



North Belfast District Policing Partnership



6 Month Report, including Policing with the Community Activities

Figures extracted 19/10/2011

Section 1) Progress towards achieving targets in the Local Policing Plan for 2011/12

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|------------|---|
| Green | Meeting/exceeding target | Amber | Improvement on last year's figures but not meeting target | Red | Not meeting target and going in wrong direction |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|------------|---|

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 - Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 - Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1.1 To reduce the number of burglaries by 3%. (1) | Domestic 414 Non Domestic 198 Total 612 | Domestic 354 Non Domestic 107 Total 461 | -151 (-24.7%) |
| 1.2 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 2 percentage points. (1) | 10.9 % | 9.1 % | -1.8% |

Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance

Significant success has been achieved in that total burglary crime has fallen by 24.7%. Reductions have been secured in both domestic and non domestic burglary. Domestic burglary crimes have reduced by 14.5%, and non domestic burglary crimes have reduced by 46.0% when compared

against the same period last year, thus contributing to the overall 24.7% reduction.

Whilst the 2% point improvement target for detection rates has not been met, the detection rate has improved from the quarter 1 figure. This, alongside the reduction in the number of burglaries, is a positive reflection of the work being done to tackle burglary crime.

North Belfast Copper Burglary Initiative

Police in North Belfast continue to target the theft of copper both from domestic and non domestic premises. A new partnership initiative with the dual focus of protecting property from copper theft and protecting it from the damage caused by such crime was launched on 11th August 2011. This new initiative, devised and introduced by Crime Prevention Officer Latcham, involves vacant properties being stripped of copper tanks and piping by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), who also advise local police of the locations of these vacant properties. All weather posters are then overtly posted on the property to advise that copper pipes have been removed from the building. It is hoped that this will deter those individuals who are targeting premises with the intention to steal copper.

Community representatives from hotspot areas in Ardoyne, New Lodge and Tigers Bay who attended the launch have welcomed this initiative. These crimes are not only resulting in the theft of copper, but are causing extensive water damage to both the premises and neighbouring properties. NIHE are also facing significant financial pressure to replace stolen or damaged pipes, using funds which could otherwise be utilized to improve or maintain homes in the area.

A similar initiative has also been launched in Little Americas in partnership between local police, NIHE and Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration (CARR). A database listing vacant properties has been created identifying those properties which require particular attention from both CARR and local officers responsible for the Antrim Road area. NIHE will again remove valuable items such as copper pipes and tanks, in the hope that this will deter thieves.

To assist police to tackle the issue of copper thefts we would encourage the local community to report any suspicious activity immediately.

Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP)

A District Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP) was launched in July 2011. ROP focuses on those offenders who commit the majority of crimes, prolific offenders, many of whom are known to police through burglary crimes. At the time of producing this report, of the 25 persons being monitored 15 persons were detained, 5 persons were on bail and a further 5 persons were currently monitored without activity in North Belfast.

Domestic Burglary Trends

- 30% of burglaries were facilitated through an unlocked door or insecure premises during this quarter.
- The York Road area was the most targeted area during this quarter.
- Trends show an increase in copper burglaries at vacant properties in the Woodvale area occurring during the day.
- Trends indicate that thieves may be targeting vacant domestic properties by putting large numbers of flyers through doors. Where flyers are not removed these properties may become targets.
- Holiday burglaries will decrease as the summer season ends, however darker evenings may allow further opportunities for potential

criminals.

Non Domestic Burglary Trends

- There has been a general decrease in the number of metal thefts across North Belfast. However offenders are deviating from the usual lead and copper thefts as there have been instances where metal railings, rugby posts and drain covers have been taken.

Burglary Arrests

There have been a number of burglary detections during this quarter as a result of quick responses from members of the community who have called the police. Reporting burglaries or suspicious activities immediately has led to a number of arrests before the offenders have had time to flee the scene.

In July 2011, following a report of a disturbance at a house in the Castle area police attended and disturbed 3 persons at the premises who were stripping copper pipes and causing extensive damage. 2 males and 1 female were arrested, and after interview all three were charged to court for the offences of theft, criminal damage and burglary with intent to steal.

In July 2011, one male, identified through forensic evidence, was arrested regards a burglary from a shed/games room at the rear of a property in the Castle area in 2010. The male was subsequently charged to court for burglary and theft offences.

In August 2011 one male was arrested by police following a report of a burglary in the Oldpark area. The householder heard a noise and checked the kitchen where the backdoor was ajar. A local person observed a male jumping the garden fence and informed the householder. The male was detained by the community nearby until police arrived. Items stolen from the house were found at the scene. The male was subsequently arrested, interviewed and charged with burglary and theft.

In September 2011 police responded to a report that a resident in the Antrim Road area had detained a male whom he suspected of committing a burglary at a neighbouring house. Police arrested 1 male at the scene and a number of items including a laptop and gloves were found nearby. The detained male was subsequently charged with burglary offences.

