



**STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028**  
**&**  
**ACTION PLAN 2025-2026**

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## Executive Summary

The Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Strategy for 2025-2028 aims to improve community safety, build awareness of the PCSP and its activities and engage with local communities in meaningful ways. This strategy has been developed with input from extensive consultations, surveys, crime data, socio economic data, and a “Turning the Curve” exercise, which involved PCSP members. The strategy defines clear strategic priorities to ensure that the partnership’s work effectively addresses the needs of the community while responding to emerging issues.



Figure 1: PCSP Winter Running for Women

**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**

The first strategic priority emphasises the importance of effective delivery in response to local needs and increasing the visibility of the PCSP. Community engagement, consultation, and communication are key components to ensure the partnership is working in collaboration with local statutory partners, agencies, businesses, and the community sector. The strategy outlines several initiatives to ensure ongoing two-way engagement, with a focus on problem-solving to address local issues as they emerge. By utilising multiple platforms including social media, traditional press and promotional events, the PCSP aims to raise awareness of its work and ensure that its activities are clearly communicated to the public. These efforts are designed to develop trust and visibility for the partnership, ensuring that stakeholders are informed about the PCSP’s role in enhancing local safety.

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

The second priority focuses on improving community safety by addressing local crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The strategy outlines a collaborative approach to tackling these issues, relying on partnerships with statutory bodies, elected officials, and the community. The PCSP will prioritise interventions to address the most pressing crimes and behaviours affecting local communities. This approach involves delivering targeted programmes that are evidence-based and measurable, ensuring that the impacts of these interventions are assessed and adjusted as needed.

The strategy places a strong emphasis on early intervention and collaborative problem-solving to address the root causes of ASB and crime. By engaging with community members and organisations, the PCSP will help create safer spaces, especially for vulnerable individuals. Also, the strategy highlights the importance of horizon scanning, allowing the PCSP to respond to emerging community safety issues effectively, as highlighted by the new and innovative small grants programme.

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

The third priority focuses on strengthening public trust and confidence in policing, ensuring that local communities feel heard and empowered. Key actions in this priority include providing opportunities for local accountability, particularly through hosting public meetings including consultations for future plans and developments. These initiatives aim to make policing more transparent and accessible, fostering positive relationships between young people and the police. The strategy also incorporates efforts to address the harm caused by paramilitarism, criminality, and organised crime, reinforcing the commitment to improving public safety and building stronger, safer communities.

The Ards and North Down PCSP Strategy for 2025-2028 sets out a clear roadmap for enhancing community safety and trust in policing. By prioritising effective delivery, improving community safety, and building confidence in policing, the strategy aims to create safer, more cohesive communities in the Borough. The focus on collaboration, consultation, and communication ensures that the PCSP will be responsive to community needs, while ongoing monitoring and feedback will guide the PCSP in adapting to emerging challenges. The strategy lays the groundwork for a safer, more connected community for all residents.

## Introduction and Background

### Introduction

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) play a vital role in fostering safe and resilient communities across Northern Ireland. Established to bridge the gap between communities, local councils, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), and other statutory partners, PCSPs bring together representatives from various sectors to address local safety and policing concerns. By developing collaborative approaches and supporting community-led initiatives, PCSPs enhance public safety, promote community cohesion, and work proactively to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, substance abuse, hate crime, and domestic violence. PCSPs also aim to improve community confidence in the policing system by providing opportunities for local engagement, feedback, and accountability, thereby ensuring that policing reflects the needs and priorities of each unique community.

PCSPs are unique in that they are locally driven partnerships that operate at the council level, giving them a clear mandate to address the specific needs of the communities they serve. By coordinating between local authorities, statutory organisations, the PSNI, and community and voluntary organisations, PCSPs can design their initiatives to target the most pressing issues in each area. They work to ensure that communities feel both engaged in and accountable for the policing strategies impacting their neighbourhoods. This collaborative approach allows for a more responsive, inclusive, and flexible system of public safety that empowers communities to take an active role in their well-being.

### Background to PCSPs in Northern Ireland

PCSPs were established in Northern Ireland as part of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which brought together two previous structures—the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)—under a single entity. The aim was to streamline efforts, reduce duplication, and create a more cohesive approach to community safety and policing.

