

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

June 2026

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PCSP Chair and Vice – Chair Foreword



Councillor Henry Reilly
PCSP Chair
2025/26



Michelle Osborne
PCSP Vice-Chair
2025/26

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Newry, Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) for the Financial Year 2025–2026. This report provides an overview of the work undertaken throughout the year to support the strategic priorities established by the Joint Committee of the Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board, and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating safer, more resilient communities and strengthening public confidence in policing.

Throughout the year, our PCSP has continued to focus on addressing local community safety concerns, reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour, and strengthening confidence in policing. Through a programme of targeted interventions, awareness initiatives, engagement activities and partnership projects, we have sought to respond to local needs while supporting the safety of residents across Newry, Mourne and Down.

The delivery of these priorities has taken place within an increasingly challenging operating environment. Rising service demands, policing resource pressures and financial constraints have continued to impact organisations across the public and community sectors. Despite these challenges, the strength of our partnership approach has enabled us to maximise available resources, develop innovative solutions and deliver meaningful outcomes for local communities.

Engagement with communities remains at the heart of everything we do. During the year, we have continued to listen to the views and experiences of residents, community organisations and statutory partners to help inform our priorities and shape our response to emerging issues. By working collaboratively, we ensure that our programmes and initiatives remain relevant, effective and responsive to local concerns.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to PCSP Members, staff, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, statutory agencies, community and voluntary organisations, and all those who have contributed to the work of the Partnership during the year. Their commitment, expertise and support have been instrumental in helping us deliver our objectives and make a positive difference within our communities.

We also wish to thank the Joint Committee, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Department of Justice for their continued guidance and support.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to working in partnership to address emerging challenges, strengthen public confidence in policing, and deliver initiatives that help make our communities safer. Through continued collaboration with our statutory, community and voluntary sector partners, we will build on the achievements of the past year and continue to make Newry, Mourne and Down a safer place for all who live, work and visit here.

Executive Summary

What are PCSPs?

The overall purpose of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership is to help make communities safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues.

The aim is to empower communities to work in partnership to develop solutions that help tackle crime, reduce the fear of crime and address anti-social behaviour.

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. They are funded jointly by the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Department of Justice. A Joint Committee, comprising representatives from the Policing Board and the Department of Justice, oversees the work of PCSPs.

PCSPs have a range of duties which are set in legislation:

- **Consult and engage with the local community** on issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. Each PCSP has a Policing Committee with a distinct responsibility to provide views to the relevant District Commander and the Policing Board on policing matters.
- **Identify and prioritize the issues of concern** and prepare plans for how these can be tackled.
- **Monitor the performance of the police** and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.
- **Deliver a reduction in crime** and enhance community safety in each district, directly through interventions, through the work of delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

PCSPs work with the community to identify issues of concern in the local area and prepare plans to deliver practical solutions.

They also work in partnership with other organisations who contribute to community safety in the area.

Each PCSP has a Policing Committee made up of Elected and Independent Members which carries out a distinct role in relation to policing functions.

The PCSP Policing Committee works with local police to develop the local policing plan and monitor their performance against this plan.

The role of the Policing Committee is to:

- **Provide views** to the relevant Police Commander and the Policing Board on any matter concerning the district.
- **Monitor the performance** of the police in carrying out the policing plan in the district and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the district.
- **Deliver a reduction in crime** and enhance community safety in the district, directly through interventions, through the work of delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

PCSPs are also able to establish Subgroups to take forward work in the community and can form links with other groups who may have an interest in policing or community safety.

The Policing Board and the Department of Justice have set out strategic objectives for PCSPs to meet, a summary of these objectives follows:

Strategic Priority 1

- To ensure effective delivery in response to local need and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement.

Strategic Priority 2

- To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Strategic Priority 3

- To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities.

Introduction to Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP is a statutory body established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 with the remit of making Newry, Mourne and Down safer.

The membership of NMD PCSP is made up of **10 locally elected Councillors, 9 local Independent Members** of the public who have gone through a public appointment process; and representatives from **7 statutory organisations** who can have a positive impact on policing and community safety.

As required by the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, NMD PCSP also operates a Policing Committee comprising its Elected and Independent Members.

Building effective relationships with designated organisations and local partners is also critical to underpinning a joined-up, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to making our local communities safer.

PCSP Members 2025/26

Elected members	Independent Members	Designated partners - Statutory body members
• **Cllr Henry Reilly** DUP (PCSP Chair) • **Cllr Terry Andrews** SDLP • **Cllr Kate Murphy** Sinn Féin • **Cllr Aidan Mathers** Sinn Féin • **Cllr Declan Murphy** Sinn Féin • **Cllr Oonagh Hanlon** Sinn Féin • **Cllr Conor Galbraith** SDLP • **Cllr Doire Finn** SDLP • **Cllr Jill Truesdale** Alliance • **Cllr David Taylor** UUP	• **Michelle Osborne** (Vice Chairperson) • **Colleen McCreesh** • **William Slater** • **Louise Kennedy** • **David Vint** • **Anne Sheridan** • **Martina Byrne** (resigned October 2025) • **Andrew Kernaghan** (appointed November 2025) • **Niall Lawlor** (resigned December 2025) • **Roy Edwards** (appointed January 2026)	• Police Service of Northern Ireland - **Superintendent Norman Haslett** (District Commander until November 2025) replaced by **Superintendent Lynne Corbett** (November 2025) • Youth Justice Agency **Michael Heaney** (Assistant Director) • Education Authority **Aileen O'Callaghan** (Senior Youth Worker) • NI Housing Executive **Claire Crainey** (Area Manager South Down) • Southern Health & Social Care Trust **Aidan McCabe** Promoting wellbeing locality manager

	• **Tara Campbell** (resigned December 2025) • **Andrea Barr** (appointed January 2026)	• NI Fire & Rescue Service **Gerard Kearney** (Local Commander) • Probation Board NI **Roisin Leckey** (Area Manager)

Our Meetings in 2025/2026

PCSP, Policing Committee and Sub Group meetings	No of meetings
Policing and PCSP Committee Meetings	6
Bonfire Sub Group	3
ASB Sub Groups	9

Alongside Newry, Mourne and Down District Council which hosts the PCSP, the following are the Statutory Partners represented on the PCSP:

Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down Area

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area covers the southeast of Northern Ireland, including southern County Armagh and large parts of County Down. Renowned for its scenic beauty, the area is bounded on the east by Strangford Lough and Carlingford Lough, and on the west by Slieve Gullion and Slieve Croob, with the picturesque Mountains of Mourne at the centre. To complement the area's outstanding natural assets, it is also home to a number of significant built heritage assets including Struell Wells in Downpatrick, Dundrum Castle and Bagenal's Castle in Newry City.



As the third largest District Council in Northern Ireland, Newry, Mourne and Down makes up approximately 11% of the total land area of Northern Ireland, has more than 100 miles of coastline, and provides services to around 183,115 residents. This represents 9.6% of the total population of Northern Ireland. 22% of the population is aged 15 or younger, 28% are aged 16–39 and 18% are over 65. With such a significant population, the challenge is to effectively cater for increasing demand for public services in a more restricted financial environment. In addition to Newry City, the principal settlements are Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Warrenpoint and Burren.

It incorporates all of the Mourne Mountains Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has an extensive coastline stretching from Strangford Lough to Carlingford Lough, and borders Counties Louth and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.