In September 2011 a male was arrested at the Mater Hospital after he was detained by security staff. This male had been identified as having broken into the intensive care unit. When stopped the male was found to have stolen property from the hospital in his possession. He was subsequently charged with burglary and theft.

(1) Targets will be measured against performance achieved during 2010/2011.

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 2.1 To increase the amount of drug seizure incidents. (1,2) | 156 | 125 | -31 |
| 2.2 To increase the number of persons reported, charged, or, formally cautioned for drug offences. (1) | Report 69 Charge 22 Caution 26 Total 117 | Report 38 Charge 26 Caution 14 Total 78 | -39 |

Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance

Whilst there have been 31 fewer drug seizure incidents, the value of seizures made during these 125 occasions totalled approximately £411,202. This means that police have seized four times the value of drugs this year compared to last year when there were 156 seizures valued at £102,458.

In addition to the 78 persons reported, charged and cautioned for drug offences, a further 19 drug offences were dealt with by way of discretionary disposal in North Belfast and this brings the total number of persons dealt with for drug offences from 78 to 97.

A total of 239 drug related searches were conducted during this reporting period, this breaks down as 64 premises searches and 175 person/vehicle searches.

When the types of drugs seized are examined, it is noted that the seizure of cannabis plants and cocaine powder has increased. Cannabis plant seizures have risen from 118 to 601, an increase of 409%, and the seizure of cocaine powder has increased from 46.1 grams to 1552.13 grams when compared against the same period last year.

Officers continue to work with the community and partner agencies to remove drugs from our streets. We are also focused on providing education on drug related issues to young people in the community. The more information we receive, the greater our capacity to build cases against individuals who engage in drug use, cultivation, sale and distribution.

The growth of drug disposal bin schemes and strengthening our partnership with FASA and youth groups, are some of the developments in recent months which help us work towards removing drugs from the North Belfast community.

Drugs Summary

- There were a total of 125 drug seizure incidents during this period.

- Total drugs seized have an approximate street value of £411,202.
- A total of 239 drug related searches were conducted, this breaks down as 64 premises searches and 175 person/vehicle searches.
- 38 persons were reported for drug offences.
- 26 persons were charged with drug offences.
- 14 persons received a caution for a drug offence.
- 19 drug offences were dealt with by way of discretionary disposal.

Incidents of Note

On 5th July 2011 police carried out a search of a dwelling in the Upper Crumlin area and found a number of mature cannabis plants, seedlings and equipment used to cultivate cannabis. 1 male was later arrested and reported to the PPS for possession with intent to supply.

On 21st July 2 males were stopped in the Greater Shankill area after reports of suspicious behaviour. The males had in their possession a sports holdall bag which contained cannabis plants. Both males were arrested and reported to the PPS for possession and cultivation of cannabis.

On 2nd August police carried out a search in the New Lodge area and seized a number of cannabis plants. 1 male was arrested and charged to court with possession and cultivating cannabis.

On 9th August 2011 police carried out a search of 2 residential dwellings in the Greater Shankill area. 1 male was arrested at each address. In total, 35 cannabis plants were seized with an approximate value of £16,000. Both males were charged with possession with intent to supply and cultivating cannabis and reported to the PPS.

On 2nd September following a search of a house in the Upper Crumlin area, 1 male was arrested and charged after police seized a quantity of cannabis, cannabis resin and tablets.

On 9th September police attended City Side retail park in the York Road area and observed a number of youths acting suspiciously. 1 male was arrested for possession of Class B drugs and later reported to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS), after being found to have a quantity of cannabis in his pocket.

On 13th September following the search of a house in the Ballysillan area, 1 male received an adult caution after police found a small quantity of cannabis resin at the property.

The Greater Whitewell Community Surgery Drugs Strategy

The Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs (RAPID) disposal bin scheme has been extended further during this quarter by introducing more locations across North Belfast where people can safely dispose of drugs anonymously. Substances removed may be tested prior to destruction to determine contaminants and to assess their toxic quality and this also increases the knowledge of drugs in circulation and assists with educational strategies.

The project is funded by the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) and was launched on 21st September 2011 as part of a health night addressing health and home safety issues. The collective partnership which includes FASA, Cavehill and Antrim Road Regeneration, the North Belfast subgroup of the District Policing Partnership, Skegoniell/Glandore Community Safety Partnership and York Road Neighbourhood Unit were keen to expand the reach of the initiative and as such the number of bins will increase.

The additional drug safes will be located at the Grove Well Being Centre, Glandore Surgery and a venue yet to be decided upon in the New Lodge area. This initiative has 3 distinct phases of education, enforcement and encouragement. An education programme will be transmitted through local schools, whilst enforcement will be through the application of the Misuse of Drugs Act. The installation of drug safes focuses on the encouragement of safe disposal of illegal and unwanted prescription drugs.

