



Tackling Crime

**Ards Area
C District**

District Policing Partnership

9 Month Report 10/11

Figures extracted [25th January 2011]



Area Commander's Commentary

I am pleased to introduce the Ards 3rd quarter DPP Report, which outlines performance against local policing plan targets for the period of April 2010 to December 2010 and which also includes an update on community safety initiatives ongoing in the area.

Our aim continues to be the delivery of a professional and personal policing service to those who live, work and socialise in Ards. The safety of the public and our officers has also been a significant focus for the local team over recent months and we have significantly increased our security profile on the main routes around our geographic area.

I thank you for your ongoing support to me and my team and trust that the information contained in the report is useful and informative.

Philip Knox
Area Commander Ards



Section 1) Policing with the Community

Review of Policing with the Community activities within the [Name] Area

Community Initiatives

Operation Snapper (underage drinking and ASB Op) (Ongoing)

PSNI Officers across C District continue to focus on the seizure of alcoholic drinks from underage drinkers as part of Operation Snapper. This also includes operations relating to public drinking and management of alcohol at public processions. The operation is intended to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with under-age and illegal public drinking, complaints of which tend to increase dramatically during the school holiday periods. The concerted effort toward tackling under-age drinking has impacted upon anti-social behaviour reports and criminal damage, resulting in a positive impact on public reassurance and the quality of life of local residents.

Ards Area officer have made 432 separate seizures of 1622 alcohol items during the 9 month period compared with 225 seizures during the same period last year.

ASB Forum and joint protocol for information sharing between Ards PSNI, Ards Borough Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). (Ongoing)

Ards PSNI along with Ards Borough Council and the local NIHE continue to meet monthly to consider issues pertinent to each partner and consider and implement joint problem solving enforcement and preventative strategies aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. 3 ASBOs remain in place within Ards. A recent review of ASB by HMIC and a Policing Board review of young people will lead to a review of our control strategies with ASB and young people but will include involving Social Services in this partnership.

Police Surgeries and Street Briefings

Two Police surgeries have commenced in Ballygowan and Comber during early February. A surgery for the Bowtown and surrounding area has also started 10am-12am on 1st Tuesday of each month commencing February. Arrangements for a surgery in Killinchy are being finalised and a regular street briefing in Ards Shopping Centre will commence shortly.



Visibility Strategy ((Ongoing)

Research shows that visibility with quality engagement have a positive impact on local confidence in policing. As a District this is a priority and Ards Police are developing a District Strategy to maximise visibility based on priority communities, incident and crime levels and public footfall. Beat patrols have been increased across the area over recent months and we intend to maximise the value through the strategy. This is a work in progress with our District analysts and Area Commander.

Mediation Training

A number of NPT officers are undertaking a 10 week course in Conflict Intervention and Building Good Relations with the community and local partners co-ordinated by Mediation NI. The community are involved to plan for joint interventions in community disputes.

Late Night Football (Ongoing)

The late night soccer scheme in Comber continues during school holiday periods. The scheme aimed at 13-18 year-olds, and in conjunction with Comber Youth for Christ, runs from 7.30pm to 11.00pm every Friday night at the Presbyterian Church during school holiday periods.

West Winds Youth Project (April - September 2010)

The Ards Community Safety team put together a diversionary initiative whereby local youths assisted in completing the work under the supervision of a qualified painter and decorator. The youths learned valuable new skills and were rewarded with the provision of sports equipment for the drop in centre.

'THE NET' and Police gardening project (ongoing)

Combers NPT are working with staff at 'The Net' re a diversionary program linked to an area of waste ground behind their premises that will be utilized for a safe outside activity area or for a small allotment. The NPT are keen to assist in clearing and develop of this and funding has been approved for this project through CSP. The funding will permit the drop in centre to open every Tuesday and Friday evening. An inter generational program with Stepping Stones is also planned as part of this initiative.