The Joint Committee (Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) and the Department of Justice) oversees PCSPs, while local councils are responsible for their administration and day-to-day operations. The Joint Committee provides guidance, funding, and support to ensure that PCSPs meet their statutory obligations, while local councils ensure the PCSPs are effectively resourced and aligned with local priorities. This governance structure helps maintain accountability while allowing PCSPs the flexibility to design interventions that address community-specific issues, from rural crime to urban anti-social behaviour.

PCSPs are made up of a combination of elected councillors, independent community members, and statutory representatives, including the PSNI and other agencies. This mix ensures that PCSPs benefit from diverse perspectives and expertise, fostering a more comprehensive approach to community safety. Through this multi-sectoral membership, PCSPs can draw on insights from different community groups and professionals, facilitating a holistic approach to identifying and addressing local safety challenges. This collaborative model has allowed PCSPs to deliver a wide range of projects and initiatives aimed at reducing

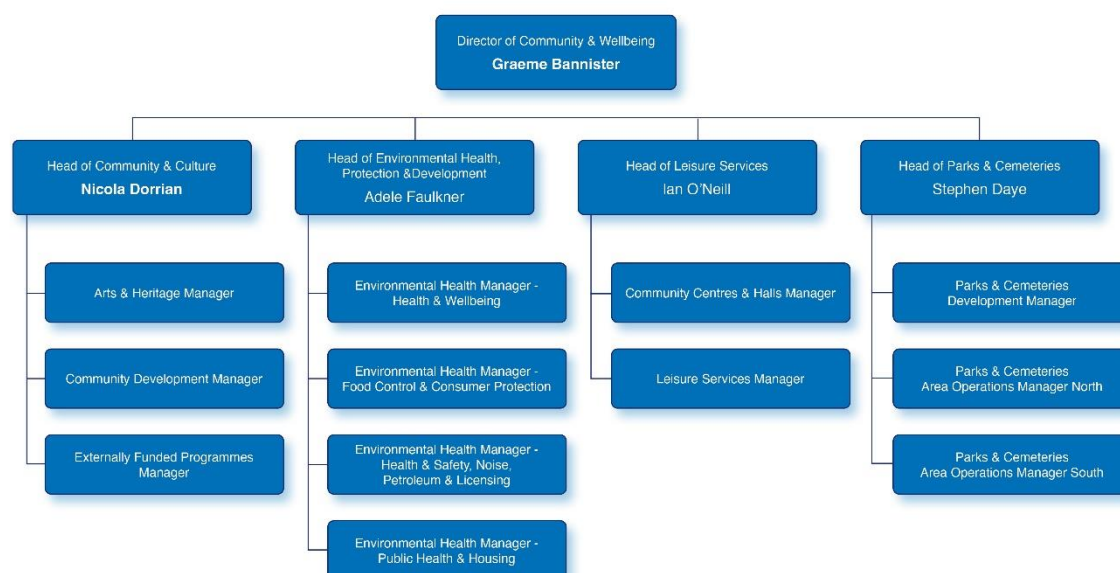
crime, promoting social inclusion, and building safer, more supportive communities across Northern Ireland.

## Ards and North Down Council and PCSP

### Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC)

Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) serves a vibrant and diverse Borough. This council area combines busy town centres, rural communities, and scenic coastal regions, offering unique challenges and opportunities for community safety, cohesion, and wellbeing.

The council is committed to delivering high-quality services that meet the needs of its residents while fostering a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment. Key areas of focus for ANDBC include community development, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and public safety—all of which align with the objectives of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).



*Figure 2: Ards and North Down Borough Council Structure*

Within the Council structure, the PCSP operates under the Community and Wellbeing Department. Whilst the Head of Service is responsible for the PCSP, oversight falls under the responsibility of the Externally Funded Programmes Manager, who ensures alignment with Council's community-focused objectives and strategic priorities. Day-to-day operations are managed by the dedicated PCSP Officer, who is responsible for implementing the PCSP strategy and action plan, coordinating with stakeholders, and driving community engagement efforts. The PCSP Assistant Officer is responsible for day-to-day delivery, while further support is provided by the PCSP Administrative Assistant.