New Lodge Youth Club

Officers based at York Road who are responsible for the Greater New Lodge area have been working with New Lodge Youth Club to deliver a drugs programme which is supported by FASA. This initiative was introduced following community concerns in the area relating to the misuse of prescription drugs and it is hoped this education programme will help to raise awareness and create a better understanding among young people.

Skegoniell Youth Group

Constable Withers and Constable McCombe based at York Road with responsibility for the Castle area are currently working with Skegoneill Youth Group. Consultation and planning is underway to run a number of work shops based around educating young people of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. It is hoped these workshops will commence in October 2011.

Drugs & Suicide Awareness

Following consultation between Antrim Road Neighbourhood officers and senior management at the Mater Dei Hostel, training was recently organised and delivered to both staff and residents on drugs and suicide awareness. Drugs training was delivered by members of FASA and then a further 2 days Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) was delivered by police officers from the District Training Unit based at Antrim Road. The programme was well received and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss these issues and the impact they have on people in the community.

(2) The value of drugs seized, and the number of drugs searches conducted, specifying type of search, will be reported quarterly via the DPP reports.

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2011- Jun 2011 | Jul 2011 - Sep 2011 | Variation from 1st Quarter |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 3.1 To establish a baseline of the number of antisocial behaviour incidents during Quarter 1 and achieve a reduction in subsequent quarters. (3) | Env 96 Nui 968 Per 251 <u>Total</u> 1,315 | Env 64 Nui 1227 Per 225 <u>Total</u> 1,516 | + 201 |

Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance

As explained in the previous report, antisocial behaviour (ASB) statistics are no longer directly comparable with those published prior to that date. Instead, the three new recording categories of *Personal*, *Nuisance* and *Environmental* ASB are aimed at ensuring that the needs of the caller are quickly and accurately determined on a case by case basis to assist police to respond in the most appropriate manner. This new approach is oriented towards the caller and helps us to focus on how antisocial behaviour impacts on the person.

Unsurprisingly, over the summer months there were an additional 201 incidents of ASB during quarter 2 when compared against the quarter 1 baseline figure. Nuisance ASB is accountable for this increase, with Environmental and Personal ASB having reduced during quarter 2 against quarter 1.

In North Belfast, 81% of ASB activity during this reporting period has been categorised as Nuisance. This category is defined as incidents in which an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, or inconvenience to the local community.

Trends indicate that the warmer weather and holiday periods may have impacted on the increase in the number of incidents over July, August and September when compared against April, May and June. Local officers have been working closely with Belfast City Council Wardens, and community groups to promote and engage in diversionary activities.

Examples of Initiatives and Partnerships aimed at Reducing ASB are as follows:

Youth Justice / North Belfast Area Project / Youth Clubs
 Officers based at York Road who are responsible for the Greater New Lodge and Tigers Bay area have been working with a collective group of partners. This partnership includes the Youth Justice Agency (YJA), youth groups and the North Belfast Area project to develop an intervention programme aimed towards identified offenders of ASB. The intention is to engage with young people involved in high levels of ASB and their

parents to try to divert the young persons to more positive community engagement such as youth club participation. This is also an opportunity to develop positive contact with community police officers.

Working with Young People in Sunningdale

Antrim Road neighbourhood officers are currently working with young people from the Sunningdale area and North Belfast Alternatives. Initial interaction was followed by the delivery of diversionary activities for young people which included a visit to Antrim Road Police Station. As a result of this successful visit arrangements are currently being made for a further station visit. It is anticipated this will incorporate the Physical Competence Assessment (PCA), a measurement of physical fitness used by police officers. It is hoped that this ongoing engagement will assist to develop relations with the young people in the area.

Antisocial Behaviour Park Wardens Partnership

Tennent Street officers responsible for the Shankill and Upper Crumlin areas have been working with the Belfast City Council (BCC) Co-ordinator and Park Wardens in order to tackle antisocial behaviour. Issues focused on include Youths Causing Annoyance (YCA) and under-age drinking in Woodvale Park, Ligoniel, Somerdale Park and the Hammer Park areas.

Close relationships have been built up with the Wardens who patrol the park and several joint patrols have been enacted. Neighbourhood officers also provide a robust approach to antisocial behaviour in the park. Officers continue to regularly patrol the park which has resulted in a number of occasions where they have seized alcohol from minors. Local people have responded positively to the patrols and have noted an improvement to the areas where these patrols are carried out.

Whitewell and Bawnmore Cross Community Group

Following reports of ongoing problems relating to youths congregating, lighting fires and drinking in Finlay park, a trip to the Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Omagh was arranged by York Road officers and the Whitewell & Bawnmore Cross Community Group. Neighbourhood officers from York Road responsible for the Whitewell area attended the Activity Centre to participate and engage with the young people during two days of activities which provided an excellent opportunity to engage with young people in a positive and fun environment.