COMBER GREENWAY SAFETY (Ongoing)

The Comber Greenway runs for approximately 8.5 miles from Belfast Road, Comber to Dee Street in East Belfast and has been a very popular attraction for locals for both walking and cycling away from the danger of the main roads. It is part of the 'National Cycle Network' throughout the UK. Comber NPT have consulted with 'Sustrans' who are keen to keep the area safe. Police have been patrolling Greenway on bicycles from the Summer time to date in order to reassure the public and to deter any ASB or Quad bike or other unauthorized vehicles from using the area. We intend to implement a regular patrol now that additional officers have completed their cycle course and this will include some Sundays when the Greenway is exceptionally busy.

Nendrum College 'Police Surgery' (in planning)

This school is the only secondary school within Comber Neighbourhood area. The NPT are keen to expand engagement with the local young people to consult re any issues affecting them in the area or attendance at the school. The team has already been in discussions with the VP to seek agreement. This has been agreed in principle however a final decision will be made by the board of governors and if agreed a team member will visit the school on a regular basis to carry out a Police Surgery.

Ganaway Youth Club (December 2010)

This initiative engages 13 yrs+ in various diversionary activities and runs Monday and Thursday evenings involving officers from the Peninsula NPT. There are approximately 28 kids attending who are otherwise disengaged from organised youth activity. This hard to reach demographic is a specific target for police community engagement and are amongst our target group for ASB issues on Peninsula. (This program has ceased and is undergoing evaluation)

Donaghadee Youth Forum (Ongoing)

Following on from the Tri-partite initiative a Youth Forum has been established with DPP and local youth workers. Peninsula Neighbourhood Officers are directly involved in developing police community engagement with young people living in the Ards Area.

Further funding recently agreed through CSP.



NRG (April 10 - Ongoing)

Funding of approximately £188,375 from the NI Rural Development Council has been secured to allow this programme to run this year. The three year funding phase will also allow for two part time positions to be advertised for workers with Peninsula Healthy Living. This will be used to co-ordinate increasing participants, activities and to attract interest from other local communities.

Road Safety and Community Concern Initiative (Ongoing)

Ards Police have been maximising use of the Community Concern Initiative to increase speed enforcement throughout the Area. This initiative works in response to community concerns re speeding at specific locations and joint approval from Area Commander and DPP. Ards are using this scheme more than any other Area in Northern Ireland. The Peninsula Road Safety Committee continues to organize community events in association with the local NPT. A number of Beach Scrambler enforcement Operations took place through the summer.

Peninsula Road Safety are in the process of organising an event for 6th form pupils at Glastry College on drivers skills and safety. This will take place prior to Easter. A second event is in early planning as a pilot competition catering for primary and secondary schools to becoming involved in building a green powered vehicle to compete on an obstacle course. Road safety will be an integral part of this project which has previously been used successfully in England.

Project Evolution (April - Ongoing)

Project Evo aims to promote road safety and tackle the potentially fatal issue of illegally modified vehicles. Further Education colleges across Northern Ireland have been supplied with cars from the vehicle recovery scheme, for their mechanical engineering students to learn the importance of modifying cars legally and safely. Road Safety Education officers have been visiting the colleges to deliver road safety advice and answer any queries the students have on legal modifications. Students have the opportunity to attend track days at Kirkstown racing and have a chance to drive the modified vehicles on the racetrack. As part of the project, a former Road Policing Mitsubishi Evolution VIII car has been modified by local motor trade companies to show exact legal requirements and has been used in locations within Ards to promote road safety at events. The project will be involved as part of the Glastry College Road Safety and Skills event taking place during March. We also used it at the FASA Community event in Ballywalter where a young boy



from Kircubbin suffering from cancer was given a thrilling ride in the Evo by Rds Policing Officers.

Women's Aid (Ongoing)

A number of projects are currently being progressed with Women's Aid. A Women's Aid representative is now co-deployed with our Domestic Violence Officers in the PPU on a part time basis to build on the victim support aspects of the policing role. This involves a joint working protocol and is ratified through a Service Level Agreement. As part of this work a Police Surgery takes place at the North Down and Ards Women's Aid Centre every third week. This is another innovative partnership project that should assist in building confidence with partners and victims as we seek to tackle Domestic Violence.