Living Well Together is the community plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030. This outlines how, through working together, agencies can improve service delivery and improve the quality of life of local communities with a focus on prevention and early intervention. This aims to add value to the core work of each partner, which in turn improves services to citizens and service users.



Addressing crime is one of the key outcomes of the community plan - ***"All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities."*** The plan recognises that community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness are key contributors to people's feelings of personal safety and crime reduction. Personal security is a core element of the well-being of individuals and of society as a whole, and the

experience of crime is one of the main factors shaping people's personal security. Crime may lead to loss of life and property, as well as engendering physical pain, post-traumatic stress and anxiety. It may also cause impairments in occupational activities, such as lower productivity and higher absenteeism, and disruption in social functioning, such as restriction in freedom of movement and erosion of social cohesion within communities. The biggest impact of crime on people's well-being appears to be through the feeling of vulnerability that it causes (Anans and Santos, 2006).

The Living Well Together Action Plan sets out the partnership actions to be taken towards achieving the agreed outcomes. Actions to address the Indicators are being delivered through district-wide delivery plans taken forward by Thematic Groups. Cross-cutting elements of tackling inequalities, and early intervention and prevention permeate through each of the Delivery Plans. Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP sits within the 'Safety and Good Relations Thematic Group.'

NMD PCSP Achievements Under Each Strategic Priority

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP continued to work collaboratively with statutory, voluntary and community partners to deliver against the three strategic objectives agreed by the Joint Committee. Through the implementation of our Action Plan, a range of projects, initiatives and engagement activities were undertaken to address local policing and community safety issues. A summary of work delivered under each strategic priority is provided below.

Strategic Priority 1: To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

A key priority for Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP throughout 2025/26 was ensuring that local communities remained at the centre of policing and community safety discussions. Through ongoing engagement with community organisations, elected representatives and statutory partners, the PCSP gathered valuable insight into local concerns and emerging issues, helping to inform decision-making and shape the delivery of targeted community safety interventions across the district.



PCSP Staff host a stall at a Cultural Event in Downpatrick September 25'

The PCSP supported and delivered a broad programme of initiatives aimed at addressing local needs, promoting community safety and increasing public awareness of available support services. This work was complemented by investment in community-led projects through our Small Grants Scheme, enabling local groups to play an active role in tackling issues that matter most to their communities.

Maintaining a visible presence within communities remained an important aspect of our approach. PCSP representatives attended a range of district-wide and local events throughout the year such as the Baton of Hope event in Newry and Lislea Family Fun Day, providing opportunities to engage directly with residents, promote key safety messages and strengthen links between communities, policing and partner agencies.



PCSP and PSNI host a crime prevention stall November 25'

Strong governance and effective partnership working underpinned all aspects of our delivery. Through a programme of PCSP, Policing Committee and Sub-Group meetings, Members continued to provide strategic oversight, monitor performance and contribute to the development of local solutions to community safety challenges.

Alongside face-to-face engagement, the PCSP continued to enhance its communications activity, using digital platforms to share information, highlight successful initiatives and encourage greater public participation in policing and community safety matters. This blended approach enabled us to engage with a broader and more diverse audience across Newry, Mourne and Down.

Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) Overview

How much did we do?

- 15 consultation/community engagement events held
- 1 Public Meeting
- 2 Community Safety and Wellbeing Events
- 10 Drop in Community Safety Clinics
- 253 attendees at consultation / community engagement events
- 8 PCSP members attending engagement events
- Attendance at 70 public events to promote and increase awareness of PCSP
- 208 social media posts



Flyer used to promote Drop-in Community Safety Clinic in Bessbrook December 25'

How well did we do it?

- 262 new social media followers
- Engaged with over 7534 people at public events

Is anyone better off?

- 7,534 people engaged with PCSP at events during this financial year. Of those 7,534 people, 100% now have increased awareness of the PCSP and its work to address policing and community safety issues.

Best practice example – Community Safety and Wellbeing Event in Newry & Downpatrick

As part of our commitment to promoting community safety, increasing awareness of local support services and strengthening engagement between communities and statutory agencies, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP delivered two large-scale Community Safety and Wellbeing Events during 2025/26. These events were held in Downpatrick and Newry and brought together a wide range of organisations to provide information, advice and support to residents of all ages.



Flyer used to promote Newry Community Safety and Wellbeing Event

The events were delivered in partnership with key statutory and community organisations, such as Start 360, PSNI and NIFRS, creating valuable opportunities for members of the public to engage directly with agencies providing services across a range of community safety, health, wellbeing and support themes. Attendees were able to access information, seek advice and learn more about the services available within their local area.

The Downpatrick event took place in Down Leisure Centre and attracted 151 attendees, while the Newry event took place in Newry Leisure Centre and welcomed 253 attendees, demonstrating significant public interest and engagement. The Newry event also provided an opportunity to engage with young people, with students from four local secondary schools attending and participating in a range of educational and interactive activities.

Partner agencies, including the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), played an active role in the events. Their presence provided opportunities to promote key safety messages, improve community confidence and facilitate positive engagement between residents and emergency services. A wide range of support organisations also attended, offering information on services available to individuals, families and communities.

These events successfully:

- Engaged 404 residents across both locations on issues relating to community safety and available support services.
- Provided opportunities for members of the public to access advice and information from a broad range of partner agencies.
- Supported positive engagement between local communities, statutory organisations and emergency services.
- Increased awareness of community safety issues and available support networks.

- Encouraged participation from young people, with students from four local schools attending the Newry event.
- Raised the profile of the PCSP and its role in supporting safer communities across the district.

Feedback from attendees and participating organisations was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the value of bringing multiple services together in one place and the opportunity to build stronger links between communities and support agencies. The success of both events demonstrates the importance of collaborative working in addressing local needs and fostering safer, more informed and connected communities across Newry, Mourne and Down.

OBA for Project

How Much Did We Do?

2 Community Safety & Wellbeing Events organised across the district in 2025/26.

1 Event at Newry Leisure Centre in March 2026

1 Event at Downpatrick Leisure Centre in September 2025

How Well Did We Do?

Over 150 members of the public attended each event

120 pupils attended from 4 local Secondary Schools

63 support agencies attended with information stands across both events

Is Anyone Better Off?

100% of people attending the events are more aware of community safety and wellbeing services.

Images from the Community Safety and Wellbeing Event –









Strategic Priority 2: To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Creating safer communities remains central to the work of Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP. Throughout 2025/26, the Partnership delivered a comprehensive programme of activity focused on addressing a range of community safety issues that impact residents across the district. This work was structured around the following priority themes:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. PCSP Small Grants Programme
3. Drugs and Alcohol Misuse
4. Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
5. Community Safety and Vulnerability
6. Road Safety
7. Fear of Crime, Burglary and Crime Prevention

The initiatives outlined below demonstrate how the PCSP worked in partnership with local communities and statutory agencies to deliver positive outcomes and enhance community safety across Newry, Mourne and Down.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and its impact on local communities remained a key priority for Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP throughout 2025/26. Encouragingly, the district continued to experience a reduction in recorded ASB incidents, with figures decreasing from 3,916 incidents in 2024/25 to 3,804 incidents in 2025/26, representing a reduction of 112 incidents. This sustained downward trend reflects the positive impact of partnership working, targeted interventions and ongoing community engagement across the district.