Creating positive relationships with young people is proven to have a positive impact in effectively managing issues within the community. Recently, during a night of potential serious public disorder when one youth was arrested within a group of approximately 40 persons, local neighbourhood officers responsible for the Whitewell area were able to approach the youths who remained in Finlay park to explain the need for the arrest and defuse the situation very quickly. This course of action may not have been possible without the existence of the relationships developed during the Omagh visit.

Ardoyne Multi Agency Group

Officers based at Tennent Street with responsibility for the Oldpark/Ardoyne area continue to attend various meetings to tackle ASB issues. In recent months they have been working with the Ardoyne Multi-Agency meetings, Ardoyne residents, Glenalva Residents and Interface Monitoring Group. These meetings provide an opportunity for the various agencies to meet to discuss community issues and implement action plans. During this quarter issues such as antisocial behaviour in the streets, alleys and derelict housing as well as interface issues have been raised through the various working groups.

Building Bridges Youth Forum

Officers based at York Road have been working regularly with young people from the Newington and Tigers Bay area to identify and tackle issues surrounding drugs, ASB and Interfaces. Recently, as part of the ongoing 12 month criminal justice programme, officers assisted the young people to create and participate in a mock trial relating to a knife crime incident. This programme is designed to assist young people to understand the Criminal Justice system and the impact their behaviour can have on both themselves and their community.

Dean Clarke Foundation

Officers responsible for the Tigers Bay area have been working to introduce ASB intervention methods with the Dean Clarke Foundation. This initiative is focused on preventing young people becoming involved in antisocial behaviour and also involves working with parents through the Tigers Bay Men's Group. It is hoped this project will help to build relationships with police and raise awareness of community concerns surrounding nuisance behaviour.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Warning Letters

Constable Sailes, the Antisocial Behaviour Liaison officer for North Belfast continues to monitor persons involved in ASB and manage antisocial behaviour orders (ASBO's) and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABC's) in the North Belfast area.

For this reporting period and at the time of this report:

- 77 persons are being monitored regards their behaviour.
- 8 Antisocial Behaviour Orders are in force.
- An additional 5 persons are being considered for an ASBO by the ASB Joint Forum.
- 13 persons are signed up to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, 10 of these are police led, and 3 are BCC led.
- 4 Joint visits have taken place.
- 1 Family Group conference, to include mediation, took place.

(3) Section 3(1)(a) of the Antisocial Behaviour (NI) Order 2004 defines Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) as: a person who has acted in an antisocial manner, that is to say, in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3.2 To report quarterly on alcohol interventions with the objective of reducing on street drinking, proactively targeting those selling alcohol to minors, and reporting persistent offenders. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| <p>Police in North Belfast continue to work in partnership with the Licensed Premises Forum and BCC Wardens to identify problem premises and target on street drinking issues. A District is also represented on the Drug and Alcohol Working Group which met 3 times during this quarter. Regular alcohol seizures, patrolling and reporting to BCC for on street and underage drinking remain a focus during police patrols.</p> <p>During this reporting period 18 joint enforcement operations were carried out in North Belfast, which involved members of Neighbourhood teams and BCC wardens.</p> <p><u>Alcohol Awareness</u> In partnership with BCC and Tesco, Upper Crumlin neighbourhood officers attended Tesco stores in North Belfast as part of the "Your child and alcohol" campaign. Advice was given to customers in Tesco stores relating to underage drinking and the dangers of alcohol. Underage drinking is a concern within the community and is often associated with antisocial behaviour, assault and criminal damage type crimes. However, children can also be more vulnerable to injuries and accidents, as well as drugs and solvents, when under the influence of alcohol.</p> <p>This event provided a proactive opportunity to engage with the community and remind parents of what to look out for alongside the influence they can have over their children's behaviour.</p> <p><u>On Street drinking Oldpark/Ardoyne</u> Officers responsible for the Oldpark/Ardoyne area have been working with BCC carrying out patrols, specifically targeting underage drinking. These patrols have included both foot and vehicle patrols during weekend periods. The number of patrols in the Oldpark/Ardoyne area will increase as the nights get darker during the coming months.</p> <p><u>Wineflair Initiative</u> The Wineflair Initiative was reported in the 2011/12 Quarter 1 report as a newly proposed initiative targeting the sale of alcohol to minors. Constable Canavan, a Neighbourhood officer for Ligoniel area attached to Tennent Street has been working in partnership with Wineflair off sales and BCC to devise and progress this new initiative. Following enquiries funding enquiries, it is anticipated that the pilot will start over the Halloween period.</p> | | | |