Glen Estate Intergenerational Program (Ongoing)

Ards NPT are progressing an intergenerational initiative with the Glen Estate Community and William Street Social Services Assessment Centre. This will involve young residents from the centre meeting with the elderly residents in the community and attempting to gain a better understanding of perceptions and experiences.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (Ongoing)

Ongoing engagement and development of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes throughout the Area. A review of the management of the scheme within Ards is ongoing. The text alert system is still problematic but is currently going through additional testing and will be operational in next couple of weeks. Co-ordinator meetings for each neighbourhood and Area have commenced and more are scheduled over next few months.

Retailers Crime Forum

A forum for retailers across C District was held prior to Christmas and involved interactive drama, presentations from serious and organised crime professionals and our own crime prevention officer. In addition an Incendiary Awareness initiative commenced and ran in the lead up to Christmas.



Cuan Radio (FM) (Ongoing)

The radio station was successfully run in August utilising many local people on the Peninsula who in the past had not been actively involved in community schemes. With the successful grant from the NI Rural Development Council the radio station will run again this year as part of the NRG project and will involve young people over the summer months.

One Stop Shop (April – Ongoing)

FASA and Peninsula NPT have set up a drop in 'shop' with Glastry College, one day per week with one hour to allow young people to speak with Counsellors from FASA and PSNI regarding issues relating to Drugs and Alcohol, suicide, Mental Awareness, Personal Choices, Support Advice and Legal Issues. This initiative is planned to be up and running again in the run up to Easter and the pressure exams period.

Killard School XL Club (Ongoing)

Newtownards NPT have undertaken a 2 year initiative, working with vulnerable young people with learning difficulties from Killard School. 10 year 12 pupils are member of the XL Club and are currently striving to achieve a qualification through the Princes Trust Scheme. The program consists of a variety of Life Skill based competences and basic business management which the pupils undertake. Ards NPT have been visiting the class weekly to deliver citizenship and safety lessons. Peninsula NPT are now in discussions with a program to take on this work with Killard.

Lighthouse Trust

Peninsula NPT are engaging with the Lighthouse Trust this year to further relations with the trust and the young people and to assist with fundraising events throughout the year. The Trust provides conductive education for children with Cerebral Palsy and is based at the Parish Centre, Donaghadee.



Safehaven (April - Ongoing)

Approx 20 volunteers provide a safe bus on Saturday evenings in problematic locations around the town including West Winds, Canal Lane, Conway Square. They provide friendship, safety and offer advice on drug/alcohol issues, tea/coffee and first aid facilities. The focus was initially on people leaving bars but this has been re-focussed on disengaged young people around the town. PSNI have supplied funding for equipment on the bus and corporate coats and baseball caps for identification. Safehaven have also been working with PSNI in organising late night soccer involving 14-20 year olds from the 5 estates on the West Winds pitches.

CASE (Ongoing)

The role of the Neighbourhood Teams Schools liaison Officer is being discontinued and the functionality moved to Neighbourhood Officers. Locally we continue to deliver CASE classes throughout the Area delivering classes that covered Knife Crime, Rules and Laws, ASB, Theft, Bullying, Role of Police, Vandalism, Bike and Road Safety, Drugs and Solvent Abuse, Personal Safety and Internet Safety. 58 lessons at 18 locations were delivered during the Autumn term. In line with our redeployments we have recently reviewed this program and prioritised its delivery towards priority schools and priority neighbourhoods based on a Community Prioritisation Index. In line with this policy we will shortly be signing an MOU with Movilla High School for a weekly surgery and expanded program delivery and information sharing.

Social Media Engagement (Facebook and Twitter) (March – Ongoing)

An innovative engagement with police and local community via Facebook that now has in excess of 7250 followers, 9300 active users and 2.5 million post views every 4 weeks.. The initiative has received very favourable attention within the Community, local government, local media and within UK policing circles. PSNI Ards Facebook pages has the largest following of any police facebook page in UK or Ireland. The Criminal Justice Inspectorate report into PSNI Customer Service specifically mentions the Ards Social Media initiative and includes a recommendation for the Service re this area of work. Ards PSNI have been holding seminars for all other Area Commands many of which are now implementing similar programs. The pages have been shortlisted for a Slugger O'Toole award for Creative Engagement and invited to present on the successful initiative at an international Policing and Social Media Conference later in the year.