Despite this progress, ASB continues to represent one of the most frequently reported issues affecting local communities. While incidents can occur across all age groups and locations, ASB can have a particularly significant impact on vulnerable residents, causing fear, distress and a reduced sense of safety. As a result, tackling ASB remains a priority area for both the PCSP and its statutory partners.



PCSP organises a knife crime and 'one punch' talk for students at People 1st Newry, July 25'

PSNI data indicates that the majority of reported ASB incidents continue to be concentrated within the district's larger urban centres, including Newry, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Newcastle. Seasonal patterns also remain evident, particularly within tourist destinations such as Newcastle and Warrenpoint, where increased visitor numbers during peak holiday periods can result in additional community safety challenges.

Recognising the importance of local knowledge and targeted responses, this year our PCSP continued to operate its two dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Groups, covering the former Newry and Mourne, and Down District Council areas. This structure has enabled a more focused and responsive approach to addressing local issues, with Members using their understanding of community concerns to identify emerging trends, develop local solutions and inform the delivery of preventative interventions.

Through these Sub-Groups, the PCSP coordinated and supported a range of diversionary and educational initiatives aimed at reducing opportunities for anti-social behaviour and promoting positive engagement among young people. Activities delivered during the year included pop-up summer engagement programmes and Halloween diversionary events, many of which were delivered in partnership with the Education Authority and other key stakeholders. These interventions provided young people with opportunities to participate in positive activities while promoting important community safety messages.

A significant contribution to the PCSP's approach to tackling ASB continued to be made through the Community Safety Warden Scheme. Operating across the district during peak periods, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, Community Safety Wardens provided a visible and reassuring presence within local communities and town centres. In addition to acting as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour, Wardens offered assistance to members of the public and supported the safe operation of the night-time economy.

The flexible nature of the scheme also enabled resources to be deployed quickly in response to emerging concerns and seasonal pressures, including key periods such as

Halloween and other community events. Furthermore, reducing anti-social behaviour remained a core objective within the PCSP Small Grants Programme, supporting community-led initiatives that sought to prevent ASB, increase community engagement and promote safer neighbourhoods throughout Newry, Mourne and Down.

Through continued partnership working, targeted interventions and community-focused approaches, the PCSP remains committed to reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour and helping to create safer communities across the district.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 21 youth diversionary projects delivered
- Support for 1 Youth Voice Conference
- 1171 young people engaged in the above diversionary projects and initiatives.
- 2912 deployment hours from Community Safety Wardens (CSW)

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants were satisfied with the activity/projects

Is anyone better off?

- 93.75% of participants are more likely to change their behaviour following engagement in the activity/project
- 87.5% of participants are more likely to engage with PSNI following the activities
- 91.25% of participants report increased awareness of risk and ASB behaviours following the activities
- 80% of the community now feels safer as a result of the Community Safety Warden scheme

Best practice example – Summer Safety & Youth Engagement Event – (1) Strangford (2) Castlewellan Forest Park

As part of its ongoing efforts to address anti-social behaviour and provide positive engagement opportunities for young people, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP delivered a series of Summer Safety Engagement Events during 2025/26 for young people. The initiative was designed to educate young people about the risks associated with water-based activities while promoting responsible decision-making and positive relationships with emergency services.

Two events were delivered at Castlewellan Forest Park and the shores of Strangford Lough, bringing together a range of statutory and community partners including the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Education Authority and the YMCA.

Across the two events, 135 young people participated in seven interactive presentations and practical demonstrations, receiving important safety information through engaging and educational activities.

A key focus of the programme was increasing awareness of water safety and the potential dangers associated with open water environments. NIFRS delivered practical demonstrations and presentations covering topics such as cold-water shock, tidal conditions, harbour jumping and emergency response procedures. Young people also learned about the role of specialist water rescue teams and the importance of taking personal responsibility when participating in outdoor and water-based activities.

In addition to water safety, NIFRS delivered sessions on fire safety and wildfire prevention. These presentations highlighted common fire hazards, promoted safe behaviours both at home and outdoors and increased awareness of the significant environmental and community impact that wildfires can have, particularly during the summer months.

PSNI Local Neighbourhood Officers played an active role throughout the events, engaging directly with participants and providing an insight into modern policing. Through informal discussions and interactive activities, officers encouraged young people to ask questions, discuss local issues and gain a better understanding of the consequences of risk-taking behaviour, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. Opportunities to view and try on police equipment proved particularly popular and helped create a positive and approachable environment for engagement.

The initiative delivered a number of positive outcomes, including:

- Engagement with 135 young people through seven educational sessions and demonstrations.
- Increased awareness of water safety, fire safety and wildfire prevention for young people.
- Promotion of responsible decision-making and safer behaviours among young people.
- Positive interaction between young people, police officers and the fire service in an informal setting.
- Enhanced understanding of the role of emergency services and the support they provide within local communities.
- Support for diversionary and preventative approaches to reducing anti-social behaviour.

Feedback from participants and delivery partners indicated that the programme was well received. The combination of practical demonstrations, real-life examples and direct engagement with emergency service personnel created a memorable learning experience that encouraged active participation and reinforced key safety messages.

By providing positive activities and educational opportunities for young people, the programme contributed to the PCSP's wider objective of preventing anti-social behaviour, promoting community safety and building stronger connections between young people and public services across the district.

OBA for Project

How Much Did We Do?

2 events delivered 1 in Strangford and 1 in Castlewellan Forest Park (areas previously identified as hot spots for ASB)

135 Young people in attendance across both events

How Well Did We Do?

7 presentations delivered to young people

100% of 135 young people say they are now more aware of the dangers of engaging in ASB around water.

100% of the 135 young people reported greater knowledge of the PSNI personnel working in their area.

Is Anyone Better Off?

100% of the 135 young people reported a greater understanding of the consequences of engaging in anti-social activities.

Images from the Water Safety and Youth Engagement Events –





PCSP Small Grants

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP remains committed to supporting local communities to play an active role in addressing community safety concerns and improving the areas in which they live. Recognising the valuable contribution made by community and voluntary organisations, the PCSP continued to invest in grassroots initiatives that promote safer communities, strengthen local partnerships and encourage positive engagement with statutory agencies.

During 2025/26, our PCSP delivered its annual Small Grants Programme, providing funding opportunities for community groups to develop and deliver local projects that responded to identified policing and community safety needs. The programme also supported groups to build and strengthen relationships with the PSNI and other statutory and voluntary sector partners, fostering collaborative approaches to tackling local issues.

Funding was made available under the following priority themes:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Community Safety, Support and Vulnerability
- Confidence in Policing

Eligible community and voluntary organisations were able to apply for grants ranging from £500 to £2,000 to support the delivery of projects, events and initiatives that aligned with these priorities. The programme enabled local groups to deliver targeted interventions within their communities, helping to raise awareness of community safety issues, promote positive behaviours and support stronger, safer neighbourhoods across the district.

The Small Grants Programme continues to be an important mechanism through which the PCSP empowers local communities, encourages innovation and supports community-led solutions to policing and community safety challenges.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 50 applications received
- 42 grants successfully awarded

How well did we do it?

- 95% of applicants report feeling satisfied with the application process

Is anyone better off?

- 39 projects successfully completed
- 98% of applicants reporting they believe the community is a safer place as a result of their project

Alcohol, drug and substance abuse awareness

Addressing the impact of drugs and alcohol on local communities remained a key priority for Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP throughout 2025/26. Substance misuse continues to present significant challenges for individuals, families and communities across the district and can contribute to a range of associated issues, including crime, anti-social behaviour, vulnerability and public disorder. These issues can have a considerable impact on how safe people feel within their local communities.

