



Tackling Crime

**West Belfast Area
A District**

District Policing Partnership

6 Month Report

Figures extracted 04/11/2010



***District Policing
Partnerships***

Local people shaping local policing

Area Commander's Commentary

To date this year there have been 3247 crimes reported in West Belfast, an increase of 30 crimes, or 0.9% against last year. Detection rates are showing a positive improvement of 2.7%, and currently sit at 22.1% overall.

More specifically, this reporting period has saw crime levels increase with regard to offences of domestic burglary, details on page 13 of this report, robbery, assault on police, fraud and forgery offences, and criminal damage. Alongside this, we have also witnessed a fall in those crimes of non domestic burglary, theft, vehicle crime, to include vehicle theft and taking and driving away of vehicles, and a fall in more serious assaults where details can be found on page 9 of this report.

The summary table on page 21 provides an overview of performance against the local policing plan targets. All of the Districts across the PSNI have been equally set specific targets for improvement, and it is against these percentage targets that we measure ourselves, and report on, in our endeavour to achieve continuous progress. Positive development has been made with detection rates for violence with injury crimes, an increase of 6%, detection rates for burglary crimes, and the slight reduction in burglary crime as a whole. As these targets have not met the PSNI percentage improvement target they are therefore showing as not achieved. However, it should still be noted that progress is none the less being made.

Progress would not be possible without the support of the community. Community support, awareness, and partnership working will continue to play an integral role into the months of November and December where there will be an increased focus on crime prevention and deterrence. Our Christmas Media Campaigns will be launching soon and your local police will be carrying out additional patrols around shops, car parks, and places of entertainment. We would encourage everyone to be alert to the opportunistic criminal when at home, at work, or out shopping by locking doors, securing cars, and keeping valuables out of sight. Should anyone have any concerns as regards suspicious behaviour or unusual activity, please speak to your local police, details on page 6, or if you prefer, make a report through the Crimestoppers charity.

Sean Taylor
Acting Chief Inspector
Area Commander, West Belfast

Section 1) Policing with the Community

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

Roadsafe Roadshow Event

The driving behaviour of young and inexperienced drivers, particularly male drivers, is recognised as a major contribution towards the causation of road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland and is, therefore, identified as one of the PSNI's roads policing priorities.

As part of our continued commitment towards instilling responsibility in those who have recently become drivers, or those who are about to commence their driving career, another two Roadsafe Roadshow events were organised in association with our partners. The Roadshows were hosted by De La Salle School, with students from Colaiste Feirste, St. Gerard's, St Louise's, St. Mary's, Corpus Christi, St. Rose's, and St. Genevieve's also attending, namely 700 students in total.

For those not familiar with the concept, the roadshow begins with a dramatic performance staged in a club type atmosphere, with a radio piece from Cool FM, and is themed around a young male, Craig, who has just passed his driving test. The students attending the event first observe Craig as he gets ready for his night out, a scene that they will all identify with, though this night ends in tragic circumstances as Craig is involved in a car crash.

Speakers at the event include a young police officer, a young paramedic, a young fire fighter and a hospital consultant who discuss their role following a road traffic collision drawing on their own personal and real life experiences in helping the injured and talking to families suffering bereavement.

The roadshow is intended to shock, to educate, and to make young drivers aware of the potential impact that a crash will have on not only their lives, but the lives of their loved ones, with students leaving the event with a positive everlasting impression that will hopefully influence their future driving behaviour.

Community Restorative Justice - Funding

Inspector Green of Grosvenor Road Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) met with Community Restorative Justice (CRJ) to formulate a fund application to MACS Project Work to ensure that CRJ would have funding to continue working in the Lower Falls area for another year, following completion of a 12 month pilot initiative that began on 1st May 2009.

This project centres on a mediation and support initiative focussing on the Lower Falls area and has been based on the agreed outcome of discussions held between officers of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI). It represents a unique and innovative mediation and community support project aimed at helping create safer and more cohesive communities. The service itself is provided by Community Restorative Justice Ireland who accept referrals from NIHE and PSNI. These referrals are non criminal in nature and focus on early interventions to prevent further escalations of anti-social behaviour and, or, crime. In addition CRJI also accept direct community referrals which are approved by the NIHE and, or, the PSNI prior to the case being undertaken.

The funding application was approved, and continued financial support has been secured from PSNI, through the Policing with the Community Fund, alongside NIHE and Atlantic Philanthropies. This mirrors a project currently underway in the Shankill area with NI Alternatives.

CRJ representatives also attended Grosvenor Road Police Station in August where they met with neighbourhood officers to discuss the role and work of CRJ in an effort to improve communication and also understanding of the facilities that can be offered.