Discretionary Disposal and Speedy Justice Initiative (May – Ongoing)

This is a new policy initiative aimed at reducing bureaucracy but also building community confidence in the way that police deal with minor offences. The investigating officers and the victim can consider alternative methods of disposal rather than prosecution. The initiative has only recently been introduced into Ards and is aimed at building community confidence in delivering quickly agreed resolutions that meet the victim's expectations. This also feeds into our efforts to reduce bureaucratic file preparation needlessly by early and direct phone contact with PPS for directions re cautioning and streamlined files. **In Ards we have pushed this policy initiative even further and have recently innovated this into Roads Policing Offences as a way of educating public and building confidence and support whilst still focusing on KSIs on our roads..**



Section 2) Progress towards achieving targets in the Local Policing Plan for 2010/11¹

Service excellence					
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
1.1 In partnership with other agencies to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road. ²	30	23	-7	✓	Figures up to and including November, these figures include one fatality (2 last year). The numbers of children KSIs have also reduced from 6 to 1 over the period.
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets					
Road Safety – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the known causes of road deaths and injuries, tasking RPU resources to priority locations within Area for enforcement operations. Maximising use of the Community Concern initiative to direct safety camera activity with DPP (Ards has the largest number of targeted operations within Northern Ireland as a result of this initiative). • Review of Collision Remedial Schemes ongoing as and when necessary.. • Road Safety Community events. • Road Safety Education with Schools - • Corporate Road Safety Awareness Media Campaigns 					

¹ The Local Policing Plan targets are shown for example purposes only and are taken from Ards Local Policing Plan 2010/11.

² Targets will be measured against performance achieved during 2009/10.



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
2.1 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury by 10% points. ^{2, 3}	34.7%	44.7%	+10%	✓	Significant focus on raising awareness, highlighting successes, partnership victim support, a stringent pro-arrest policy and review of all no prosecution returns from PPS are contributing to this significant improvement. All violence with injury detections up by 5.9% and second highest detection rate in Northern Ireland. Non domestic violence with injury crimes down by 8% this year.
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant efforts around a pro-arrest and charging policy relating to violent crime. • Dip sampling of investigations. • Review of all PPS no prosecution decisions 					

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
3.1 To reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour to ensure a 15% reduction by 31 March 2011. ⁴	2850 (07/08)	2048	-28.1%	✓	Ongoing focus on diversionary activity and hotspot attention and enforcement.

³ When comparing % changes between two time periods (e.g. this year and last year), the change should be displayed as a % point change.



3.2 To report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of seizures of alcohol under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997, the number of referrals to Youth Diversion Officer, the number of referrals to Council re breach of alcohol related bye laws. 	225	432		✓	Ards Area officers have made 432 separate seizures of 1622 alcohol items during the 9 month period.
4.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%. ²	158	121	-24.1%	✓	Main Area priority although a significant problem with caravan burglaries on the Peninsula last 3 months.
5.1 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points. ^{2, 4}	12.9%	12.4%	-0.5%	✗	Service Rate 11.1%. Significant resource focused on tackling burglary across Area. Integration of CID back into N'ards.

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

Anti-social behaviour/Criminal Damage –

- Op Snapper alcohol enforcement,
- ASB Partnership Forum with ABC and NIHE to focus multi-agency strategy at all aspects of ASB
- Stringent Enforcement Policy ASB Collation and YDO warning letters to parents
- Maximum use of Police Officers Part Time to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide reassurance by high-visibility patrolling.
- Neighbourhood Team Diversionary Programmes with partners
- Licensees Forum and staff training

Domestic Burglary –

- Maximum use of District and Regional resources on both preventative and proactive intelligence led operations.
- Default patrolling in analysed 'hot spot' crime locations in line with other pressures.
- Policy of intrusive monitoring of specifically identified prolific offenders including bail checks.
- Policy of CID and CSI attendance at all domestic burglaries.
- CSI and District Forensic Manager now co-located in Newtownards Station – local knowledge and ownership.

