



Tackling Crime

**South Belfast Area
B District**

District Policing Partnership

9th Month Report

Figures extracted 14th February 2011



***District Policing
Partnerships***

Local people shaping local policing

Area Commander's Commentary

The total number of recorded crime has continued to decrease with a reduction of 4.9% (437 offences) being experienced. The most marked reductions being in theft, theft from vehicles and offences against the state.

Although domestic burglary has continued to increase, the rate of increase has started to slow. At the end of June we had experienced an increase of 13.6% which has been successfully reduced to an increase of 1.2% at the end of December. However, we realise we still have work to do in this area and will continue to target prolific burglars and carry out burglary ops in hot spot areas.

Reports of anti-social behaviour have increased across the 3 neighbourhood areas for the second quarter in a row. 475 more incidents were reported (an 8.8% increase) with problems being linked to licensed premises, street drinkers, refuge disruption, hostels, noisy parties and hot food establishments.

On a more positive note detections have increased by 4.9% over the same period last year which means that an additional 304 offenders have been prosecuted.

Our police officers will continue to engage with the community and partner agencies to ensure that we deal effectively with any challenges that may affect the delivery of a personal policing service to the community of South Belfast.

Robert Murdie
Chief Inspector
Area Commander
Central

Trevor O'Neill
Chief Inspector
Area Commander
Balmoral and Laganbank

Section 1) Policing with the Community

Review of Policing with the Community activities within the South Belfast Area

B District Protocol for Victims of Anti-Social Behaviour - A system has been established to identify and support victims of ASB. Victims are managed via Call Management Centre, Response, Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Community Safety Unit, and the protocol facilitates a specific flow of communication between these departments. The protocol ensures the correct recording of repeat victims and a process of referral to NPT's and the Community Safety ASB officers. ASB officers manage and maintain a victims' register to ensure the flagging of repeat victims to NPT's. Among the ASB officers core responsibilities are liaising with statutory agencies and progressing relevant actions on identified offenders as appropriate eg warning letters, ABCs, ASBOs. NPT's meet with victims, make the referrals to Victim Support NI and commence problem solving folders and take the relevant actions to bring a resolution to issues identified. They at ground level can assess the needs of the victim and make the necessary referrals to local and statutory agencies, such as local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and the Community Safety Wardens BCC joint patrols with police. The victim's details are entered onto NICHE where all actions taken are recorded. Repeat victims are also listed on the agenda to be included on the monthly ASB Forum meetings which are attended by police, Belfast City Council, Youth justice Agency and NI Housing Executive.

Community surgeries are taking place across East Belfast and are currently rolling out across South Belfast. Every neighbourhood officer must have two surgeries a month. The surgeries are mainly divided into two categories: those when officers visit established groups at an agreed time, and those when officers place themselves at high footfall locations to try and gain interest from passing members of the public. This makes them more visible and accessible to members of their local community.

When the officers position themselves outside premises, they always get agreement from the owners. When visiting groups, they always get agreement from the organisers prior to attendance. In terms of feedback, they have all been well received. The groups have been more than happy to receive/host the local officers, and the street briefings have helped increase our visibility. The main positive outcome of these surgeries has been the impact of visiting people, to find out what their problems are, rather than waiting for them to come to us. People seem genuinely surprised and impressed that the neighbourhood officers arrive, there are there just to listen to and deal with their problems

Balmoral NPT - Active Citizen Networks have recently been set up in the Benmore and Taughmonagh areas. They are designed to raise residents' awareness of local crime and ASB and to work in partnership with police and other agencies to resolve it. Websites are being developed for all Neighbourhood teams and all future meetings will be posted on this site.

Community & Schools Involvement Officers - have given talks on drugs and the law in joint presentations with YMCA, focusing on 12 - 13yr olds. The role of police and Internet Safety to P6 and P7 children and talks on legal/illegal drugs, alcohol and risktaking to 15 - 16yr olds. A joint talk with Laganbank NPT and Chinese advocacy worker Simon Ling to youth and leaders at Belfast Islamic Centre, Wellington College to youth group on Role of Police, Diversity and ASBO legislation.