Teddy Bears Picnic, Falls Park

Officers from Woodbourne Neighbourhood organised a Teddy Bears Picnic Event at Falls Park on 5th August. In addition to local officers, Roads Policing officers also attended with their specialist vehicles, providing road safety advice alongside giving out pens, pencils and rulers. This provided an opportunity for local children and young people, alongside their parents and families, to talk to police in an informal environment, ask questions, and look at police equipment. The feedback from the event was very positive both from the families in attendance and Falls Park staff. Numerous parents remarked that they thought that it was, 'a great idea,' that police were making efforts to interact with the local young people in a normal environment.

Police first aid skills were also called upon during the day as one local officer provided assistance to a pensioner, who had unfortunately dislocated her shoulder, until an ambulance arrived.

Partnership working with NIFRS

Police worked in partnership with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) from the West Circular Road Fire Station during this reporting period. A meeting was held on 8th August to discuss the response strategy to local bonfires and mutual support plans.

Partnership Working with Social Services

Grosvenor Road Neighbourhood police met with Social Services at the Mater Hospital in August to discuss and agree a best practice joint PSNI, Social Services response to a particular member of the community in need of assistance. This meeting was a further attempt to improve communication between the two organisations at a personal, yet professional level, for the benefit of the wider community.

A District Analysts – Improving Local Knowledge

A small team of analysts work within A District. Based at Antrim Road, the analysts role is to interpret and evaluate information, and advise the police how best to respond to crime and incident levels within North and West Belfast through the provision of a professional analytical service. To aid the analysts in their role and to provide greater first hand insight into local issues, neighbourhood officers showed the analysts around the local West Belfast area during the month of August.

Anti Social Behaviour, Beechmount

Grosvenor Road Neighbourhood met with staff at St Paul's Nursery School on 2nd September to address ongoing issues of anti social behaviour (ASB) in the Beechmount area and at the school itself.

Mediation and Healing Through Remembering

Inspector Green attended a Mediation and Healing through remembering working group meeting at Dromantine Monastery, Newry, in September. Partly facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland, PSNI officers and community representatives from across the country were in attendance.

Firework Safety

Woodbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team gave presentations on firework safety to local primary schools and youth groups as Halloween approached. Presentations were given at Springfield Primary, St Joseph's Primary, Springhill Primary, St Kevin's Primary, St Mary's Primary, St John the Baptist Girls School, St John the Baptist Boys School, St Peter's Primary, Blackmountain Primary, St Gerard's Special Care School, Link Centre Barrack St, and Suffolk Boys Brigade.

Cross Community Fishing

Woodbourne Neighbourhood have been assisting with transport for a cross community fishing trip to Dromore, County Down. The trip has been organised by community representatives and it is intended that it will last for a five week period. Those attending are mostly teenagers who are interacting with each other and broadening their knowledge of each others community.

Community Wardens

Community Wardens began working in the Moyard area on 1st October, where they will remain for a three month period. Discussions were held in advance of their arrival where it was determined that community representatives and the Moyard community as a whole were fully supportive of their deployment.

Police and the Community Working Together

In August a delivery van was hijacked in North Belfast and the contents, a large number of cigarettes, were taken by several masked youths. Police pursued the van but lost sight of it after a short time. A local community representative later reported the van to police to be driving dangerously around the Ross Road area of West Belfast. As a direct result of this information, police patrol cars and the police helicopter were directed to the locality and a search was commenced. Two youths were followed running away from the abandoned van and later arrested nearby. One youth was subsequently reported with numerous driving offences and the second was reported for vehicle interference.

One male suspect was involved in a serious assault on another male in West Belfast in February of this year. The suspect avoided arrest for several months though was subsequently located and arrested as a result of good community information being passed to police as to his whereabouts. This suspect was later charged for several offences relating to the original assault and for other offences committed whilst avoiding police, and has been remanded in prison.

Become Involved with Local Policing

For more information on the initiatives referred to in this report, or if you would like to become involved in any of the initiatives, or would like assistance with running new activities in your area, please contact your Grosvenor Road or Woodbourne Neighbourhood Police Officers.

Grosvenor Road Neighbourhood Team, led by Acting Inspector Green, Sergeant Wilson, and Acting Sergeant Moore:

Grosvenor Neighbourhood Direct Line Number - 028 90 700587

Text Grosvenor Neighbourhood on - 07825013877

Woodbourne Neighbourhood Team, led by Acting Inspector Robinson, Sergeant Byrne and Acting Sergeant Dodsworth:

Woodbourne Neighbourhood Direct Line Number - 028 90 259899.