While progress has been made in a number of areas, PSNI statistics indicate that recorded drug offences increased during the year, rising from 546 offences in 2024/25 to 682 offences in 2025/26, an increase of 136 offences. Although drug-related crime is recorded across all parts of the district, the highest concentrations continue to be within the Newry and Downpatrick areas. These figures reinforce the need for continued partnership working, education and targeted interventions to address the causes and consequences of drug misuse.

Throughout the year, the PCSP worked closely with statutory, community and voluntary sector partners to deliver a range of preventative and educational initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse. A particular focus remained on engaging with young people through schools and youth organisations, recognising the importance of early intervention in reducing harm and promoting informed decision-making.



PCSP facilitates a drug awareness talk by Theresa Burke at The High School Ballynahinch, March 26'

As part of this programme of work, the PCSP supported a number of awareness-raising sessions featuring speakers with lived experience, including Theresa Burke, whose personal testimony provided a powerful insight into the realities and long-term consequences of substance misuse. These sessions encouraged meaningful discussion and helped young people to better understand the risks associated with drug use.

The PCSP continued to build on its successful partnership with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation (DSM Foundation), supporting the delivery of an educational theatre production across six post-primary schools in the district. Based on the powerful true story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs, who tragically lost his life following drug use, the production encouraged students to consider the consequences of risk-taking behaviour and the importance of making safe, positive and informed choices.

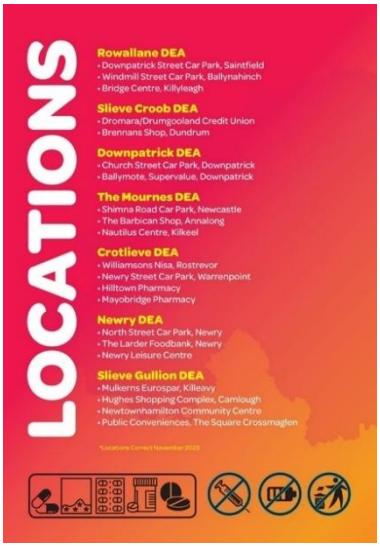
The promotion and continued development of the RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) Programme also remained a significant focus during the year. The scheme now includes 20 RAPID disposal bins located across the district, offering residents a safe, anonymous and convenient way to dispose of unwanted prescription medication and illegal drugs. This helps reduce opportunities for misuse, accidental ingestion and environmental harm.

Through education, prevention and strong partnership working, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP continues to support initiatives that reduce the harms associated with drug and alcohol misuse, increase public awareness and contribute to safer communities across the district.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 20 RAPID bins
- 13 drug awareness events reaching 2038 participants
- 5 partners involved (PCSP / PSNI / Start360 / Ascert / EA)
- Over 10 schools involved
- 6 Drug Awareness Plays delivered to 765 young people across 6 post-primary schools
- 2 community wellbeing events delivered and attended by 404 participants
- Over 800 RAPID promotion leaflets distributed
- Staff attendance at SEDACT and SDACT Meetings



RAPID Promotional Leaflet created by NMD PCSP which includes the locations of RAPID Bins across the NMD District

How well did we do it?

- 100% of partners satisfied with RAPID bin initiative

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants reported greater awareness of the impact of drug/substance misuse
- 100% of participants reported greater awareness of how to dispose of prescription medicines

Best practice example – Drug Awareness Plays delivered by the DSM Foundation across six local secondary schools

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP facilitated the delivery of the DSM Foundation's drug awareness play, *I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die*, in six post-primary schools across the district. The production was delivered in St Marks High School Warrenpoint, Kilkeel High School, Saintfield High School, St Malachys High School Castlewellan, St Josephs High School Crossmaglen, and St Marys High School Newry.

The play was followed by an interactive workshop with pupils, providing an opportunity to explore the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse, the impact of overdose, and practical ways in which harm can be prevented. Through a powerful real-life inspired narrative, students were encouraged to reflect on peer pressure, decision-making and the wider consequences of substance misuse for individuals, families and communities.

- Increased awareness among post-primary pupils of the effects and consequences of alcohol, drug and substance misuse.

- Improved young people's understanding of how to respond appropriately in a drug or alcohol-related emergency.
- Strengthened pupils' awareness of drug-related risks and the importance of making safe, informed choices.
- Provided students with a deeper understanding of the dangers and consequences of drug use through an engaging, real-life inspired story.
- Enhanced knowledge of prevention strategies and practical steps to reduce harm.
- Supported students to identify ways to avoid drug-related situations and make safer decisions.
- Encouraged pupils to think critically about peer pressure, personal responsibility and the wider impact of drug use.

OBA for Project

How Much Did We Do?

6 local secondary schools received the DSM Drug Awareness Play.

How Well Did We Do?

765 pupils educated through provision of these plays.

Relationships built with 6 local secondary schools.

100% of 675 pupils in attendance reporting satisfaction with the session.

Is Anyone Better Off?

87.5% of 765 participants with changed behaviours as a result of the sessions

100% of 765 participants with increased knowledge and awareness as a result of the sessions.

Images from the delivery of the DSM Drug Awareness Play -









Best practice example – Launch of Drug Awareness Video Titled "Impacts of Cocaine: The Human Cost."

As part of our work to reduce substance-related harm and increase public awareness of the impact of drug misuse, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP partnered with local addiction support charity Davina's Ark to develop and launch the powerful awareness film, "Impacts of Cocaine - The Human Cost." The film premiered in Newry on 30 March 2026 and formed part of a wider programme of work aimed at addressing the growing challenges associated with cocaine use across our communities.

The project was developed to place people at the centre of the conversation around addiction, highlighting the often-hidden consequences of cocaine use on individuals, families and communities. By sharing real experiences and challenging the misconception that cocaine use is a victimless activity, the film sought to promote greater understanding of the far-reaching social, emotional and community impacts associated with drug misuse.

The launch event, which was part funded by the Department of Justice Assets Recovery Community Scheme, brought together representatives from statutory agencies including the PSNI, community organisations, elected representatives and local stakeholders, demonstrating a strong partnership approach to tackling substance misuse. The film was hosted by former Armagh GAA footballer and mental health advocate Oisín McConville and included a panel discussion featuring Deputy Chief Constable Ryan Henderson, Newry and Armagh MP Daire Hughes, Ciaran Mackin and Gavin Booth (Davina's Ark Board members).



Image from the launch event in Canal Court Hotel Newry, March 26'

Impact and Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the human cost of cocaine use and addiction among local communities.
- Encouraged open conversations about addiction, reducing stigma and supporting earlier intervention.
- Highlighted the availability of local support and recovery services for individuals and families affected by substance misuse.
- Strengthened partnership working between the PCSP, addiction services, community organisations and statutory agencies.
- Launched an impactful educational resource that can continue to be used in awareness raising, prevention and community engagement activities.
- Reinforced key community safety messages by highlighting the links between substance misuse, community harm, family breakdown and vulnerability.