South Belfast Street by Street - An initiative to deliver the provision of restorative practices and addressing issues of crime and anti-social behaviour through the provision of detached youth work; youth prevention programmes; victim support programmes; family support; community mediation and community capacity building and training.

This operational strand of the work will mirror the Street by Street Model as supported by the PSNI in East Belfast and will be supported closely by East Belfast Alternatives with the additional resource of their staff when available.

The Street by Street project is managed by Northern Ireland Alternatives. Alternatives have signed up to the NIO Protocol on Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes and therefore has a commitment to inform the PSNI of any knowledge of crimes within the local community and to refer young people to the PPS for a community based restorative justice disposal.

It is anticipated that in Year 1, South Belfast Alternatives will train 30 volunteers; engage with 500 young people and support 250 victims of crime and ASB. All of this work will help to decrease levels of anti-social behaviour; help people feel safer in their own homes and communities.

LGBT Advocate – An advocacy scheme has been established to engage police fully with the LGBT groups. The main objectives are to encourage reporting, reduce crime and enhance crime investigation. The advocacy scheme is aimed at building trust and confidence within these communities, as well as providing practical support and assistance when coming in contact with their local police and statutory agencies. Although this is a pilot scheme within the Greater Belfast area, the objective is to introduce the scheme to other areas within Northern Ireland. We hope it will encourage members of the LGBT community to consider the Police Service as a career option, as well as improving the reporting of crime. The appointment of the LGBT advocate is a tremendous step in the right direction – This initiative will help to ensure that every section of our community is served by a Police Service that is personal, impartial and accountable. Partnership is at the heart of our outlook and actions. We must share experience, information and responsibility, this scheme is an excellent example of partnership working at its best.

Retail Crimewatch Operation - An initiative designed to reduce instances of retail theft in partnership with Belfast City Centre Management. Civil orders are served on prolific shoplifters excluding them from all member stores. Crime Prevention Training is given to store detectives and they are supplied with a target file indicating the identities of prolific shoplifters. The operation is to be extended to other districts throughout Northern Ireland. There are currently 370 member stores including eleven security companies and eight Belfast shopping centres. The scheme has now been extended with support from the DOJ to Newry and Foyle Districts.

Hate Crime Investigation Unit- The district hate crime investigation unit operates to ensure robust measures are in place to fully investigate and reduce hate crime within our community. Justification can be found in a number of sources. The protocol operates by implementing a number of additional measures to supplement and support service policy relating to police response to hate incidents. District hate crime investigators will ensure that the investigation is progressed to a standard that sustains the confidence and support of the victim and the community, with particular emphasis on the objective of maximising clearance rates. The Hate Crime Investigators monitor trends in hate incidents through use of crime pattern analysis. Investigators work in partnership with local neighbourhood teams to address issues of concern. A recent spate of incidents in South Belfast resulted in a joint leaflet drop with neighbourhood officers and media coverage to raise awareness of hate crime in the area.

Hate Crime Investigators will continue to develop and strengthen links with local support groups. This is essential to build confidence in

the Police Service and tackle the issue of under-reporting. An aim of the protocol is to achieve a reduction in the levels of hate crime in B District, especially through partnership working. The investigators regularly meet with a range of organisations.

City Beat - This Agreement has been entered into to enable the delivery of a dedicated PSNI resource within the City Centre, which is responsive to the needs, and priorities of the City Centre. To facilitate this it was necessary to 'purchase' a dedicated police resource from the PSNI under a defined service level agreement.

The two dedicated city centre PSNI officers under this agreement will be employed by the PSNI but operationally respond to key priorities and activities as identified by BCCM and its partners through a Steering Group. It is agreed that this Agreement represents an additional police resource for the city centre and will not replace existing commitments and services provided by the PSNI as part of normal police business.

The dedicated PSNI officers will use all the powers available to them and will work in collaboration and share information with BCCM representatives, Translink operations staff, Belfast City Council officers, Roads Service Traffic Attendants, enforcement officers from Trading Standards (DETI) and HM Customs & Excise as well as the PSNI. Relevant information is also being shared with Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. The two officers are funded by Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce and other significant private organisations operating in Belfast City Centre.