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4.1 To report on initiatives and partnerships aimed at improving community confidence. | - | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4.2 To report quarterly on efforts to increase communication and follow up between police and victims of crime. | - | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4.3 To provide quarterly, qualitative information on strategies and trends to include progress and constraints across all crime types and quarterly seasonal variations on antisocial behaviour. (3) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| <p>Police in North Belfast work daily with individual members of the community, various community groups and partnership organisations with the central focus of improving service delivery, providing a personal, professional, and protective police service and ultimately improving community confidence. Examples of specific initiatives and partnerships can be found throughout this report.</p> <p>Work continues to increase communication and follow up between police and victims of crime. During this quarter, dip sampling of investigative logs and telephone calls to victims of crime by the senior management team has continued. During this reporting period 92.5% of victims spoken to by senior management in North Belfast have reported that they were satisfied with police actions.</p> <p>Discretionary disposal call backs continue in A District to obtain the views of victims who have been involved in the discretionary disposal process. The response from the community continues to be positive, with the simplicity of the process and challenging the offender to recognise the impact of their behaviour contributing to satisfaction.</p> <p>An ASB follow up initiative has been proposed which will involve call backs to persons who report antisocial behaviour incidents over the Halloween period. This project is designed to find out whether victims were reassured by police actions, both at the time of the incident being reported and any subsequent follow up. The feedback received from callers is very important and will help us to continually improve the service we deliver in the local community.</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative information on crimes recorded, strategies and trends can be found throughout this report.</p> | | | |

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5.1 To report quarterly on neighbourhood policing to ensure that neighbourhood police officers work at least 80% of their duty hours on neighbourhood policing duties in their local area. | - | 98.6% | ✓ |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| Neighbourhood officers spent an average of 98.6% of their time on Neighbourhood policing duties in the local area in North Belfast during this reporting period. During this quarter this can be broken down as 98.96% in July, 98.64% in August, and 97.73% in September. | | | |

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6.1 To engage with residents, neighbourhoods, the community and other partners for the purpose of tackling identified problems together. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| Details explaining how police are working in partnership with residents, neighbourhoods the community and other partners to tackle problems can be found between pages 16 to 20 of this report. | | | |

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 3% (1,4,5) | 469 | 424 | -45 (-9.6%) |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| <p>There were 45 fewer reports of non domestic violence with injury crimes during this reporting period when compared with the same period last year resulting in a positive reduction of 9.6%, well in excess of the 3% reduction target.</p> <p>When examining violent crime figures, Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (AOABH) reports, which account for 82.6% of violent crime reported during this period, have fallen by 8.1% or 31 crimes compared to the same period last year. Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with Intent has fallen by 46.4% or 26 crimes. These reductions will have contributed to the overall 9.6% reduction in this category.</p> | | | |

(4) Domestic abuse is an under reported crime. Measures will be taken by the Police Service to increase and encourage reporting of domestic violence crimes by providing victims with the confidence to make a report to police. Police in North Belfast will continue to seek to improve detection rates for domestic violence related crime as stated.

(5) Violence with injury crimes are defined as offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide, child destruction, attempted murder, causing death/GBH by dangerous driving /aggravated vehicle taking, wounding/GBH with intent, firearms/explosives offences endangering life, administering poison, wounding/GBH and AOABH.

| Local Policing Plan Target | Apr 2010 -Sep 2010 | Apr 2011 -Sep 2011 | Variation from last year |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8.1 To increase the detection rate for violence with injury crimes by 3 percentage points. (1,5) | 39.6% | 33.5% | -6.1 % |
| 8.2 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury crimes by 5 percentage points. (1,4) | 44.9% | 47.7% | 2.8 % |
| Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance | | | |
| <p>The detection rate for violence with injury crimes was 33.5% at the end of this reporting period and it has not met the improvement target. At the time of producing this report, no Districts were meeting the 3 percentage point improvement figure for this target.</p> <p>The detection rate for domestic violence with injury crimes has shown a 6% point improvement when compared against the previous quarter, which was 41.7%, and a 2.8% point increase on last year's figure of 44.9%, sitting at 47.7% at the end of this period.</p> <p><u>A District Domestic Abuse Update</u> On the 26th of September A District Domestic Abuse Officers attended the inaugural meeting of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Operational Group. With the introduction and roll out of MARAC now complete, the strategic steering group has been stood down, and the MARAC Operational Group has been created. The Operational Group will act as a much needed forum to allow the discussion of practice issues and the sharing of information with the aim of promoting consistent good practice regionally across MARAC areas. Sergeant Eakin will be attending this operational group on a regular basis as MARAC Chair for A District.</p> <p>A District referred 64 victims through the MARAC process this quarter, 10 of whom were repeat victims.</p> <p>Work with the Domestic Violence Partnership sub-group continues. Study work has been carried out within the sub-group in relation to the emotional issues experienced by victims of domestic violence at various stages of their journey through the criminal justice system. Specific points examined during the time line included reporting the offence, investigation, pre-court, at court and after court. The feedback obtained from victims has contributed to the development of a tool which identifies a range of emotions to ensure that the appropriate support is given at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The website for this partnership can be viewed on www.belfastdvp.co.uk which has many links to supportive groups and agencies.</p> <p>Police continue to work with the community to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues across North and West Belfast. Domestic Abuse officers were present with their Neighbourhood colleagues at the Police Surgery in the Upper Falls area on 1st September and were available to meet members of the local community, discuss issues, provide personal advice and assorted literature.</p> | | | |

Sergeant Eakin and her team have been invited to an awareness event due to be held at Ballysillan Leisure Centre during October hosted by Glenbrook Surestart as part of their Parent's Week. Glenbrook Surestart work with families with children under the age of four years in Ardoyne, Ligoniel and Cliftonville ward areas.