Text Woodbourne Neighbourhood on - 07734909733

Or, telephone 0845 600 8000 - and ask for a member of the Grosvenor or Woodbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In the event of an emergency always phone - 999

To report a crime or an incident, please phone A District Call Handling at Tennent Street - 0845 600 8000

If you wish to provide information about any crime you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. This is an independent charity and is not run by the Police.

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

Service excellence					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr-Sept. 2009	Apr-Sept. 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
1.1 To work in partnership with the DPP, the community, community activists, residents associations and statutory partners to develop a method of ascertaining and improving the level of community confidence.	-	-	-	✓	This will be progressed in partnership with the DPP in the coming months.
1.2 To build relationships with Neighbourhood Officers and Residents Associations.	-	-	-	✓	Police in West Belfast continue to build relationships with Residents Associations. Some of the activities in this area are detailed below.
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets					
<p><u>Building Relationships with Neighbourhood Officers and Residents Associations</u></p> <p>Relationships between neighbourhood officers and their local resident associations continue to grow. A map has been produced that identifies communities that have a residents association in place, and within those, where police are currently involved. Neighbourhood Constables have been advised to make contact with those Residents Associations within their beat area and to ensure that each are kept up to date with matters affecting their community, such as local burglary patterns. Each officer has also been informed to commence monthly meetings with their respective residents associations.</p> <p><i>Upper Falls Community Safety Forum</i> continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues affecting the local community. Meetings are attended by statutory agencies, including police, and community representatives. Actions are drawn up at each meeting for those in attendance to complete.</p> <p>Police continue to attend meetings with the <i>Falls Critical Incident Team</i> to discuss and make progress on local issues. These meetings take place on a fortnightly basis in Ross Road.</p> <p>Police met with the Lower Divis Housing Officer on 5th July to discuss ongoing ASB issues.</p>					

Constable Ball has met with Councillor Tim Attwood regarding parking issues within the *Hillhead* area. As a result, these issues have now been successfully resolved.

Constable Ball continues to liaise with members of the *Travelling Community*.

Police attended a meeting of the *Residents of Lower Divis* on 4th August where local issues were discussed to include the Ross Road Flats.

A meeting with the *Beechmount Residents* was held on 7th September at Falls Community Council to discuss concerns around ASB.

Police met with the landlord of an address in Clowney Street regards a tenant who was the cause of ASB. This person has now been evicted from the area as a result of police working in partnership with the private sector on behalf of the community in the *Beechmounts*.

Meetings have been held with the *Residents of Cavendish* regards ongoing issues of youths causing annoyance and anti social behaviour at an address in Cavendish Street. This issue has now been resolved.

Meetings with the *Moyard Residents* have continued throughout this reporting period and it was agreed that progress has been made with regard to individuals whose behaviour had been causing concern.

Neighbourhood police continue to liaise with the *Hillhead Residents* in relation to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which is almost up and running. This is an exciting and ground breaking project as it will be the first Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in West Belfast.

Neighbourhood Police Shift Patterns

In response to discussions regards how to improve the shift pattern for Neighbourhood Policing in West Belfast to one that was more responsive to needs and demands, a shift pattern change was implemented on Monday 25th October. Each neighbourhood policing team will now be on duty every alternate weekend until 3 am and thus there will always be neighbourhood police on duty every weekend whether they be attached to Grosvenor Road or Woodbourne.

Tackling serious harm					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr-Sept. 2009	Apr-Sept. 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
2.1 To reduce the level of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%. ^{1 2}	363	334	-8%	✓	<p>Non domestic violence with injury crimes have fallen by 29 crimes, and therefore the 5% reduction target has been met.</p> <p>There are several offences within this category (as defined at footnote 2 below), however it is the reductions in the more serious assaults against previous fixed year to date (PFYTD) that have contributed to this overall 8% reduction and they are as follows: Wounding/GBH with Intent -34.2% Wounding/GBH -51.1% AOABH -3.5%</p>
2.2 To increase detection rates for violence with injury crimes by 10% points.	20.5%	26.5%	+6% pts	✗	<p>The 4.1% increase attained at quarter 1 has been maintained and further improved and as such, detection rates for violence with injury crimes currently sit at an increase of 6%. The 10% target has not yet been achieved.</p> <p>The introduction of the Volume Crime Management Model whereby every</p>

¹ Domestic Abuse is an under-reported crime. Measures will be taken by the Service to increase and encourage reporting of domestic violence with injury by providing victims with the confidence to make a report to police. Police in West Belfast will continue to seek to improve clearance rates for Domestic related Violent Crime as stated.