Section 2) Progress towards achieving targets in the Local Policing Plan for 2010/11

Service excellence					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr – Jun 2009	Apr – Dec 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
1.1 To increase the number of police officers assigned to neighbourhood and response policing delivery roles by 10%	202	270	25.2%	✓	B District SMT continues to seek to increase the numbers and visibility of officers assigned to front line duties. This increase, has in part, been as a result of rationalisation of back office activities

Tackling serious harm				
Local Policing Plan Target	April – March 2009/10	Apr - Dec 2010	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
2.1 To report four times per year on the number of drug gangs frustrated, disrupted and dismantled*	2 Disruption 11 Frustration 1 Dismantle	9 Disruption 16 Frustration 2 Dismantle	✓	

Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets

A Control Strategy is in place and is reviewed and updated on a monthly basis through the NIM process

* **Frustration** will be achieved by the arrest and charging of one or more members of the gang **or** a drugs/cash seizure linked to the gang
Disruption will be achieved by the arrest and charging of one or more members of the gang **and** a drug/cash seizure linked to the gang
Dismantle will be achieved by the arrest and charging of 2 or more members of the gang and a drug seizure linked to the gang and a cash seizure

Tackling serious harm					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr - Dec 2009	Apr - Dec 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
3.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%	977	951	-2.7%	✓	There are fewer assaults now being attributed to the night-time economy and licensed premises. Alcohol is a significant contributory factor but the balance is now focusing on off-sales rather than pubs and entertainment venues
4.1 To increase the detection rate for violence with injury by 10% points.	32.0%	36.1%	4.1%	✓	The target is 38%
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets					
Non domestic violence with injury crimes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the partnership approach through the Get Home Safe Partnership focusing on transport provision, joint inspections of licensed premises, Pub-link and BAND • Proactively target identified locations and individuals through GHS • CCTV monitoring of hotspot areas • Use of Head Camera for evidentiary purposes • Use of magnetic arch outside pubs/clubs to detect offensive weapons • Implementation of Belfast Night Zone Project. 					
Detection rate for violence with injury crimes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence with injury crimes - all screened by a Detective Sergeant and clear guidelines set down on how investigation is to progress • Serious Sexual Offences - all dealt with by PPU in the same fashion as above • Robbery - again all screened by either Volume Crime Screener or Serious Crime DS • A Women's Aid worker working with the DVO officers supporting victims and encouraging them to see prosecutions through. 					

Personal Policing – Dealing with Local Concerns					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr - Dec 2009	Apr - Dec 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
5.1 To increase the number of on street drinking referrals submitted to BCC	200	224	10.8%	✓	
5.2 To report on initiatives dealing with rowdy/nuisance incidents involving drink	<p>Central NPT – City Centre Initiative officers have continued to target street drinkers and street beggars in the City Centre resulting in 55 arrests, 86 statements regarding on street drinking to BCC, 200 items of alcohol seized, 15 ongoing reports re begging offences and 7 ASBO warning letters handed out to street drinkers.</p> <p>Balmoral NPT - have been working in partnership with BCC to carry out joint enforcement ops targeting underage and on street drinking at times/locations identified by the analysts. In the run up to Halloween off licenses were visited to remind them of their responsibilities and also to be vigilant re adults purchasing alcohol for minors. In response to the community in the Finaghy area raising the issue of houses being targeted by youths throwing eggs, officers visited the shops in the area and spoke to them about selling large quantities of eggs to youths. Letters have been hand delivered to the parents of the youths involved.</p> <p>Laganbank NPT - all incidents of ASB involving students is to be copied to Laganbank NPT so that the University can be informed. Following St Patrick's Day 09 the Universities have amended their conduct regulations and will deal robustly with our referrals. Since September there have been 450 offences mainly ASB and on street drinking, 65 referrals to the Universities and 200 properties noted for ASB.</p>				
6.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%.	603	610	1.2%	✗	
7.1 To increase the detection rate for shoplifting by 5% points	47.3 %	59.2 %	11.9 %	✓	125 discretionary disposal were also carried out

Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies:

- Focused patrolling of Hotspot areas
- Develop and strengthen relationships with partnership agencies and local communities
- Use of Anti-social Behaviour Legislation
- Introduction of Roaming Wardens