This initiative demonstrates effective practice in community safety engagement, using lived experience and partnership working to address a significant drugs and alcohol related issue. By focusing on the real-life impact of addiction, the project has helped to raise awareness, challenge perceptions and encourage those affected by substance misuse to seek support.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

PSNI information for 2025/26 shows that domestic abuse-related crimes continue to be recorded across all District Electoral Areas within Newry, Mourne and Down. Reported levels remain comparatively lower in the Slieve Gullion DEA, particularly in the Crossmaglen area. Females aged 18 and over continue to represent the largest proportion of victims; however, domestic abuse affects people of all genders and victim rates for both males and females have shown an overall upward trend over recent years. NMD PCSP therefore remains committed to supporting awareness-raising activity that highlights the impact of domestic abuse and promotes support pathways for all victims.



During 2025/26, the PCSP continued to participate in both the South Eastern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership (SEDSVP) and the Southern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership (SDSVP). These forums remain important mechanisms for sharing information, identifying emerging issues and strengthening multi-agency responses across the district. The PCSP also maintained close working relationships with Women's Aid Armagh Down and Women's Aid Belfast and Lisburn, supporting initiatives that improve access to advice, advocacy and practical assistance for those affected by domestic abuse. This included continued support for One Stop Shop provision in Newry and Downpatrick, as well as a programme providing support for children in local schools who have

been identified via the school's designated safeguarding teacher as requiring support following an Operation Encompass referral.

In 2025/26, the PCSP also supported local delivery linked to The Executive Office's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) agenda, including a conference in March 2026, and the Local Change Fund which provided dedicated funding to councils to support community-led prevention activity. Within Newry, Mourne and Down, this funding helped strengthen local awareness, promote safe and respectful relationships and support grassroots organisations to deliver initiatives aimed at challenging the attitudes, behaviours and cultures that contribute to violence against women and girls. This work complemented the PCSP's wider domestic abuse and sexual violence priorities by reinforcing prevention, education and early intervention at community level.

Available PSNI statistics indicate that domestic abuse incidents in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area increased by 229 incidents, from 2,578 recorded in 2024/25 to 2,807 recorded in 2025/26. This increase highlights the continued and significant impact of domestic abuse within local communities and reinforces the need for sustained partnership working, early intervention and awareness-raising activity. NMD PCSP will continue to work with partners to improve access to support, promote available services and help ensure that victims know where to seek advice, protection and assistance.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 5 domestic violence awareness programmes delivered
- 1 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Conference Supported
- 7 SADSVP/SEDSVP partnership meetings attended
- Support for One Stop Shop Initiatives in Newry, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen (in partnership with Women's Aid).
- 631 participants involved across all programmes and conferences supported/delivered

How well did we do it?

- 98.75% of participants were satisfied with the event
- 90% with increased confidence in PSNI following activities / events

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants with a better understanding of services available to support people affected by domestic abuse
- 87.5% of participants with a better understanding of acceptable behaviour in relationships

Best practice example –PCSP Support for Domestic & Sexual Violence One Stop Shop initiative in Newry, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP continued to work in partnership with Women's Aid Armagh Down and Women's Aid Belfast & Lisburn to support the delivery and promotion of the One Stop Shop initiative. Building on the success of the existing services in Newry and Downpatrick, the initiative was further expanded this year with the introduction of a new One Stop Shop in Crossmaglen, improving accessibility to support services for women living in rural communities across the district.



Flyer for One Stop Shop, Downpatrick

The One Stop Shop provides a free, confidential monthly drop-in service for women affected by domestic abuse, offering immediate access to a range of specialist support services in a safe and discreet environment. Through a single point of contact, attendees can receive advice and assistance from:

- Women's Aid
- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Community Advice NI
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- A local solicitor providing legal advice

The continued development of the initiative, including the establishment of the Crossmaglen location, has delivered a number of positive outcomes across the district:

- Improved access to support services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse, helping them feel safer and more supported within their local communities.
- Increased availability of discreet, locally accessible support, particularly for those living in rural areas who may face additional barriers to seeking help.
- Greater awareness of legal remedies and the Perpetrator Disclosure Scheme, helping to hold perpetrators accountable and empowering women to make informed decisions about their safety.
- Enhanced access to Women's Aid floating support services and other specialist interventions.
- Free legal advice enabling women to better understand their rights and options while placing their wellbeing and safety at the centre of decision-making.
- Improved access to housing, welfare and financial advice through the co-location of services, making vital information and support easier to obtain.

The One Stop Shop model continues to demonstrate the benefits of partnership working, providing a coordinated, victim-centred approach that enables individuals

affected by domestic abuse to access multiple services in one location and at one time.

OBA Project Overview

How Much Did We Do?

Re-occurring monthly One Stop Shop events in both Newry and Downpatrick

New One Stop Shop in Crossmaglen

Over 500 flyers were created to promote the initiative and distributed to relevant agencies and community groups.

How Well Did We Do?

100% of women attending satisfied with the support and help available at the One Stop Shop initiative

Is Anyone Better Off?

100% of women attending the One Stop Shop initiative were supported and provided with the information they required.

100% of women attending the One Stop Shop initiative reported better knowledge and understanding of the help and support available to them as victims of domestic abuse.

Community Safety and Vulnerability

Supporting vulnerable people remains a key priority for Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP. Throughout 2025/26, we delivered a comprehensive programme of community safety initiatives aimed at protecting those most at risk of harm, including older people, adults at risk, minority ethnic communities, newcomers, individuals with disabilities, those experiencing poor mental health and people facing social isolation. This work complements our ongoing contribution to the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Support Partnership and wider multi-agency networks committed to improving community wellbeing.



PCSP and PSNI CPO deliver a Crime Prevention Talk to Knit and Natter Group Newry, February 26'

With fraud and cyber-crime continuing to evolve, the PCSP worked closely with the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer and community partners to raise awareness of scams, financial exploitation and online safety. A programme of community-based information sessions was delivered across the district, providing residents with practical advice on recognising scams, safeguarding personal information and reporting suspicious activity.

Building on the success of previous years, the PCSP partnered with Danske Bank and the PSNI to deliver another Shop Safe Week, engaging directly with members of the public through information stands and awareness events within local bank branches. These sessions provided accessible advice on safe online shopping, banking security and fraud prevention, helping to strengthen community resilience and reduce vulnerability to emerging scam trends. This work was further enhanced through the development of a dedicated scam awareness video, funded through the PCSP and the Department of Justice Assets Recovery Community Scheme, extending the reach of key crime prevention messages to a wider audience across the district.

Recognising the importance of ensuring community safety information is accessible to all, the PCSP continued to expand its engagement with people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those experiencing mental health challenges. Tailored community safety programmes and awareness sessions were delivered to organisations including the Clanrye Group, Positive Futures Newry and Bolster Community. These sessions were designed to meet the specific needs of participants and covered topics such as personal safety, crime prevention, online safety and reporting concerns. In addition, the PCSP attended a number of 'Beat the Blues' and Older Persons events throughout the district, providing crime prevention advice, promoting available support services and engaging directly with residents on issues affecting their safety and wellbeing.



PSNI and PCSP visit Positive Futures Group in Newry for a crime prevention talk February 26'

Partnership working remains central to the success of this thematic area. During the year, the PCSP continued to work closely with Newry, Mourne and Down Ethnic Minority Centre, the district's Newcomer Stakeholder Forums and a range of statutory and community organisations to support newcomer and minority ethnic communities. This collaborative approach helps ensure that individuals and families are aware of available services, understand their rights and responsibilities and feel safe, welcomed and connected within their local communities.

