

SP0416

Criminal Justice

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The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to working collaboratively with key partners to improve the quality and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice process, reducing delay and supporting victims and witnesses of crime.

1. Policy Statement

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is committed to serving the community and fostering public confidence and trust in the criminal justice system.

Working collaboratively with criminal justice partners, the PSNI aims to work towards a swifter, more cohesive and effective criminal justice process through policy development and shared learning to enhance wider community confidence.

This will include:

- Reducing harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable;
- Protecting and supporting repeat victims;
- Working in partnership to address serious and organised crime;
- Delivering high quality custody provision, incorporating sustainability and safer custody to meet the complex needs of the environment;
- Working in partnership to identify and intervene with priority offenders;
- Delivering significant improvement in the quality of files and disclosure to the Public Prosecution Service [PPS]; and

- Achieving an effective partnership with the PPS and other key partners to deliver an effective professional service which strives for positive outcomes for victims.

The PSNI recognises the potential impact that being a victim of crime or a witness to a crime or event can have on an individual. All victims and witnesses are entitled to receive a high quality service and support from the police, from their initial contact, throughout the investigation and beyond to pre-trial and trial.

To maintain and enhance public confidence, it is important that victims of crime, and in particular the most vulnerable in society, feel reassured by PSNI actions. To improve the quality of engagement and service delivery to victims and witnesses and encourage increased reporting, the PSNI will provide an improved service to vulnerable groups.

The removal of a person's liberty through detaining them is only justified when legal, proportionate and necessary. The PSNI takes responsibility for the care and welfare of detained persons ensuring that they are treated fairly, expeditiously and in accordance with law whilst balancing the needs of the investigative process.

2. Policy Links

The Corporate Policy Framework refers.

3. Contact

If you have any comment to make on the content of this Service Policy please contact: CSDSecretariat@psni.police.uk