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SP1116

Keeping People Safe through Policing with the Community

It is the role of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to support and work with the Northern Ireland Executive, Business, Community and Voluntary groups to build a Safe, Confident and Peaceful Society.



1. Policy Statement

The legal basis for Policing with the Community is derived from Section 32 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 and specifically Section 32(5) which states “Police Officers shall, so far as practicable, carry out their functions in co-operation with, and with the aim of securing the support of, the local community.”

As a Police Service, we will all work with partners and communities to Keep People Safe, either through frontline service delivery or by enabling services, by:

- **Preventing harm** through working with partners to increase trust and citizen involvement, reduce offending, reduce vulnerability and prevent crime;
- **Protecting our citizens and communities**, particularly the most vulnerable, through delivering professional policing operations and services in accordance with Human Rights standards; and
- **Detecting offences and investigating suspects**, working with justice partners to carry out professional investigations and deliver prompt visible and fair outcomes which build the confidence of victims, witnesses and communities.

We are at our strongest when we work in partnership with communities and when we involve those communities in policing. We best achieve this by demonstrating, both internally and externally, the following behaviours:

1. Accountability

Accountability is the fundamental building block to securing trust and legitimacy for any Police Service. It is the way to earn public co-operation, collaboration and information.

2. Fairness, Courtesy and Respect

Fairness, Courtesy and Respect are the minimum standards of how we treat others, both inside and outside the organisation. These standards are not negotiable, no matter the context or provocation to act otherwise, and are key to securing our communities’ confidence and trust.

3. Collaborative Decision Making

Decisions are often too important, complex or far-reaching to be left to the Police alone, which is why Collaborative Decision Making is vital. Collaborative Decision Making is based upon the concepts of partnership and engagement, but takes it a step further and outlines the critical need for clear decisions to be made. This process has at its core collective responsibility and accountability.

Involving others shares the opportunity behind every challenging and important decision.

2. Policy Links

All PSNI Policy areas are supportive of, and in alignment with, the themes in this document.

3. Contact

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