Section 2) Additional information (Optional)

Ardoyne Riots

Police officers in North Belfast came under attack following the annual 12th July parade which passed through Ardoyne. Officers were in the area throughout the night and engaged with local community representatives in an effort to restore calm. However a number of people were involved in serious disorder showing no regard for the local community. Their actions served only to increase tensions and try to damage community relations in the area.

As a result of the public disorder a follow up operation was launched resulting, at the time of this report, in the arrest of 59 people. 53 offenders, both adults and juveniles, have been charged to court for offences which range from riotous behaviour to possession of an offensive weapon, disorderly behaviour and assault. 13 people have been charged to Belfast Youth Court, a further 2 people have been reported to the PPS and 4 released on bail pending further enquiries. Images taken at the time of the disorder were issued to the press in September, as a result a further 6 people have been identified.

Investigations are ongoing and police are committed to working with the community and representatives to address the issues surrounding parades in the area.

Security Alert, North Belfast

On the 21st of July a security alert took place in North Belfast. A number of houses in Etna Drive and Jamaica Street were evacuated and the residents were relocated to Ardoyne Community Centre.

Following a search operation, a significant device was recovered in the Oldpark area. 1 male was arrested and later charged with possession of explosives with intent to endanger life.

Superintendent Purdon, Operations Manager for North and West Belfast stated that the actions of police thwarted the attempts of criminals to inflict death, injury and misery on the community of North Belfast. Police in the area are determined and committed to protecting the communities from these threats and would appeal for the public's continued assistance and co-operation.

Police would encourage anyone who may have information that would assist police and the local community to tackle crime and make North and West Belfast a safer place for everyone to speak to a local police officer or ring the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Interface Update

Operational figures indicate that there have been a total of 200 interface incidents across A District between the 1st of April and the 30th of September 2011. This breaks down as 128 in North Belfast and 72 in West Belfast. There was no statistical hotspot for North Belfast, with incidents spread across the area. The majority of reports in North Belfast involved young people throwing stones. The Invest NI/Flush Bend site continues to be the main interface problem in West Belfast with the majority of reports concerning young people throwing items at each other, stoning traffic and rioting.

It would appear that young people continue to travel to various interface sites as previously reported. For example, on the 24th of September, a group of young people spoken to at Peter's Hill / Brown Square stated that they would be heading to the Invest NI site.

Activities, initiatives and partnerships linked to minimising interface incidents and improving community relations at interface areas can be found in the sections below.

Robbery Arrest

The Crime Team arrested one male suspect in West Belfast on the 2nd of August following an investigation by colleagues from North Belfast CID regards a 24 hour crime spree that took place at the end of March 2011.

The male was arrested for offences to include two attempted robberies at Bookmakers premises, one at Little Donegall Street, and one on Springfield Road, possession of an offensive weapon, possession of a firearm with intent, and dangerous driving with intent to inflict grievous bodily injury. Follow up searches after the arrest for evidence linked to the offences also led to the seizure of two cannabis plants in the York Road area. The investigation continues.

Partnership Initiatives and Community Engagement (Target 4.1, 4.3, 6.1)

Bonfire Safety

On the 4th of July Inspector Gouk, attached to Tennent Street, assisted in organising a Fire Safety Briefing in the run up to the 11th of July bonfires. This event was held at Bankmore Fire Station with the aim of promoting the safety and outlining the potential hazards at these events.

Shankill Neighbourhood officers liaised with BCC and organisers of managed bonfires as well as organisers of the Lower Shankill festival which took place on the 9th of July. This festival was aimed at diverting local young people away from the potential disorder at interfaces in the run up to the 12th of July. Officers provided a police presence at the event which gave them the opportunity to engage with local people and continue to improve community relations.

In the run up to the 12th of July, officers based at Tennent Street with responsibility for the Greater Shankill area provided a high visibility presence at interfaces on a nightly basis to provide reassurance to members of the public who live close by and to prevent any disorder. Officers also liaised with residents and community representatives to gauge the level of community tensions to enable police to respond appropriately as required.

Oldpark/Ardoyne Neighbourhood Policing

During this quarter Oldpark/Ardoyne Neighbourhood officers were immensely involved in work surrounding parade issues in the Ardoyne area. Officers liaised closely with many business and residential communities. Although there were some disturbances in the area during and following the twelfth parade, local community and police activities were able to return to normality much quicker than in previous years. This is largely due to the police and community successfully working together to build confidence in policing and a develop a shared understanding local issues.