Addressing hate crime also remains an important element of our work to protect vulnerable people and promote good relations. During 2025/26, the PCSP supported a range of awareness-raising and preventative initiatives aimed at challenging prejudice, encouraging reporting and increasing understanding of the impact of hate crime including a Muslim Family Connect Day and Newry Mela Festival. Working in partnership with Victim Support NI, the PCSP delivered targeted Hate Crime Awareness workshops to young people across a number of post-primary schools and educational settings throughout the district. These sessions explored issues including racism, sectarianism, homophobia, disability hate crime and online hate, helping young people to better understand the consequences of discriminatory behaviour and the importance of creating respectful, inclusive communities.



PCSP attends Newry Mela 2025

Through a combination of education, partnership working, crime prevention initiatives and targeted engagement, the PCSP has continued to strengthen support for vulnerable people across the district. This work has helped to increase awareness, improve resilience, enhance personal safety and contribute to the development of safer, more inclusive communities where all residents feel valued, supported and protected.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 27 programmes delivered
- 2255 people taking part
- 7 different partners involved in delivering events
- 2 Community Support Partnership Meetings

How well did we do it?

- 96.25% of participants report feeling satisfied with the event and activities

Is anyone better off?

- 87.5% of programme participants report feeling safer as a result of the events
- 83.75% of participants in programmes report increased confidence in PSNI following the events
- 81.25% of participants report being more likely to engage with PSNI following the events
- 88.75% of participants report being more likely to report crime following the events

Best practice example – Small Worlds Café – Tackling Prejudice and Preventing Hate Crime

As part of our work to prevent hate crime and build safer, more inclusive communities, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP supported the delivery of two Small Worlds Café events for young people at Carnbane Youth Resource Centre, Newry with our Councils Good Relations Team during Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 2025).

The initiative was designed to challenge stereotypes, address misinformation and reduce the attitudes and behaviour that can contribute to hate incidents and hate crime. Through a facilitated café-style format, participants engaged directly with individuals from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including people with lived experience as refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

The workshops provided a safe and structured environment where young people could ask questions, hear personal stories and gain a greater understanding of the experiences, challenges and contributions of newcomer communities. By encouraging honest conversations and meaningful interaction, the project helped participants move beyond assumptions and develop empathy and respect for people from different backgrounds.

Impact and outcomes

- Increased understanding of the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living within local communities.
- Challenged myths, stereotypes and misconceptions that can contribute to prejudice, discrimination and hate incidents.
- Promoted positive attitudes towards diversity, inclusion and cultural difference among young people.
- Encouraged participants to reflect on the impact of racism, intolerance and discriminatory behaviour.
- Increased awareness of the personal and community consequences of hate crime.
- Supported the development of respectful relationships between young people and people from different cultural backgrounds.
- Contributed to wider efforts to build community cohesion and create safer, more welcoming communities for all residents.

By creating this opportunity for dialogue, understanding and relationship-building, the initiative addressed some of the root causes of hate crime, including fear, misinformation and a lack of understanding of different cultures and communities. Importantly, it engaged young people at an early stage, helping to shape positive attitudes and behaviour that can contribute to the long-term reduction of hate crime and the promotion of good relations across the district.

This project represents an effective example of preventative community safety work, demonstrating how education, lived experience and positive engagement can be

used to challenge prejudice, improve community relations and reduce the risk of hate crime within our communities.

Images from Small Worlds Café with EA Youth Group in Newry –





Road Safety

Road safety continues to be a significant community safety concern across the Newry, Mourne and Down District, with the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our roads remaining unacceptably high. Regrettably, during 2025/26 PSNI statistics show there were 7 road fatalities within the district, representing an increase of one fatality compared to the previous year.

Recognising the ongoing need to promote safer road user behaviours, NMD PCSP has continued to invest in a range of road safety awareness initiatives. These include direct engagement with young people, educational programmes, and ongoing support for Road Safe NI Newry, Mourne and Down Committee. Through these initiatives, the Partnership aims to increase awareness of road safety issues and encourage positive attitudes towards road use across all age groups.

Across the district, 28 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) remain in operation. Data collected from these devices is downloaded every six weeks and shared with PSNI in advance of PCSP meetings to help inform local road safety and speeding enforcement activity. During 2025/26, PCSP further strengthened this approach by providing each PSNI Neighbourhood Team with a mobile SID, enabling officers to work directly with local communities and deploy the devices in areas where speeding concerns have been identified. The continued use of SIDs has again contributed to a reduction in speeding and speed limit violations in the vicinity of the signs.

The Partnership remains committed to working collaboratively with key partners, including PSNI and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), to deliver impactful road safety initiatives. Our approach, including the "Your Choice" road safety presentation, continues to focus on education, awareness raising, engagement with young people, and partnership working. During the year, PCSP also facilitated the Cool FM Road Safe Roadshow in a local secondary school and supported the delivery of a number of road safety presentations to schools and

youth organisations. These sessions included NIFRS crash scene cut-out demonstrations as part of the "Your Choice" presentation, providing powerful and memorable learning experiences for young people.



PCSP also continued to distribute its popular 'Kiddie Cut-Out No Parking' signs to primary schools throughout the district. These signs offer an effective way for PCSP and PSNI to engage with children on road safety issues while also helping schools address parking and traffic concerns during drop-off and collection times. The initiative continues to support safer school environments and promote responsible driving behaviour around school premises.

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP reintroduced the Kids Court Road Safety Initiative in partnership with the PSNI to St Michael's Primary School, Newtownhamilton. The initiative engaged pupils in addressing speeding concerns outside their schools by giving motorists who were detected speeding a choice: accept a fixed penalty notice or appear before a panel of local primary school children in a mock courtroom setting. The children had the opportunity to question drivers about their actions and explain the impact speeding can have on the safety of pupils, families and the wider community. This unique educational approach proved highly effective in raising awareness of road safety, encouraging safer driving behaviours, and empowering young people to play an active role in promoting road safety within their communities.



OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 28 Speed Indicator Devices (SID) provided across Newry, Mourne and Down
- 5 Mobile Speed Indicator Devices provided to 5 PSNI Neighbourhood Teams
- 8 "Your Choice" road safety presentations delivered
- 2 Cool FM Road Safe Roadshows facilitated
- 2 EmpowerHer Auto Night Sessions delivered
- 3 Young Drivers Programmes in partnership with DEA Officers
- Kiddie Cut Out 'No Parking,' signs delivered to 2 local primary schools
- Over 1000 hi-vis vests provided to members of the public.

How well did we do it?

- A total of 23 events focused on Road Safety with 1933 people attending

- 100% of participants satisfied with road safety events delivered
- 100% of 12 schools / youth groups involved in road safety demonstrations report satisfaction with the event

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants in road safety programmes with increased knowledge of road safety
- 83% of 28 SIDs reporting vehicles reducing their speed
- 90% of participants report being more likely to engage with the PSNI following road safety events

Best practice example – EmpowerHer Auto Nights

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP worked in partnership with Road Safe NI and the Newry and Slieve Gullion DEA Forums to deliver a series of EmpowerHER Auto Nights across the district. The initiative was designed to increase women's confidence, knowledge and personal safety when using and maintaining their vehicles.

Free, hands-on sessions were delivered at community venues across both urban and rural locations, in Lissummon and Newry, ensuring accessibility for women who may face barriers to accessing services and training. The programme covered daily vehicle safety checks, basic maintenance, dashboard warning lights, road safety awareness and guidance on dealing safely with vehicle breakdowns. PSNI Neighbourhood Officers also provided practical personal safety advice and spoke about legal thresholds associated with driving, as well as what to do if participants were involved in a road traffic collision.