² 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.

				solvable crime is identified and screened by a Detective Sergeant has improved performance across A District with regard to detection rates. Every investigation is guided by means of a tailored plan which is carried out by officers in each of the area Volume Crime Investigation Units.
2.3 To report four times per year on domestic violence.	-	-	-	<p>There have been 174 crimes with a domestic motivation reported in West Belfast this year, a reduction of 115 crimes, or 39.8% when compared against PFYTD.</p> <p>The detection, or clearance rate, for these crimes sits at 46.6% which is a positive increase of 7.8% on 2009/2010.</p> <p>The majority of crimes with a domestic motivation in West Belfast continue to relate to offences of Aggravated Assault, Breach of a Non Molestation Order and Criminal Damage offences.</p> <p>Area Crime Screeners, who are Detective Sergeants, continue to review all domestically motivated incidents and ensure that thorough investigative plans are devised where necessary and that evidential opportunities are maximised. Every effort will continue to be made to ensure that a robust investigative strategy is pursued regarding each incident of domestic violence, particularly those involving injury.</p> <p>Police officer's attending every domestic</p>

				<p>incident will complete a report that is submitted to the Domestic Abuse Office. Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO's) review each one of these reports for consideration regards the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.</p> <p>All complainants are sent a letter advising them of contact details for all the DAO's and other agencies who offer advice and assistance such as Women's Aid and Victim Support.</p> <p>Police continue to take a proactive approach to domestic abuse and have a robust arrest / charge policy.</p> <p>In addition to our continuing and long term initiatives documented within the quarter 1 report, over recent weeks, (October), officers from the Domestic Violence Office have been visiting local hospitals on a planned drive to increase awareness of domestic violence issues and offer crime prevention advice. Further details will be available in the next report.</p>
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Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets

VIOLENT CRIME

We continually witness that a high percentage of crime, particularly violent crime, across the District is alcohol fuelled, both with adults and young people.

Police continue to attend the Licensed Premises Group (LPG) which covers both A and B Districts. The LPG is also attended by members of Belfast City Council departments including Community Safety, Environmental Health, Building Control and their Legal Department. At this forum, premises which have been brought to the attention of BCC and Police are discussed and possible action plans formulated.

During this quarter through forum discussions, a number of premises were identified and scheduled for licensed premises inspections across A District. Three licensed premises were inspected by Police during July, eleven in August and a further three in September.

Twenty nine premises in total in A District were identified as being problematic and the local Area Commanders and Neighbourhood Policing Teams were briefed to pay attention to these premises and enforce the licensing laws.

Police in A District performed twenty five joint enforcement operations with members of BCC across this reporting period.

All Area Commands and Operation Planning departments were aware of identified hotspots which were taken into consideration during resource allocation.

1281 Violent Crime offences have been reviewed by police investigators in A District this year to ensure a thorough investigation, maximise evidential opportunities and secure detections.

Personal Policing – Dealing with Local Concerns					
Local Policing Plan Target	Apr-Sept. 2009	Apr-Sept. 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 burglaries by 5%. ³	281	280	-0.4%	×	<p>280 burglaries have been recorded in West Belfast, one less burglary than this period last year. Of these 280 burglaries 236 were domestic burglaries and 44 were non domestic burglaries. Non domestic burglaries have fallen by 51.6%, or 47 crimes, whilst domestic burglaries have risen by 24.2%, or 46 crimes against PFYTD.</p> <p>58 persons were arrested during this reporting period for burglary offences in West Belfast.</p> <p>In 39.8% of burglaries in West Belfast, entry to the premises, where entry method known, was gained through an unlocked or open door or window. This equates to 111 of the total 280 burglaries.</p> <p>Crime Scene Investigators (CSI's) are tasked to attend all Burglary scenes to maximise evidential opportunities. A District has a CSI tasking system in place to ensure that this is achieved.</p>

³ Targets will be measured against performance achieved during 2009/2010.