Burglary Strategies

- Focused operations in Hotspot areas –
- Leaflet drops
- Op Lockdown – house to house calls
- Targeted bail checks in line with District Priorities
- Prolific Offenders Strategy – Offender Management Unit Set Up
- Mandatory tasking of CSI Officers
- Maximum use of media
- Appointment of Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer

Section 3) Summary of Recorded Crime and Clearance Rates within the South Belfast Area

Crime Classes	Recorded Apr- Dec 09/10	Recorded Apr- Dec 10/11	% Change	Cleared Apr- Dec 09/10	% Cleared Apr- Dec 10/11	Cleared Apr- Dec 09/10	% Cleared Apr- Dec 10/11
1. Offences against the person	2151	2049	-4.7%	690	32.1%	763	37.2%
2. Sexual Offences	141	142	0.7%	42	29.8%	60	42.3%
3. Burglary	1053	941	-10.6%	173	16.4%	178	18.9%
(Domestic Burglary)	603	610	1.2%	94	15.6%	80	13.1%
4. Robbery	174	200	14.9%	29	16.7%	40	20.0%
5. Theft	3371	3050	-9.5%	709	21.0%	819	26.9%
(Theft from vehicles)	611	378	-38.1%	17	2.8%	12	3.2%
(Theft of Vehicles)	169	175	3.6%	23	13.6%	22	12.6%
6. Fraud and Forgery	210	216	2.9%	45	21.4%	67	31.0%
7. Criminal Damage	1468	1471	0.2%	219	14.9%	213	14.5%
8. Offences against the state	91	74	-18.7%	51	56.0%	56	75.7%
9. Other notifiable offences	290	334	15.2%	207	71.4%	273	81.7%
Violent Crime (1,2 & 4)	2466	2391	-3.0%	761	30.9%	863	36.1%
Total Crime	8949	8478	-5.3%	2165	24.2%	2469	29.1%
Total Crime including undercount	8949	8512	-4.9%	-	-	-	-

Section 4) Trend data for Local Policing Plan targets 2010/11

Local Policing Plan Targets for 2010/11	Apr - Jun 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr - Sep 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr - Dec 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	Target on course to be met
1.1 To increase the number of police officers assigned to neighbourhood and response policing delivery roles by 10%	235	✓	241	✓	270	✓		
2.1 To report four times per year on the number of drug gangs frustrated, disrupted and dismantled	4 x frustration 1 x disruption 1 x dismantle	✓	1 Disrupted 6 Frustrated 1 Dismantled	✓	9 Disruption 16 Frustration 2 Dismantle	✓		
3.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%	310	✓	641	✗	951	✓		
4.1 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury by 10% points.	26.2%	✓	26.9%	✓	36.1%	✓		
5.1 To increase the number of on street drinking referrals submitted to BCC	87	✓	155	✓	10.8%	✓		
6.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%.	234	✗	452	✗	610	✗		
7.1 To increase the detection rate for shoplifting by 5% points.	37.7%	✓	56.7%	✓	59.3%	✓		

Appendix 3 - Breakdown of Crime Classes, as recorded by the PSNI

<p>Offences against the person (class 1) Murder Manslaughter Infanticide Attempted murder Causing/allowing death of vulnerable person Threat or conspiracy to murder Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking Wounding with intent/GBH with intent Wounding/GBH AOABH Common assault/aggravated assault Assault on police Intimidation Harassment Explosives offences endangering life Firearms offences endangering life Other offences against the person</p>	<p>Sexual offences (class 2) Rape Attempted rape Sexual assault/sexual activity Exposure Other sexual offences</p>	<p>Burglary (class 3) Domestic burglary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary in a dwelling • Aggravated burglary in a dwelling Non domestic burglary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary in a building other than in a dwelling • Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling Going equipped</p>
<p>Robbery (class 4) Robbery Armed robbery Hijacking</p>	<p>Theft (class 5) Theft, one person from another Theft in a dwelling Theft by an employee Theft of pedal cycles Shoplifting Vehicle crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft from motor vehicles • Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles Vehicle tampering/interference Handling of stolen goods Other thefts</p>	<p>Fraud and forgery (class 6) Deception Forgery and counterfeiting Making off without payment Other frauds</p>
<p>Criminal damage (class 7) Arson Petrol bombing offences Explosives offences Criminal damage/malicious damage offences Other criminal damage offences</p>	<p>Offences against the state (class 8) Offences under anti-terrorism legislation Firearms offences Offences under Public Order (NI) Order Other offences against the public order</p>	<p>Other notifiable offences (class 9) Blackmail Kidnapping and false imprisonment Drug offences – trafficking and non-trafficking offences Dangerous driving Breach of orders Other notifiable offences</p>