### Ards and North Down PCSP



The Ards and North Down PCSP plays a vital role within the council by addressing community safety concerns, building trust in policing, and supporting initiatives that promote safer neighbourhoods and a more cohesive community. The PCSP operates as a collaborative body that brings together representatives from various sectors, including elected officials, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations, and community representatives.

The PCSP's role is to create a space for dialogue and problem-solving on pressing community issues, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives and voices contribute to decision-making. By fostering strong partnerships with organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), local schools, youth services, and voluntary groups, the PCSP has been able to drive impactful initiatives and respond flexibly to emerging issues in the borough.



Figure 3: Comber Fair in the Square

### PCSP Members

The membership of the Ards and North Down PCSP reflects the diversity and expertise required to address complex community safety needs. Members include representatives from the council, the PSNI, community and voluntary sector groups, statutory agencies, and independent members from the local area. This multidisciplinary approach helps the PCSP to develop well-rounded strategies and targeted interventions that are sensitive to local needs and effectively support community wellbeing. The tables below outline the PCSP Members:

ELECTED MEMBERS	
NAME	PARTY

<b>Cllr Alistair Cathcart</b>	DUP
<b>Ald. Trevor Cummings</b>	DUP
<b>Cllr Libby Douglas</b>	DUP
<b>Cllr Nigel Edmund</b>	DUP
<b>Cllr Hannah Irwin</b>	Alliance
<b>Ald. Lorna McAlpine</b>	Alliance
<b>Cllr Gillian McCollum</b>	Alliance
<b>Cllr Victoria Moore</b>	Alliance
<b>Cllr Richard Smart</b>	UUP
<b>Cllr Pete Wray</b>	UUP

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS	
<b>Jo Scott</b>	
<b>Sandra Henderson</b>	
<b>Michael Palmer</b>	
<b>Deborah Marcus</b>	
<b>Stephen Gibson</b>	
<b>Alison Blayney</b>	
<b>Karen Smith</b>	
<b>Sarah Collyer</b>	
<b>Sarah Robinson</b>	

STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS
<b>Education Authority</b>
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Trust</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</b>
<b>Probation Board for Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Police Service of Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>

### Sub-groups and Relevant Forums

To enhance its effectiveness and ensure specialised attention to key areas, the PCSP has established various sub-groups and participates in relevant forums. These sub-groups allow the PCSP to focus on specific themes, such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and support for vulnerable populations. Each sub-group operates with a clear mandate, meeting regularly to review progress, address emerging challenges, and align efforts with broader PCSP objectives. These sub-groups and forums include:

- PCSP Community Safety Sub-Group
- PCSP Monitoring Subgroup
- South Eastern Drugs & Alcohol Team (SEDACT)
- South Eastern Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership
- Anti-Social Behaviour Forum
- Concern/ Support Hub



The AND PCSP also actively engages in district-wide forums and collaborative networks. This includes participation in multi-agency meetings, community planning forums, and partnerships with organisations focused on social cohesion, youth engagement, and public health.

### Current AND PCSP Priorities

<b>Strategic Priority 1:</b>	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
<b>Strategic Priority 2:</b>	To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
<b>Strategic Priority 3:</b>	To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem-solving with communities

### Examples of Successful Programmes and Projects

The AND PCSP has delivered several successful programmes and projects that demonstrate its commitment to community safety and public engagement. These initiatives are designed to address priority issues identified through consultation with the community and analysis of local safety data. Some recent examples include:

#### Drugs and Alcohol ASB

The PCSP works closely with the PSNI regarding the monitoring and reduction of criminality related to alcohol and substance abuse in the Borough. PCSP staff also engaged with the South Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (SEDACT) to support a range of important interventions to reduce the level of drug related criminality in the Borough. PCSP commissioned two Tier 2 drug intervention programmes and supported community RAPID drug bins for the disposal of prescription medication. PCSP continued to promote a Borough wide drug awareness campaign through social media and the distribution of flyers and posters.



*Figure 4: PCSP Roadsafes Roadshow*

### **RAPID Drug Bins**

AND PCSP now operate 6 RAPID bins. Publicity has continued and the contents lifted from these bins are reported to the members.

### **Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Programme**

Kilcooley Women's Centre delivered a programme of advice and support and training to female victims of sexual and domestic abuse. They delivered 17 sessions to 45 women who reported feeling safer and having a 93% increase in their knowledge of Domestic Violence and the support services available.