⁵ Target measured against 2007/08 data. This is consistent with Key Performance Indicator 3 of the Northern Ireland Office's Public Service Agreement, "Make Communities Safer".



- Op Converter Team to maximise and prioritise returns on FP and DNA hits and now taking on CCTV hits.
- Daily review of all incidents/patterns of reported crime. Full use made of Analysts in order to analyse particular problems and identify trends/patterns and locations of crime. Monthly Area and District tactical assessment meetings to identify priority areas and trends and support Sector Inspectors with actioning interventions.
- Maximum use of Media and social media to advise members of the public of recurring crime, to offer crime prevention advice and to provide reassurance.
- High profile deterrent VCP Operations
- Dedicated CID Team returned to Ards in September 10 after a period of centralised functions in Bangor – have located adjacent to NPT office on 3rd floor with Area Management to bring joined up focus on this crime area.
- Priority Warrant enforcement across Area - Approx £85,000 of warrants executed this year through payment and arrest.



Section 3) Additional information [OPTIONAL]

Crime Classes	Recorded Apr-Dec 09/10	Recorded Apr-Dec 10/11	% Change	Detection Apr-Dec 09/10	Detection Apr-Dec 10/11	% Detection Apr-Dec 09/10	% Detection Apr-Dec 10/11
1. Offences against the person	660	626	-5.6%	235	240	35.6%	38.5%
2. Sexual Offences	42	68	61.9%	9	6	21.4%	8.8%
3. Burglary	280	258	-7.9%	36	32	12.9%	12.4%
<i>(Domestic Burglary)</i>	158	120	-24.1%	13	12	8.2%	10.0%
4. Robbery	10	25	150.0%	1	7	10.0%	28.0%
5. Theft	517	468	-9.5%	159	126	30.8%	26.9%
6. Fraud and Forgery	72	62	-13.9%	7	22	9.7%	35.5%
7. Criminal Damage	618	624	1.0%	90	78	14.6%	12.5%
8. Offences against the state	21	12	-42.9%	9	6	42.9%	50.0%
9. Other notifiable offences	89	117	31.5%	60	98	67.4%	83.8%
Violent Crime (1,2 & 4)	712	719	0.6%	245	253	34.4%	35.3%
Total Crime	2309	2257	-2.3%	606	615	26.2%	27.2%



Section 4) Trend data for Local Policing Plan targets 2010/11 ¹

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 In partnership with other agencies to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road.	-8	✓	-4	✓	-7	✓		
2.1 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury by 10% points.	-16.3%	✗	+8.2%	✗	10%	✓		
3.1 To reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour to ensure a 15% reduction by 31 March 2011.	-17.5%	✓	-23%	✓	-28.1%	✓		
3.2 To report on:								
• the number of seizures of alcohol under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997,	101	✓	317	✓	432	✓		
• the number of referrals to Youth Diversion Officer,			592		878			
• the number of referrals to Council re breach of alcohol related bye laws.	7		15		24			
4.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%.	-24.6%	✓	-15.3%	✓	-24.1%	✓		
5.1 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points.	-3%	✗	-3.2%	✗	-0.5%	✗		



Not included in the 9 month report.

⁵ Local PSNI only need to provide information on targets that can be measured locally. Therefore not all Annual Policing Plan targets are shown in this table, for example, Northern Ireland Crime Survey targets are not shown, which measure targets 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2 in the 2010-2013 Annual Policing Plan.



Appendix 2 - Example framework for monitoring local police performance¹

Local Policing Plan Target	Comments on Figures supplied	Suggested Questions for Area Commander
1.1 In partnership with other agencies to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road.		
2.1 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury by 10% points.		
3.1 To reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour to ensure a 15% reduction by 31 March 2011.		
3.2 To report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of seizures of alcohol under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997, • the number of referrals to Youth Diversion Officer, • the number of referrals to Council re breach of alcohol related bye laws. 		
4.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%.		
5.1 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points.		

¹ The Local Policing Plan targets are shown for example purposes only and are taken from Ards Local Policing Plan 2010/11.

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.