

Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2008 – 2011

Foreword

Welcome to the second Community Safety Strategy of Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership.

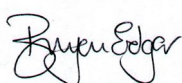
This Strategy will be used by those agencies within the Community Safety Partnership to commit resources, both people and financial, to best ensure we meet the Community Safety Partnership's vision of ensuring the Borough is a safe and pleasant place in which to live, work and visit.

Looking back over the past three years the Partnership has ensured that over £200,000 of Government funding has resulted in a great number of positive initiatives which have benefited the Borough. At the same time agencies within the Partnership have worked together on projects, proving that real gains can be made by joint working. At this point in time there is statistical evidence that shows that overall crime rates are falling. The Partnership now needs to sustain this trend.

There are, however, still areas on which the Partnership needs to focus. Alcohol related anti social behaviour is still an issue, as it is in the rest of the province. Concentration will be given to this area, with the development of key projects like the overarching 'Street Intervention 2' project and the 'Makin' Cents' project arising from the best practice demonstrated by the peer leadership project, off the streets and street intervention project over the previous two years.

We, the Community Safety Partnership, believe that this Strategy will allow us to prioritise key areas so that we can best meet our targets to reduce violent crime and antisocial behaviour in the Ballymoney Borough.

The Strategy will be subject to periodic reviews over the next three years to ensure we are on track to meet targets and that projects are being completed to time and quality standards.



Bryan Edgar

Chairperson, Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership

Public Service Agreements

Whilst much work has been undertaken to ascertain the levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour, both through statistical analysis, desk research and consultation, there is a need to include those priorities which the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit has stated are key to reducing crime at a regional level.

The Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit has tasked Community Safety Partnerships to help them make reductions to some of the most prevalent types of crime, so that reductions can be made at both local and regional level.

This aim is underpinned by targets in the new *Make Communities Safer and Justice for All* Public Service Agreements for 2008 – 11 to reduce anti-social behaviour; to reduce violent crimes, including hate crime, knife crime, alcohol-related violence and domestic violence; to reduce re-offending; and to increase confidence in the police and the criminal justice system.

Community Safety Partnerships are now committed to meeting these Public Service Agreements (PSAs) based on Government requirements. Within the PSAs measures have been taken to ensure that local objectives are included and the partnership must ensure that every project/initiative is measurable in terms of meeting these targets.

Priorities and Targets

This Strategy document will be paramount in ensuring that the Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership meets its mission statement, which is: -

Through partnership to reduce the incident of crime, the fear of crime and anti – social behaviour within Ballymoney Borough.

The partnership needs to make a decision on which priorities to allocate its small budget based on crime levels i.e. where they can best help to meet the PSA targets and address what is important to local people. In Ballymoney Borough the areas where the Partnership believes it can make most impact are anti social behaviour and alcohol related incidents.

Anti Social Behaviour

To address the level of anti social behaviour within the Borough.

Target

To reduce anti social behaviour by 10% in the Borough by March 2011.

To contribute towards a reduction in anti social behaviour by 15% in Northern Ireland by March 2011.

Rationale

The antisocial behaviour priority area has been chosen because the results of local consultations has shown this area to be of key importance to local residents as well as being a priority for the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit.

Action

- Develop a partnership approach to deliver the 'Street Intervention' project.
- Implement a range of youth diversionary activities and positive citizenship workshops both in the town and the surrounding rural areas.
- Build on the success of the safer bonfire initiative.
- Support the local PSNI, Ballymoney Borough Council and the NIHE in their anti social behaviour strategies.

Domestic Violence

To assist local organisations to reduce the level domestic violence within the Borough

Target

No target set

Rationale

It is recognised that domestic violence, is an issue of real importance to the Community Safety Partnership, this issue is of primary importance to all the agencies involved in domestic violence work.

Research tells us that only a small percentage of domestic violence incidents are reported to the Police. This would suggest that the issue needs to be tackled in order to obtain a true picture of domestic abuse in Ballymoney and how to reduce it.