Youth Diversion, Skegoneill

Officers based at York Road responsible for the Skegoneill area are working in partnership with the Church of the Nazarene Youth Club. Local officers assisted in an event to take a number of young people to Dundonald Ice Bowl on the 1st of July. This action was taken to help reduce tensions on the night of the “mini twelfth” around the interfaces of Alexandra Park Avenue and Skegoneill.

Ballysillan Fun Day

In July, Constable Robbie, a Neighbourhood officer with the Tennent Street team, organised a multi agency fun day. This was held in the Ballysillan area and was attended by Police, the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service. Representatives from each of the emergency services engaged with the local children by demonstrating their vehicles and equipment. The aim of this fun day was to build community relations, alongside promoting safety, and was well received by those who attended.

Whitewell Youth Club

Constable Wilson and Constable Black, neighbourhood officers based at York Road responsible for the Whitewell area, have continued to engage with young people from Whitewell Youth Club in recent months. They are primarily working with those aged 10 to 14 and are involved in youth activities such as attending club nights and events. Again, this has proven to be an effective way to build relationships in an informal environment and allows for open discussion and learning on matters which impact on young people in the community.

Youth Culture in Whitewell

Neighbourhood officers Constable Black and Constable Wilson continue to work with young people in the Whitewell area, tackling problems which develop as a result of antisocial and sectarian issues. Proposals have been made for a number of different events to take place incorporating talks on Hate Crime, Drugs and ASB, and a showcase of culture and respect in other societies. The aim of this proposed initiative is to bring together local young people from both Upper and Lower Whitewell areas, to learn how communities with historical differences can move forward. Funding issues surrounding this proposal are being explored.

First Step Youth Centre

Officers based at York Road have recently commenced a 12 month intervention programme with First Step Youth Centre to deal with drug and alcohol abuse. They are working with a group of 12 young people aged 13 to 15 who began to appear at interfaces and were getting involved in low level ASB. This project will also tie into the Alexander Park Steering Group art work project which will involve both sides of the peace-line, aiming to build on positive community partnerships.

Horizon Magazine

Oldpark officers have been working to increase awareness of crime prevention within the community. Officers have contributed a number of neighbourhood watch articles to Horizon Magazine, a cross community magazine aimed at promoting healthy living, education and community information to the people of North Belfast. The neighbourhood watch articles included information and advice for the local community regards how to be vigilant of their surroundings, making their homes safer, developing community spirit and promoting co-operation between the police and the community.

Greater Shankill Community Safety Network

Neighbourhood officers based at Tennent Street continue to participate in the Greater Shankill Community Safety Network. Police continue to attend the monthly meetings along with partner agencies BCC, Belfast Regeneration Office, DPP, resident groups and community representatives. This forum meets to discuss varied community opinions regarding issues in the Tennent Street area. This is also tied in with the interface issues surrounding the Invest NI site. This forum has become involved in solving local disputes in all aspects of local life including those in local schools and at interfaces.

Peace Wall Development Alexandra Park

On the 16th of September 2011 the peace gate which has been installed in the wall in Alexandra Park was officially opened. This is a cross community venture with police working in partnership with Alexandra Park Steering Group and Groundwork NI resulting in extensive environmental regeneration to the public park. The peace gate is an extension of the Events For All programme in working toward a shared space at interface areas.

The official launch was conducted by the Justice Minister, Mr Ford, followed by a fun day at the park taking place on the 17th of September 2011 which was well attended by families from neighbouring communities. The peace gate opening will be limited to specific times each day for a pilot period of 3 months, during which time the Steering Group will monitor both communities response to the peace gate to manage any adverse reactions such as interface disturbances.

Ballysillan and Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership

In September, Sergeant Williams, who is responsible for the Upper Crumlin Neighbourhood team, was invited to attend meetings of the Ballysillan Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership. It is hoped that this partnership will develop over the coming months and allow further engagement to take place to responds to and tackle issues affecting the local residents.

Lower Shankill Partners & Community Together (PACT)

Tennent Street neighbourhood officers have taken the lead in helping to set up the Lower Shankill PACT forum. This body is attended by police, BCC, NIHE, Department of Regional Development (DRD), local residents groups and individuals. The forum provides an opportunity to involve statutory agencies in the issues surrounding community safety and antisocial behaviour with a cohesive approach. The group has been instrumental in ensuring issues like fly tipping; graffiti and ASB have already been reduced. Meetings of the group are now occurring on a monthly basis.

Mount Vernon Cultural Diversity Awareness

Following the success of the Mount Vernon Cultural Diversity Awareness cross community project, Constable Gillies a neighbourhood officer for the Castle area, has recently been involved with a second programme which commenced on the 19th of September. The programme presently involves 30 young people from the Fortwilliam Youth Club and Star Neighbourhood Centre, New Lodge and focuses on issues affecting both communities including diversity and ASB. It will include visits with a number of ethnic minority groups and trust building exercises. It is expected that this project will run for up to 15 weeks subject to funding application approval, and will provide an opportunity to raise awareness and to develop an understanding of differences with neighbouring communities.