					<p>Neighbourhood Officers complete follow up calls with every burglary victim within their Beat Area offering additional support, advice, and a personal contact point.</p> <p>Only 1 District across the PSNI has met the target set in relation to domestic burglaries thus far, namely C District.</p>
3.2 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points.	9.2%	10.1%	+0.9% pts	×	<p>The burglary detection rate is showing a small improvement against last year however the 5% target has not been met.</p> <p>None of the Districts across the PSNI have met the 5% target at this stage.</p>
4.1 To increase the number of drugs seizures. ^{3 4}	78	61	-21.8%	×	<p>There has been 17 fewer drug seizure incidents when compared to 2009/2010 figures.</p>
4.2 To increase the number of persons arrested, charged, reported or formally cautioned for drug offences. ^{3 4}	<p>Arrested 51 Charged 35 Reported 31 Cautioned 7 Total: 124</p>	<p>Arrested 32 Charged 11 Reported 15 Cautioned 17 Total: 75</p>	<p>Arrested -19 Charged -24 Reported -16 Cautioned +10 Total: - 40.0%</p>	×	<p>With the exception of persons cautioned, persons arrested, charged and reported have all fallen when examined against previous years totals for this reporting period.</p> <p>West Belfast performed well last year against the drug targets with good improvement on 2008/2009, and it is against this improved performance that we now measure ourselves.</p>
5.1 To work with the community, community activists, residents associations and statutory partners to identify and target anti social / anti community behaviour hotspots with the objective of minimising this type of behaviour.	-	-	-	✓	<p>Work relating to anti social behaviour is detailed within the Additional Comments section commencing page 18. Policing with the Community activities, pages 3, 4 and 5 also refer.</p>

⁴ The emphasis is to target drug users and drug suppliers across all levels and types of drugs from the minor use offences to high level supply.

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

BURGLARY

Domestic Burglary

At the close of this reporting period the majority of burglaries occurred in the Old Beechmount, Cavendish, and Iris areas, alongside Bingnian and Glen Road. Lower Falls, Highfields, Hannahglan Heights and Blacks Road also saw smaller concentrations of domestic burglary. The end of the reporting period also saw an increase in the number of televisions reported as stolen during burglaries. This pattern is more prevalent in the Turf Lodge and Upper Springfield areas.

Non Domestic Burglary

Non domestic burglaries have fallen by 51.6%, or from 91 crimes PFYTD to 44 crimes FYTD. This particular crime type is not currently problematic for West Belfast. During the month of September there were a total of 4 non domestic burglary reports. There are no identified patterns or trends with regard to these crimes.

Burglary and Vehicle Thefts

Approximately 18% of burglaries in West Belfast currently involve the theft of a vehicle, with most incidents believed to have taken place overnight. As part of a continuing trend, entry to a home is gained through an insecure door, either front or rear, and in the majority of cases only the vehicle will be targeted.

Burglary Arrests

On 29th August response police in Woodbourne were tasked to a report that two males had got out of a vehicle and were trying the door handles of houses. Police enquiries at the scene confirmed that entry had been gained to one address but nothing had been stolen. Police remained in the area and tasked vehicle recovery for the vehicle that the males had travelled in. Whilst in the area one male approached police from the direction of the house that had been entered. Police stopped and searched this male, who matched a description given by the initial caller, and found a pair of gloves and a hat concealed on his person. He was subsequently arrested on suspicion of burglary and going equipped for theft. He was interviewed, denying the offences, and is currently on police bail pending an identification procedure and further enquiries.

A female homeowner rang 999 on 15th September to report that she was asleep in her home when she heard a loud smash and upon entering her hallway she saw a male with his hand through the broken glass at her door trying to obtain the keys from the lock on the inside. The male suspect was reported to have made off on foot. Police checked the local area and one male, matching the description supplied, was arrested for the offences of burglary and criminal damage. He was stopped and questioned by police as he walking away from the direction of the rear of the victim's home. A search after arrest produced a tablet, believed to be a class A drug, and he was further arrested for possession of class A. The male is currently on police bail pending forensic examination of his clothing.

DRUGS

Drugs Seized in West Belfast 1ST April 2010 – 30th September 2010: --2010/2011 drug statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

Amphetamine Powder (gms)	2.3
Cannabis Resin (gms)	642.1
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	9,190.5
Cannabis Joints (gms)	5.0
Cocaine Powder (gms)	455.0
Cocaine Wraps	1.0
Ecstasy Tablets	2,030.0

The above drugs were seized during 61 separate drug seizure incidents, and have a street value of £128,071.

Drug Incidents

Police on mobile patrol in West Belfast recently stopped what was perceived to be a suspicious vehicle. After speaking to the driver and occupants, police decided to carry out a search of the vehicle during which a sizeable quantity of controlled drugs (Class A) was discovered to be hidden within the vehicle. Officers continued their search and also seized a taser stun gun, a twelve inch hunting knife, and a knuckle duster all found within the vehicle. All of the occupants were arrested for the offences of possession of offensive weapons and controlled drugs with intent to supply. The drugs have been sent off for forensic analysis and the arrested males have been bailed pending these results.

In July, a cannabis factory was discovered in the Glen Road area. The property had been rented out, and police were informed as a result of the tenants vacating the property without paying their rent.

A quantity of drugs, believed to be cannabis resin, herbal cannabis, and a white powder were handed into police at Woodbourne station in August.