Given the nature of this problem, the specialised support required to make a 'real' difference, in conjunction with the small partnership budget the Community Safety Partnership has not set a target but pledges to support those organisations dealing with this area of work.

Action

- Support the development of an effective multi-agency monitoring system.
- Assist the Forum to improve services for those experiencing domestic violence.
- Promote educational packages and awareness raising amongst the general public and in particular young people.
- Support regional campaigns addressing domestic violence.

Hate Crime

To reduce hate crime in the Borough.

Target

No target set.

Rationale

It is recognised that whilst hate crime, i.e. sectarian, racial and homophobic, is an issue of real importance to the Community Safety Partnership, this issue is of primary importance to all the agencies involved in Good Relations work. Hence, the Community Safety Partnership has not set a target but pledges to support the Council's Good Relations Officer in their work.

Action

- To incorporate hate crime awareness rising in the positive citizenship workshops undertaken as part of the 'Street Intervention project'.
- To deliver the 'Peer Leadership Messines experience' project.

- To support other organisations in their work to address hate crime within the borough.

Alcohol and Drug Related Violent crime

To reduce alcohol related crime and harm cause by the misuse of alcohol.

Target

To reduce anti social behaviour by 10% in the Borough by March 2011.

To contribute towards a reduction in anti social behaviour by 15% in Northern Ireland by March 2011.

Rationale

Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership believes many crimes are committed whilst under the influence of alcohol and initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol misuse will assist in the reduction of all other crimes.

Whilst drugs may be an issue within the Borough findings from the local consultations highlighted alcohol as a bigger concern, particularly around underage drinking.

The use and misuse of alcohol can have destructive and damaging effects on individual and society as a whole causing residents and communities to feel vulnerable and unsafe.

Action

- Implement the 'Makin' Cents' project to highlight alcohol related anti social behaviour covering themes of citizenship, alcohol and health.
- Promote positive parenting to challenge attitudes towards underage drinking and change the negative cycles being passed down the generations.
- Support partnership working on preventative interventions into alcohol misuse such as education, diversionary schemes.

- Implement and promote the 'off license code of practice' to remind licensees and off licenses to say no to attempted purchases of alcohol by underage people.
- Close working with Ballymoney Borough Council and the PSNI to ensure effective communication and enforcement of the alcohol byelaws.
- Develop close working with the Causeway Accident and Emergency Dept in order to develop effective monitoring procedures for the recording of alcohol related accidents.

Knife Crime

To maintain the low level of incidents of knife crime within the Borough.

Target

No target set

Rationale

Crime statistics in conjunction with findings from the local consultations have indicated that knife crime is not an area of high concern within the Borough.

Action

Incorporate knife crime awareness raising sessions into the positive citizenship workshops undertaken as part of the 'Street Intervention project'.

Fear of Crime

To reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime in Ballymoney Borough.

Target

To contribute towards increasing the percentage of respondents in Ballymoney Borough who say they feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' by 5% by 2011.

To contribute towards increasing of respondents in Ballymoney Borough who rank fear of crime as 'low' or 'very low' by 5% by 2011.

Rationale

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour lies at the heart of community safety. Reducing crime will, by definition, make the Borough safer and more sustainable and reduce the number of people whose lives are affected by crime.

Although recorded crime has reduced in Northern Ireland, with Ballymoney being one of the safest places to live, many people's perceptions are that crime has actually increased: 73% of respondents to the 2006/07 Northern Ireland Crime Survey felt that crime had increased compared to two years ago and 39% of respondents felt that fear of crime adversely affected their quality of life. By tackling the range of anti-social behaviours that undermine people's quality of life and make them feel unsafe, we can improve their confidence in their communities and help reduce fear of crime.

Action

- Improve channels of communication with the local media promoting work of BCSP and good news stories.
- Implement and support regional initiatives including the bogus caller campaign, theft from vehicles and how safe is my home.
- Support local initiatives including health fairs, HAP road show distributing CSP merchandise promoting safety messages.
- Support the local firework safety education campaign.
- Support Causeway Vulnerable Isolated People initiative.