The initiative demonstrated the value of partnership working to address a common community need. Both events were fully booked, highlighting significant demand for practical, confidence-building road safety opportunities tailored specifically for women. Participants reported increased knowledge, greater confidence in managing vehicle-related issues and an improved understanding of road safety responsibilities.

A key strength of the programme was its delivery in a supportive and welcoming environment, enabling participants to ask questions, develop new skills and engage with partner agencies in an informal setting. By taking the programme directly into local communities, particularly rural areas where access to services can be more limited, the project promoted inclusion and ensured wider participation. Due to demand, there are currently plans to roll this initiative out further during the 2026/27 Financial Year.

Impact and Outcomes

- Increased women's confidence and independence in relation to vehicle safety and maintenance.

- Women in attendance now have increased awareness of road safety issues and are more likely to have changed behaviours as a result of the event.
- Strengthened engagement between local communities and partner agencies.
- Successfully reached women in both urban and rural communities through accessible, community-based delivery.
- Demonstrated effective partnership working to address identified community safety needs.
- Passenger safety education was provided making it relevant even to those unable to drive.
- Our delivery of this within local community centres has strengthened community partnerships, created a positive public perception of our work and provided a foundation for future programmes.

OBA for Project

How Much Did We Do?

2 EmpowerHer Auto Nights were delivered in March 2026 at Lissummon GAA Club and Threeways Community Centre, Newry.

How Well Did We Do?

Both sessions were fully booked, demonstrating strong community demand and effective promotion of the initiative.

Training was delivered in accessible community venues across the district, including rural locations where access to services can be more limited.

Participants were supported in a welcoming, informal environment that encouraged engagement, learning and confidence-building, with the PSNI in attendance.

Is Anyone Better Off?

100% of participants with increased knowledge of road safety

100% of participants that said the session will impact their choices on the roads

100% of participants reported increased confidence in carrying out basic vehicle safety checks and understanding vehicle warning systems.

100% of participants developed greater awareness of personal safety risks and the actions they can take to keep themselves safe while travelling.

Images from the EmpowerHer Auto Nights –





Fear of Crime, Burglary and Crime Prevention

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP continued to prioritise initiatives aimed at reducing burglary, theft and fear of crime across the district. While crime data continues to indicate a long-term reduction in burglary, robbery and theft offences, engagement with residents shows that concerns about crime and personal safety remain significant issues for many communities. Throughout the year, PCSP worked closely with the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer and PSNI Neighbourhood Teams to deliver crime prevention and community safety advice, helping residents to better protect themselves, their families and their property.

The Home Secure Scheme remained an important part of our work to reduce the fear of crime and provide support for vulnerable residents. The scheme provides practical home security measures to individuals who are at increased risk of crime, have experienced crime directly or indirectly, or live in areas affected by crime concerns. Demand for the service remained strong throughout the year, reflecting both the ongoing need for preventative support and the confidence residents place in the scheme. Feedback from recipients continued to demonstrate the positive impact the initiative has on reducing vulnerability and increasing feelings of safety within the home.

Our Social Alarm Scheme also continued to provide vital support to individuals identified by PSNI as being at heightened risk of victimisation or harm. The scheme supports a range of vulnerable residents, including those affected by domestic abuse, hate crime and other circumstances that can increase fear and isolation. By providing reassurance and access to assistance when required, the scheme helps participants feel safer, more secure and better supported within their communities.

Community participation remained central to NMD PCSP's approach to crime prevention through its continued support for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. During 2025/26, NMD PCSP supported 54 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the district, working closely with 60 volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators through regular communication and networking opportunities. Collectively, these schemes provided a valuable community safety network covering 2,576 households

throughout the Newry, Mourne and Down district. The continued commitment of volunteers has helped strengthen community resilience, improve information sharing and encourage residents to play an active role in keeping their community safe.



Working in partnership with PSNI, NMD PCSP also delivered a range of practical crime prevention initiatives, including property marking programmes for bicycles, trailers and marine equipment. These interventions help deter theft, improve opportunities for property recovery and encourage residents to take proactive measures to protect their belongings.

NMD PCSP remains committed to developing and delivering targeted interventions that support victims of crime, address vulnerability and reduce the fear of crime. Through partnership working, preventative initiatives and community engagement, PCSP continues to help residents feel safer in their homes, neighbourhoods and wider communities.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?



- 721 items of home security equipment provided under the Home Secure Scheme in 2025/26
- 250 referrals made to Home Secure Scheme in 2025/26
- 33 referrals made to Social Alarm Scheme in 2025/26
- 34 Crime Prevention Events delivered with 1408 people in attendance
- 54 items marked at property marking events including bikes and trailers

How well did we do it?

- 100% of beneficiaries report satisfaction with the Home Secure Scheme
- 100% of beneficiaries report satisfaction with the Social Alarm Scheme
- 97.5% of 1408 participants satisfied with crime prevention activities

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of beneficiaries of the Home Secure and Social Alarm Scheme feel safer as a result of engaging with the service
- 93.75% of 1408 participants attending crime prevention events reporting improved knowledge of crime prevention awareness
- 91.25% of 1408 participants feeling safer as a result of each activity

- 87.5% of participants are more likely to report crime following crime prevention events

Best practice example – Crime Prevention Talks

During 2025/26, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP worked in partnership with both the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer and PSNI Neighbourhood Teams to deliver a series of personal safety awareness sessions to a range of community and voluntary organisations across the district. These sessions were designed to increase awareness of personal safety issues and provide participants with practical advice to help keep themselves safe at home, online and within their local communities.

The sessions covered a range of topics including home security, personal safety when out in public, scam awareness, online safety and crime reporting. Participants also had the opportunity to learn more about the role of the PSNI in keeping communities safe and the various ways in which concerns and incidents can be reported. Interactive question-and-answer sessions encouraged open dialogue, allowing participants to raise concerns and receive advice tailored to their circumstances.

PCSP attended these events to engage directly with participants, provide information on available community safety initiatives and distribute safety merchandise and resource packs to support learning beyond the sessions. We also used these talks to provide information about our Home Secure Scheme, and to promote other areas of PCSP work, such as road safety initiatives and drugs and alcohol awareness sessions we provide for groups.

Impact and Outcomes

As a result of these sessions:

- Participants increased their understanding of personal safety, including home security, public safety, scam awareness and internet safety.
- Vulnerable and harder-to-reach groups were provided with accessible and relevant safety information tailored to their needs.
- Participants gained a greater understanding of the role of the PSNI and how to access support or report concerns.
- Direct engagement with PSNI officers helped build trust and confidence in policing and community safety services.
- Opportunities for open discussion enabled participants to ask questions, address concerns and increase their awareness of local safety issues.
- The provision of safety materials and information packs equipped participants with practical tools and resources to support their personal safety.
- The programme strengthened partnership working between PCSP, PSNI and a range of community and voluntary organisations across the district.
- New relationships were established with local groups, creating opportunities for future engagement, support and collaborative community safety initiatives.

- Feedback received from participating groups demonstrated the value of these sessions in increasing knowledge, confidence and awareness of personal safety issues.

OBA for Project

How Much Did We Do?

34 Crime Prevention Talks Delivered

How Well Did We Do?

1408 people in attendance at Crime Prevention Talks

97.5% of participants feeling satisfied with crime prevention activities

Is Anyone Better Off?

