



Tackling Crime

**South Belfast Area
B District**

District Policing Partnership

3 Month Report

Figures extracted 3rd September 2010



Area Commander's Commentary

During the first three months of 2010/11 there has been a reduction of 9% in overall crime within South Belfast. This equates to 67 fewer crimes.

Disappointingly, domestic burglary has increased by 13.6% (32 offences) which means that although non domestic burglary reduced by 4.5% (16 offences) due to the increase in domestic burglary overall burglary increased.

We have also experienced an increase in Anti-social Behaviour incidents in all three neighbourhood areas with increases being experienced in vehicle nuisance, rowdy/nuisance neighbours and rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour. Incidents have increased from 1948 to 2006 incidents during this period which is an increase of 118 incidents (6.1%)

On a more positive note we have seen decreases in offences against the person, theft and criminal damage.

The current economic climate continues to provide challenges for all of us, but especially the police in trying to tackle crime; however, we will continue to target resources at those areas and crimes where the community is most at risk.

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

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.

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 - Jun 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	235	14.1%	✓	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	April – June 2010/11	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	11 x frustration 2 x disruption 1 x dismantle	4 x frustration 1 x disruption 1 x dismantle	✓	37 arrests were made, 23 cautions given and 30 people reported to the PPS	
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					

Tackling serious harm					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr - Jun 2009	Apr - Jun 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%	331	310	-6.3%	✓	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.	24.1%	26.2%	2.1%	✓	
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets					
<p>Non domestic violence with injury crimes</p> <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 <p>Detection rate for violence with injury crimes</p> <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 - Jun 2009	Apr - Jun 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	59	87	47.4%	✓	Operations are now commonplace at parades and other events aimed at seizing alcohol being consumed on the streets
5.2 To report on initiatives dealing with rowdy/nuisance incidents involving drink	<p>Central NPT have been targeting street drinkers and street beggars in the City Centre resulting in 34 arrests, 65 statements regarding on street drinking to BCC, 143 seizures of alcohol and 10 ongoing prosecutions re begging offences. Discussions are taking place with Tesco and their counterparts to discourage them from selling alcohol to the 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 response to issues raised at Ballynafeigh PACT meetings operations were carried out in areas identified by the local community as having ASB issues. Feed back from the communities concerned has been positive re the action taken by police. In response to complaints re ASB & on street drinking in the vicinity of Stranmillis</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.</p> <p>During April-June there have been 223 seizures of alcohol, 87 statements forwarded to BCC and 16 reports to Youth Diversion Officers</p>				
6.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%.	206	234	13.6%	✗	Some 50% of houses broken into were entered via an open window
7.1 To increase the detection rate for shoplifting by 5% points.	34.5%	37.7%	3.2%	✓	33 discretionary disposals were also carried out

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

Burglary Strategies

Operation running in Laganbank NPT area since 9 May has yielded the following outputs which has led to a decrease in the number of burglaries in this area –

- 261 stop/searches
- 46 arrests
- Positive feedback from local residents and landlords

Also in May

- Leaflet drop in Holylands area of South Belfast
- Email to Queens Students via University System
- Flyer to reduce holiday burglaries forwarded for inclusion in the Community Telegraph (free paper with circulation of 71,000 homes in B District)

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

Crime Classes	Recorded Apr- Jun 09/10	Recorded Apr- Jun 10/11	% Change	Cleared Apr- Jun 09/10	% Cleared Apr- Jun 09/10	Cleared Apr- Jun 10/11	% Cleared Apr- Jun 10/11
1. Offences against the person	762	655	-14.0%	269	35.3%	219	33.4%
2. Sexual Offences	42	44	4.8%	20	47.6%	17	38.6%
3. Burglary	346	362	4.6%	68	19.7%	51	14.1%
(Domestic Burglary)	206	234	13.6%	46	22.3%	22	9.4%
4. Robbery	54	67	24.1%	7	13.0%	10	14.9%
5. Theft	1125	981	-12.8%	243	21.6%	287	29.3%
(Theft from vehicles)	183	133	-27.3%	7	3.8%	6	4.5%
(Theft of Vehicles)	47	70	48.9%	5	10.6%	7	10.0%
6. Fraud and Forgery	72	66	-8.3%	21	29.2%	18	27.3%
7. Criminal Damage	551	501	-9.1%	83	15.1%	67	13.4%
8. Offences against the state	30	23	-23.3%	17	56.7%	16	69.6%
9. Other notifiable offences	107	111	3.7%	76	71.0%	63	56.8%
Violent Crime (1,2 & 4)	858	766	-10.7%	296	34.5%	246	32.1%
Total Crime	3089	2810	-9.0%	804	26.0%	748	26.6%
Total Crime including undercount	3089	2822	-	-	-	-	-

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>

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.