Community Safety Ballysillan/Forthriver

Officers from Tennent Street responsible for the Upper Crumlin area have been working to build community relations in the area by developing links in hard to reach areas. In Ballysillan, Neighbourhood officers have recently met with members of the community during various small forums created to examine community safety issues. In Forthriver, officers have been involved in discussions with residents groups in the area which has resulted in positive engagement on issues such as crime prevention, interfaces and the use of quads and scooters.

Fairhill Community Association

In September, Constable Gillies was invited to the inaugural meeting of the Fairhill Community Association. This community group was started by local parents who were organising activities for children and developed into the organising of fundraising activities for the area. The focus of this group will be local issues including children's safety and activities, parking, community environment improvement, crime and police engagement. Officers hope to interact more with Fairhill Community Association as it develops with the aim of tackling community issues together.

Driving Scheme

Neighbourhood officers based at Tennent Street responsible for the Shankill and Upper Crumlin areas have been facilitating a driving scheme. This scheme was initiated to assist local people to obtain their written theory driving test through group discussion and the use of a CD-ROM. The scheme takes place weekly over a 10 week period and is carried out in local school premises and community centres. Such programmes allow officers the opportunity to interact with members of the community whilst teaching them the importance of road safety. It is anticipated that officers will be extending this programme in the coming months to the Lower Oldpark area.

Spooktacular Competition

During September school children across North and West Belfast were being urged to demonstrate their creative side by taking part in a Halloween colouring competition. Designed by Crime Prevention Officers and funded by the District Policing Partnership the competition is designed to reinforce trick or treat safety messages to young people.

During the launch of the competition at Cedar Lodge School, Constable Connolly highlighted that the Halloween festivities can be enjoyed by everyone but police would ask that parents, youth and community leaders assist in making this year's festivities safe and fun.

Colouring activities during school art classes are accompanied by a poster outlining a number of safety messages that teachers can talk to pupils about. It is hoped that by engaging young people in a fun way will reinforce the safety messages on Halloween night. The competition includes a number of music voucher prizes and the overall winner will be presented with a laptop for their school.

Section 3) Area's progress towards achieving targets in the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2011/12

| Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target | Area Contribution Apr 2010 – Sep 2010 | Area Contribution Apr 2011 – Sep 2011 | Target on course to be met (including % change) | | |
|---|---|---|--|------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Area | District | Northern Ireland |
| 1.1 To reduce the number of burglaries by 3%. | 612 | 461 | -151 (-24.7%) | -168 (-19.5%) | -765 (-2.2%) |
| 1.2 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 2 percentage points. | 10.9% | 9.1% | -1.8% pts | -1.4% pts | 2.3% pts |
| 2.2 To establish a baseline of the number of antisocial behaviour incidents during Quarter 1 and achieve a reduction in subsequent quarters. | 1315 | 1516 | 201 (15.3%) | 233 (10.7%) | 2169 (13.3%) |
| 4.2 To reduce the number of allegations of incivility made against police officers by 5%. | 43 | 18 | -25 (-58.1%) | -37 (-57.8%) | -113 (-30.6%) |
| 6.1 To demonstrate the PSNI's contribution to reducing the number of adults and children killed or seriously injured on the road through 6 monthly reports. | 11 | 7 | -4 (-36.4%) | -9 (-39.1%) | -42 (-17.0%) |
| 7.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 3%. | 469 | 424 | -45 (-9.6%) | 25 (3.3%) | 82 (0.3%) |

| Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target | Area Contribution Apr 2010 – Sep 2010 | Area Contribution Apr 2011 – Sep 2011 | Target on course to be met (including % change) | | |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| | | | Area | District | Northern Ireland |
| To increase the detection rate for serious crimes | | | | | |
| 8.1 Violence with injury crimes by 3 percentage points. | 39.6% | 33.5% | -6.1 % | -4.4% pts | -2.9% pts |
| 8.2 Domestic violence with injury crimes by 5 percentage points. ³ | 44.9% | 47.7% | +2.8% pts | -1.2% pts | -2.7% pts |
| 8.3 More serious sexual crime by 2 percentage points. | 19.0% | 26.8% | +7.8% pts | +3.5% pts | +5.3% pts |
| 8.4 Homophobic crime by 4 percentage points. | 50.0% | 0.0% | N/A: No crimes recorded | -40.0% pts | -1.2% pts |
| 8.5 Racist crime by 2 percentage points. | 3.4% | 30.0% | +26.6% pts | +30.2% pts | +5.4% pts |
| 8.6 Sectarian crime by 2 percentage points. | 38.9% | 15.0% | -23.9% pts | -22.8% pts | -10.0% pts |
| 9.1 To reduce the number of armed robberies of business property by 3%. | 27 | 13 | -14 (-51.9%) | -22 (-46.8%) | -64 (-40.8%) |

In each of the categories above on this page, the number of crimes reported within North Belfast has fallen when examining April to September 2011 against April to September 2010.