95% of participants reporting improved knowledge of crime prevention techniques

91.25% of participants feeling safer as a result of crime prevention talks

85% of participants more likely to report crime following events / activities

As a result of attending PCSP and PSNI crime prevention sessions, participants increased their knowledge of personal safety, scams and online safety, felt more confident in accessing support from statutory agencies, and were better equipped to take practical steps to keep themselves safe.

Images from Crime Prevention Talks delivered throughout the district -





Strategic Priority 3: To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

Supporting effective engagement between local communities and the Police Service of Northern Ireland remained an important area of focus for Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP throughout 2025/26. Through ongoing consultation, community engagement and feedback from Members, it is clear that residents value opportunities to engage

directly with local police officers, discuss issues affecting their areas and contribute to conversations around community safety.

During the year, the PCSP worked closely with the PSNI to create and support opportunities for meaningful public engagement. A particular success was the delivery of a series of Community Safety Drop-In Clinics across the District. These sessions provided accessible and informal settings where residents could meet with police officers and PCSP Staff to raise concerns, seek advice and discuss issues impacting their local communities. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many welcoming the opportunity to have direct conversations with policing representatives and receive updates on local issues.



PCSP and PSNI visit parents and children at Home Start Newry March 26'

The PCSP/PSNI Mobile Engagement Unit also continued to play an important role in community outreach activities, supporting attendance at local events, awareness campaigns and engagement initiatives. By bringing policing services directly into communities, the Mobile Engagement Unit helped increase accessibility and provided additional opportunities for residents to interact with officers in a positive and constructive environment.



Throughout 2025/26, both Members and community representatives acknowledged the significant efforts being made by local policing teams despite ongoing pressures on police resources. Demand on PSNI services continues to increase, while resource constraints remain a challenge across Northern Ireland. These pressures can impact the ability to maintain a consistent visible presence in all areas, particularly within rural communities across the district. Nevertheless, local officers have continued to work collaboratively with the PCSP, statutory partners and community organisations to ensure that community concerns are heard and addressed wherever possible.

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 6 Policing Committee meetings held
- 90 engagement activities involving PSNI and local communities and 7965 participants
- 1 3-day PSNI work experience programme for young people

How well did we do it?

- 100% of PCSP Members reporting satisfaction with Policing Committee meetings
- 87.5% of attendees at engagement events report satisfaction

Is anyone better off?

- 78.75% of attendees reported increased confidence in policing following engagement events
- 80% of participants were more likely to engage positively with the police following engagement events

Best practice example – Pizza with the Peelers

As part of our commitment to improving confidence in policing and strengthening relationships between young people and the PSNI, Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP supported the delivery of Pizza with the Peelers events across the district during 2025/26.

Four events were delivered during the year, engaging a total of 177 young people from across Newry, Mourne and Down. The initiative provided a relaxed and informal environment where young people could meet directly with local police officers, share their views and discuss issues affecting them and their communities.



Using a conversational format over a shared meal, the sessions encouraged open and honest dialogue on a range of topics including e-scooter safety, anti-social behaviour, personal safety, drug and alcohol awareness, online safety and other emerging issues identified by participants. Young people were given the opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns and gain a better understanding of the role of policing within their communities.

The events were particularly valuable in breaking down barriers between young people and the police, creating positive interactions that may not otherwise have taken place. Officers were able to hear directly about the experiences and concerns of young people, while participants gained insight into policing challenges and the support available to them.

Key outcomes of the initiative included:

- PSNI and PCSP engaged with 177 young people across four events.
- Creation of positive and meaningful interactions between young people and local neighbourhood police officers.
- Increased awareness of community safety issues, including anti-social behaviour, online safety and road safety.
- Improved understanding of the role of the PSNI
- Opportunities for young people to influence discussions around community safety and policing priorities.

- Promotion of trust, mutual respect and stronger relationships between young people and the police.

Feedback from participants and officers indicated strong support for the informal engagement model, with many highlighting the informal nature of the event as a key factor in encouraging open conversation and genuine engagement. The success of Pizza with the Peelers demonstrates the value of early intervention and preventative engagement approaches in building confidence in policing and developing positive relationships with young people across Newry, Mourne and Down.

OBA for Project

<u>How Much Did We Do?</u>

4 Pizza with the Peelers Events across 4 different Youth Settings

<u>How Well Did We Do?</u>

Engagement with 177 young people

95% of those in attendance were satisfied with the event.

<u>Is Anyone Better Off?</u>

95% of 177 attendees report increased confidence in policing following this local engagement event.

98% of 177 attendees report being more likely to engage with PSNI following this event.





Appendices

Appendix 1 - PCSP Member Meeting Attendance

	Policing Committee 6 meetings held in 2025/26	PCSP Meeting 6 meetings held in 2025/26
Political Members		
Cllr Henry Reilly	6	6
Cllr Kate Murphy	3	3
Cllr Aidan Mathers	6	6
Cllr Declan Murphy	4	4
Cllr Oonagh Hanlon	5	5
Cllr Conor Galbraith	1	1
Cllr Doire Finn	2	2
Cllr Terry Andrews	6	6
Cllr Jill Truesdale	5	5
Cllr David Taylor	5	5
Independent Members – Appointed June 2024 therefore only able to attend 5 PCSP and Policing Committee Meetings		
Michelle Osborne	3	3
Colleen McCreesh	2	2
William Slater	5	5
Louise Kennedy	3	3
Niall Lawlor (resigned December 2025)	4	4
Martina Byrne (resigned October 2025)	1	1
David Vint	1	1
Tara Campbell (resigned December 2025)	1	1
Anne Sheridan	2	2
Andrew Kernaghan (appointed November 2025)	2	2
Roy Edwards (appointed January 2025)	1	1
Andrea Barr (Appointed January 2025)	1	1
Statutory Organisations		
PSNI	6	6
Youth Justice Agency	6	6
Education Authority	6	6
NI Housing Executive	3	3
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1
NI Fire and Rescue Service	3	3
Probation Board	3	3

Appendix 2 - Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP 2025/2026 Expenditure

Budget Line	***Allocated amount***	***Amount spent***
Administration	£81,580.00	£81,580.00
Operational	£326,410.00	£326,410.00
Meeting Expenses	£12,500.00	£7,758.26
Total Budget (Admin, Operational and Meeting Expenses)	**£420,490.00**	**£415,748.26**

Action Plan theme	**Operational funding breakdown**
Consultation and Engagement	£4,030.00
Raise Awareness of PCSP	£4,030.00
ASB Activities and Youth Engagement	£32,120.00
Community Safety Wardens	£53,000.00
PCSP Small Grants	£79,991.77
Drugs and Alcohol Abuse	£15,060.00
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	£15,060.00
Community Safety and Vulnerability	£14,060.00
Road Safety	£23,998.23
Fear of Crime	£55,000.00
Burglary and Crime Prevention	£20,060.00
Community Confidence in policing	£10,000.00
Total	**£326,410.00**

Appendix 3 - Contact Details

Email: ***pcsp@nmandd.org***

Facebook –
https://www.facebook.com/newrymourneanddownpcsp

Newry, Mourne and Down

Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

McGrath Centre

1 Margaret Street, Newry

Co. Down, BT34 1DF

Tel: 0330 137 4038

Newry, Mourne and Down

Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

Downshire Civic Centre

Ardglass Road

Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ

Tel: 0330 137 4038