the last year, and removed 758m² of graffiti.

Issue: Reducing harm

Action: As well as the community schemes, we organise meet-and-greets between hard to reach areas of the community and the PSNI, making people more comfortable with reporting crimes and engaging with the police.

Issue: Fear of crime

Action: We currently have 188 live Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and have carried out 78 home security assessments for elderly people through our Older Person's Home Security scheme. Projects like these help our community to feel less vulnerable and more informed about how to stay safe.



Keady Intergenerational Programme featuring The Men's Shed and St Francis of Assisi Primary School.



The launch of the No-Cold Calling Zone scheme in Mount Norris.

What are the priorities for the PCSP going forward?

We will be focusing on:

- Raising awareness around risk-taking behaviours
- Anti-social behaviour
- Working with the elderly and vulnerable
- Increasing confidence in reporting crime

What projects are planned to deal with these?

- Our extended Community Safety Warden service will play a key role in engagement with the community, including reassurance patrols in areas where people feel most vulnerable.
- Raising awareness about scams and bogus callers with group talks and further No-Cold Calling Zones.
- We will continue to deliver our Text Alert scheme, keeping people aware of important crime prevention information.
- We'll offer schools across the district the chance to take part in workshops on drugs and alcohol, online safety and healthy relationships through our Post Primary Schools programme.
- We'll continue to maximise the capacity of our Facebook page to reach out and engage with our community.



Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP Members taking part in the 'YOUR CHOICE' programme.

RADAR remains open for business

It's good news for the Radar Centre and for all the students who get to use it as it's just been granted a 12 month reprieve.

When the closure was announced in August, the PSNI pledged to continue to work with other government departments and stakeholders to create a viable future for the centre, and their efforts have paid off. Working directly with the Department of Justice, Department of Finance and others, funding and lease arrangements have been made for another 12 months, giving the RADAR centre the breathing room it needs to look to the future.

The RADAR centre has been raising awareness amongst young people about road, fire, home, and transport safety since 2015, and has seen thousands of young people come through its doors. An invaluable resource for PCSPs throughout the country, the centre has been a key part of safety initiatives such as Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP's virtual reality 'YOUR CHOICE' programme and their 'Young Drivers Tour'.

[click here](#) to find out more about Radar.



Local primary school pupils listening attentively to Community Safety Warden Paul McAlister as he speaks to them about the impact of anti-social behaviour on local residents and communities.

Pupils say YES to positive futures

Encouraging young people in Derry & Strabane to make positive choices, the Youth Educated in Safety (YES) scheme, managed by the Shantallow Community Resident's Association continues to be delivered to every primary school within the district.

The initiative provides information on everything from the impact of anti-social behaviour and drugs and alcohol to cyber, river, and fire safety, as well as how to ensure good relations within the community.

The initiative is supported by the PCSP in conjunction with a number of local, specialised partners.



From (l-r): PSNI Hate Crime Lead C/Supt Emma Bond, PCSP Chair Ald Mary Hamilton, C/Insp Paul McCracken, Aisling Twomey of the Rainbow Project and Eithne McLroy, Assistant Director of the Probation Board.

Engaging with Diversity

Derry & Strabane PCSP recently supported an Engaging With Diversity Seminar alongside the PSNI and Derry City and Strabane District Council as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week.

The seminar was designed to help people learn more about how hate crimes are dealt with through the criminal justice system, and got the conversation going on how best to remove barriers to services, make justice accessible to everyone and support victims of hate crimes.



Bin the drugs

Mid & East Antrim PCSP and the PSNI have been working closely with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the local Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team (DACT) to bring the RAPID drugs scheme to the area.

The first bin in the Mid & East Antrim area has been installed in Tesco Ballymena, and has already had an impact.

Mid & East Antrim PCSP Cllr Paul Sinclair said the PCSP were delighted to support the initiative. He said: **“The PCSP are working hard to support all our citizens who may be dealing with addiction in whatever form and the RAPID bin provides an invaluable opportunity for anyone to dispose safely and anonymously of any unused or discarded drugs both legal and illegal.”**

Kathleen Grego of the Northern DACT Connections Service added: **“We are delighted to be involved in the RAPID partnership and we welcome the further roll out of the bins in the Mid & East Antrim area. I have no doubt they will be a great success.”**

Follow us on social media and find out more about PCSPs.

www.pcsp.org

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



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.