During September a number of small bags containing powder and tablets, along with a set of scales, were handed into police by a community group.

A small amount of cannabis was seized during a search in the Lower Falls area.

Woodbourne NPT were involved in a drugs search on Finaghy Road North which resulted in 5 small cannabis plants being recovered. As a result the householder was arrested and CID officers are completing the investigation.

Drug Trends

Re-emergence of MDMA (ecstasy) tablets:

In January 2010 it was reported that the use of MDMA had decreased in the UK in recent years. This was thought to be due to increased seizures and decreased production of the precursor chemicals used to manufacture the drug. The availability of legal alternatives such as mephedrone was also thought to have contributed to its decrease in popularity. It is possible therefore that since mephedrone was made illegal in April 2010 that the use of MDMA is increasing again.

Increase of the price of Mephedrone:

Intelligence suggests that Mephedrone has increased in price after being made illegal and is now being sold for £25 - £35 per gram.

Drug Concealment Methods:

Two new methods of smuggling drugs into Northern Ireland have come to light, namely concealing cannabis in boxes containing new microwaves and hiding cocaine in large boxes of washing powder.

Seasonal Trends:

Information in the past has indicated that the major drug suppliers in Northern Ireland are known to acquire more drugs than usual in the months running up to Christmas. This is in order to meet demand from users over the holiday period.

Information

There is a lack of information about the drugs problem in West Belfast. Information from the community is vital to sustain and improve our efforts to lessen drug use, reduce the availability and supply of illegal drugs, and to minimise other crimes, such as burglary, committed to fund drug habits.

Police would like to encourage anyone who has information that may help the community to speak to their local police officers, or contact the independent Crimestoppers charity. In addition, should anyone come across what they believe may be an illegal substance, we would ask them to make contact with police. This not only ensures that the drugs are disposed of safely, but helps to build a more accurate picture of the current drugs in circulation.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There have been 2450 reports of anti social behaviour incidents thus far in West Belfast this year. This represents a reduction of 281 incidents, or 10.3% on 2009/2010 figures. ASB figures for West Belfast remain ahead of the Service average which currently sits at a reduction of 6.8%.

The main areas of concern regards anti social behaviour continue to be Lower Falls and Lenadoon.

As a result of incidents reported by, alongside information from, the community and our partners, a number of areas have been identified with anti social behaviour issues, and actions being taken are as follows:

Shaws Road - Reports of youths gathering outside shops causing damage and drinking alcohol:

Some of these incidents have been as a result of events within St. Pauls GAA. This area has been placed on NPT's ASB hotspot list. NPT are working in partnership with BCC on joint operations to stop this activity. Woodbourne NPT will be deploying an evidence gathering officer with a camcorder in an effort to identify offenders.

Lenadoon play park - Anti social behaviour and criminal damage:

A meeting took place with community representatives and statutory bodies and it was confirmed that money is available to renovate the park. The Crime Prevention Officer, Constable Connolly, is liaising with his counterpart within Belfast City Council and they are working together to avoid duplication in the 'design out crime phase'. Constable Davidson also attended this meeting and outlined his role and the procedures in relation to obtaining Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's).

Falls Park – Anti social behaviour:

Constables Bethel and Ball attend Falls Park on a monthly basis to discuss on going issues within the park. The behaviour of certain persons frequenting the park is perceived as being anti social and such behaviour includes drinking alcohol, glue sniffing, the use of motorbikes, and causing criminal damage. Woodbourne NPT are working with the park manager and other members from Belfast City Council to tackle this matter. Keys to the park have previously been distributed to response sections to enable prompt access should calls be received after the park has closed. Woodbourne NPT patrol the park on a regular basis as part of their duties, and joint patrolling operations also take place with BCC.

Woodbourne Neighbourhood officers have been travelling on buses in an effort to prevent drug use and anti social behaviour on local Translink services.

Constable Everest and the Crime Prevention Officer attended a meeting with the management of Lidl supermarket regarding security at the premises on the Stewartstown Road and Andersonstown Road. Discussions are on-going.

Neighbourhood teams continue to work with Belfast City Council to tackle on street drinking. This may now take place every weekend due to a change in neighbourhood shift patterns.

Interface Incidents

Interface incidents continue their positive pattern of decline. April to September 2010 saw 92 interface incidents reported across West Belfast, whereas 2009 saw 108 incidents, and 2008 saw 172 incidents over this same period.

Alcohol Seizures

Police in West Belfast made alcohol seizures on 721 occasions, and these seizures totalled 5208 individual units.