Appendix 4 – Definitions and Glossary of Terms

Police Recording of Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

- **Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.
- **Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a Magistrates Court or on indictment in the Crown Court.
- **Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time).
- whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

Detections (or clearances)

Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'detected' or 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection/clearance (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected or cleared'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected or cleared'. In this respect detection/clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while detection/clearance data counts crimes.

The following methods of detection/clearance involve a formal sanction:

- charging or issuing a summons to an offender (this will not necessarily result in a subsequent conviction at court),
- issuing a caution to the offender,
- having the offence accepted for consideration in court, or
- the offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only') a non sanction detection/clearance can be claimed if:

- the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution, or
- the case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

Recent Changes in the Recording of Detections/Clearances

Prior to April 2006 a variety of non sanction detections/clearances could be claimed where police took no further action, the main one being where the victim declined to prosecute. At that time these detection/clearance types accounted for around 50% of the PSNI's total detection/clearance rate. However, since then some major changes have been introduced which have substantially limited the detection/clearance options open to the PSNI.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. Then in April 2007, the Home Office significantly restricted the detection/clearance types available to the police, which meant that virtually all non sanction detection/clearances could no longer be claimed as a valid detection/clearance. Both of these changes had the impact of greatly reducing the number of non sanction detection/clearances to such an extent that the PSNI overall detection/clearance rate and its sanction detection/clearance rate are now virtually one and the same (only a very small proportion of non sanction detections/clearances are now claimed each year).

Detection/Clearance Rates

The detection (or clearance) rate is the number of detections recorded in a given time period as a percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period.

Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings – (i) offences against the person, (ii) sexual offences, and (iii) robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims, e.g. threats to kill.

Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime comprises the offences of theft from motor vehicles and theft / unauthorised taking of motor vehicles.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB incidents are operational figures (and are not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit) collated in accordance with the Home Office National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR), which was introduced in April 2006. ASB incidents are a group of non-crime incidents that are reported to the police (i.e. they do not result in a notifiable offence). ASB incidents consist of the following incident types:

- Abandoned vehicles - (not stolen or causing an obstruction)
- Animal problems
- Begging / vagrancy
- Hoax calls to emergency services
- Inappropriate use / sale / possession of fireworks
- Malicious / nuisance communications
- Noise
- Prostitution related activity
- Rowdy and/or nuisance behaviour – littering / drugs paraphernalia
- Rowdy and/or nuisance behaviour - neighbours
- Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour
- Street drinking
- Trespass
- Vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use

Glossary of Terms

ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract	NIACRO	Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
AOABH	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	NICCY	Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
ASB(O)	Anti-Social Behaviour (Order)	NIM	National Intelligence Model
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	NIPB	Northern Ireland Policing Board
CJI(NI)	Criminal Justice Inspectorate (NI)	NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
CPLC	Community Police Liaison Committee	NSIR	National Standard for Incident Recording
C(PT)	Constable Part-Time	OCTF	Organised Crime Task Force
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	OPONI	The Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
CSU	Community Safety Unit (DoJ)	PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence (Act)
CSU	Central Statistics Unit, PSNI	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
DCU	District Command Unit	PFYTD	Financial Year to Date
DoJ	Department of Justice	PQA	Performance Quality Assurance (Unit)
DPP	District Policing Partnership	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
FTR	Full Time Reserve	PTR	Part Time Reserve
FYTD	Financial Year to Date	RTC	Road Traffic Collision
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm	SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured	TSG	Tactical Support Group
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender	VFM	Value for Money
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee	YDO	Youth Diversion Officer

Note: This glossary should be kept under review to ensure that DPP members clearly understand PSNI abbreviations.