The 721 seizure incidents were made in the following areas:

Grosvenor Road Lower	260
Greater Andersonstown	220
Grosvenor Road Upper	141
Upper Falls	100

Arrests

On 7th July police received a report from a local resident that he had observed four males enter an area off the Blacks Road in two cars, a red saloon and a green sports car. One male was observed to wipe the door handles of the green sports car before all four males left the area in the red saloon. Police attended and observed damage consistent with the vehicle having been stolen. Whilst waiting for vehicle recovery police observed one male walk towards them, and on seeing police, the male turned and fled. Police pursued on foot before the male was sighted getting into a red saloon. Another police vehicle in the area stopped the red saloon and one male in the rear seat was identified to be the male who had fled from police and he was arrested on suspicion of Taking and Driving Away and Criminal Damage. His description also matched that provided by the initial witness who made the report to police. Further enquiries revealed that this male had supplied false details and was currently on post charge bail with conditions which he had in fact breached during this incident. The green sports car was also confirmed to be a stolen vehicle, taken from an address in East Belfast. The male was further arrested for the offences of Obstructing Police and Breach of Bail Conditions. He was interviewed and subsequently conveyed to court for the breach of bail matter and is currently on police bail pending forensic results.

Police responded to reports of anti social behaviour in the Lenadoon area at the start of September. Reports included those of youths drinking, throwing bottles and setting bins on fire. On responding to this report police came under attack from the crowd of youths who numbered approximately 15 to 20 persons. Police however, did manage to make three arrests. One male was arrested for riotous behaviour and charged to court, and two males were arrested for disorderly behaviour and were reported to the PPS.

Public Order Enquiry

As a result of the disorder across Northern Ireland during the Twelfth period, 83 police officers were injured. One female and two male officers were shot during disorder in the North Queen Street area in Belfast during the early hours of 12th of July. A female officer was also taken to hospital after she was injured by a missile at the Ardoyne shops on 12th of July.

A team of 20 detectives has been set up to investigate the subsequent disorder, being led by the Crime Manager, Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Alan Little. At the time of this report, a total of 63 persons have been arrested in relation to the disorder in A District. The enquiry team have also interviewed people involved in the illegal sit-down protest on 12th July at the Ardoyne shop-fronts, with a further number still to be spoken to.

The enquiry team have been very encouraged by the positive community response received to appeals for information and identification of individuals whom detectives want to speak to in connection with the disorder. DCI Little has stated that the public response to the media appeals has been outstanding.

Anyone with information is asked to contact detectives at Antrim Road police station on 0845 600 8000, extension 50552.

Alternatively, information about crime can be passed anonymously to the Crimestoppers charity by calling 0800 555 111.

Section 4) Trend data for Local Policing Plan targets 2010/11 ³

Local Policing Plan Targets for 2010/11	Apr – Jun 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr – Sep 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr – Dec 2010	Target on course to be met	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011	Target on course to be met
1.1 To work in partnership with the DPP, the community, community activists, residents associations and statutory partners to develop a method of ascertaining and improving the level of community confidence.	-	✓	-	✓				
1.2 To build relationships with Neighbourhood Officers and Residents Associations.	-	✓	-	✓				
2.1 To reduce the level of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%. ^{5 6}	-18.6%	✓	-8.0%	✓				
2.2 To increase detection rates for violence with injury crimes by 10% points.	+4.1%	✗	+6%	✗				
2.3 To report four times per year on domestic violence.	-	✓	-	✓				
3.1 To reduce the number of burglaries by 5%. ⁷	-25.9%	✓	-0.4%	✗				
3.2 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points.	+1.5%	✗	+0.9%	✗				
4.1 To increase the number of drugs seizures. ^{3 8}	-22.0%	✗	-21.8%	✗				
4.2 To increase the number of persons arrested, charged, reported or formally cautioned for drug offences. ^{3 4}	-24.0%	✗	-40.0%	✗				
5.1 To work with the community, community activists, residents associations and statutory partners to identify and target anti social / anti community behaviour hotspots with the objective of minimising this type of behaviour.	-	✓	-	✓				

⁵ Domestic Abuse is an under-reported crime. Measures will be taken by the Service to increase and encourage reporting of domestic violence with injury by providing victims with the confidence to make a report to police. Police in West Belfast will continue to seek to improve clearance rates for Domestic related Violent Crime as stated.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Targets will be measured against performance achieved during 2009/2010.

⁸ The emphasis is to target drug users and drug suppliers across all levels and types of drugs from the minor use offences to high level supply.

Section 5) Area's progress towards achieving targets in the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2010/11 ⁹

Service Excellence						
Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target. ¹⁰	Area Figure Apr 2009 – Sep 2009	Area Figure Apr 2010 – Sep 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met (including % change)		
				Area	District	Northern Ireland
2.1 To increase by the percentage of time spent by police officers on operational duty outside stations by 6% points. ¹¹	N/A	Not available until end of financial year	-	-	-	-
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Northern Ireland Policing Plan targets						

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Figures shown for these targets are the Area's figures which contribute to meeting the Northern Ireland wide target.

¹¹ From 2009 PSNI Activity Analysis data. Bench mark figure is 39%.

Tackling serious harm						
Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target	Area Figure Apr 2009 – Sep 2009	Area Figure Apr 2010 – Sep 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met (including % change)		
				Area	District	Northern Ireland
6.1 To report four times per year on the number of organised crime gangs frustrated, disrupted and dismantled.	-	-	-	-	Frust -1 Disrupt +1 Dismant 0	Frust +17 Disrupt +24 Dismant +24
6.2 To increase the number of PSNI interventions directed at criminal finances. ^{12, 13}	-	-	Number of interventions 4 Value of Cash Seizures £17,200 Value of Confiscation Orders £506,299.33 (Only available at Area level)		-33 -£129,328.12 +£1,023,762.39 (Benchmark figures at Service level only)	
7.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%. ^{10, 14}	363	334	-29	-8.0%	-7.7%	-7.9%
8.1 To increase the detection rate for violence with injury crimes by 10% points. ^{10, 15}	20.5%	26.5%	+6.0% pts	+6.0% pts	+7.7% pts	+2.5% pts
9.1 In partnership with other agencies, to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road. ¹⁰	16	13	-3	-3	-4	-132
9.2 In partnership with other agencies, to contribute to reducing the number of children killed or seriously injured on the road. ^{10, 16}	5	3	-2	-2	-2	-10
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Northern Ireland Policing Plan targets						

¹² Target will be measured against performance achieved during 2009/10.

¹³ The term "Interventions" incorporates a variety of police activity including cash seizures, restraint orders, confiscation orders, referral to other law enforcement agencies, financial reporting orders and serious crime prevention orders.

¹⁴ Non-domestic 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 - which do not have a domestic motivation attributed to them. Domestic Abuse is an under-reported crime. Measures will be taken by the PSNI to increase and encourage reporting of domestic violence with injury by providing victims with the confidence to make a report to police. Police will continue to seek to improve clearance rates for Domestic Violence with Injury crime (see target 10.1).

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 'Children' refers to those under 16 years of age in accordance with the approach adopted in England and Wales in respect to Road Safety.

Tackling serious harm (continued)						
Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target	Area Figure Apr 2009 – Sep 2009	Area Figure Apr 2010 – Sep 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met (including % change)		
				Area	District	Northern Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.1 To increase the detection rate for: 	48.5%	46.9%	-1.5% pts	-1.5% pts	+2.9% pts	+4.9% pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence with injury crimes by 10% points 	2.9%	40.5%	+37.7% pts	+37.7% pts	+21.8% pts	+3.8% pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most serious sexual crime¹⁷ by 5% points 	7.9%	30.0%	+22.1% pts	+22.1% pts	+29.1% pts	+13.1% pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectarian crime by 5% points 	18.8%	0	-18.8% pts	-18.8% pts	-7.5% pts	-2.5% pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racist crime by 5% points 	0	0	0	0	+23.3% pts	+8.7% pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homophobic crime by 10% points 	10.3%	7.4%	-2.9% pts	-2.9% pts	+4.2% pts	+3.6% pts
Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Northern Ireland Policing Plan targets						

¹⁷ Most serious sexual crime is defined as rape, sexual assault, sexual activity, abuse of children through prostitution and pornography and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Personal Policing – Dealing with Local Concerns						
Northern Ireland Policing Plan Target	Area Figure Apr 2009 – Sep 2009	Area Figure Apr 2010 – Sep 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met (including % change)		
				Area	District	Northern Ireland
11.1 To reduce the number of incidents of anti social behaviour to ensure a 15% reduction by 31 March 2011. ¹⁸	2731	2450	-281	-10.3%	-11.8%	-6.8%
12.1 To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 5%. ¹⁰	190	236	+46	+24.2%	+19.9%	+3.3%
12.2 To reduce the number of non-domestic burglaries by 5%. ¹⁰	91	44	-47	-51.6%	-30.5%	-6.1%
13.1 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points. ¹⁰	9.2%	10.1%	+0.9% pts	+0.9% pts	-0.1% pts	-2.1% pts
Additional comments, including any ‘control strategies’ and their impact on Northern Ireland Policing Plan targets						

¹⁸ 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”.

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>

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