These projects illustrate the PCSP's adaptive approach, ensuring that initiatives are responsive to the community's evolving needs. By leveraging data, community feedback, and multi-agency collaboration, the PCSP continues to make meaningful contributions to the safety and wellbeing of residents in Ards and North Down.

## Development of Ards and North Down PCSP Strategy

The methodology for developing the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) strategy was structured to ensure an inclusive, evidence-based approach that accurately reflects community needs and priorities. The process included the following elements:



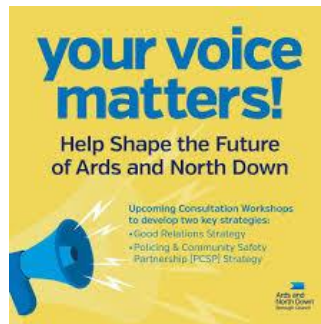
Figure 5: Development Process

### Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

A key piece of the methodology was engagement with stakeholders to ensure the strategy was rooted in the needs and priorities of the community. This began with a series of face-to-face consultations held across the Borough, with at least one event in each District Electoral Area (DEA). These consultations provided residents, council staff, and local stakeholders with a platform to discuss their specific community safety concerns and suggest improvements. By hosting at least one event in each DEA, it ensured representation across the Borough, allowing PCSP to capture diverse local insights and priorities.

DATE	VENUE
4/11/24	Hamilton Hub Community Centre
4/11/24	Donaghadee Community Centre
5/11/24	Redburn Community Centre
6/11/24	Portavogie Community Centre
7/11/24	Comber Community Centre
8/11/24	Ballygowan Village Hall
11/11/24	Ards Arena
12/11/24	Kilcooley Women's Centre, Bangor
12/11/24	St Patrick's Community Centre, Portaferry

Alongside the face-to-face sessions, a survey was designed and distributed to widen the reach of the consultation process. This survey was designed to gather perspectives from a broad audience, including the public, council staff, elected members, PCSP members, and other stakeholders. It was distributed via social media and to those on the community database. The survey data helped us identify recurring themes and unique community safety challenges, while also providing a quantitative measure of community feeling.



*Figure 6: Consultation Advert*

Several 1 to 1 meetings were also held via Microsoft Teams with key stakeholders. These individual sessions provided an opportunity for detailed discussions on specific topics and allowed stakeholders to share perspectives in a confidential setting.

### **Review of Local and Regional Strategies and Policies**

To ensure that the strategy aligned with the broader policy landscape, a detailed review of relevant local and regional strategies and policies was conducted. These included Borough-level strategies such as those related to community safety, economic development, and public health. This helped to identify areas of overlap and potential for strategic integration, ensuring that the PCSP strategy would complement other ongoing plans within the Borough.

At the regional level, policies and strategies relevant to policing and community safety across Northern Ireland were reviewed. Understanding the priorities and guidelines set at a regional level, ensured that the PCSP strategy would align with Northern Ireland's broader safety and policing objectives, while also meeting regulatory requirements. This review process provided a comprehensive understanding of the policy context, highlighting opportunities for synergy and ensuring consistency with wider strategic goals.

### **Analysis of Key Statistics**

In collaboration with the Council's Data and Evidence Analyst, a thorough analysis of statistical data was conducted to ground the strategy in objective evidence. The data review covered a range of indicators, including crime statistics, community safety trends, and demographic information. This quantitative analysis complemented qualitative feedback, ensuring that the strategy was both evidence-based and responsive to real-world trends.

## **Benchmarking of Best Practices from Other PCSPs**

To enhance the effectiveness of the approach, a benchmarking exercise of projects undertaken by other PCSP's across Northern Ireland was conducted. This benchmarking exercise helped to assess the effectiveness of different strategies in tackling common safety issues and provided insights into potential enhancements or new approaches that could be tailored to the Borough's unique needs.

## **"Turning the Curve" Exercise with PCSP Members**

Finally, a "Turning the Curve" exercise was conducted with PCSP members on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to refine the strategic direction going forward. This workshop-based exercise facilitated a focused discussion on key indicators of community safety, with participants brainstorming ways to shift negative trends and improve outcomes. The "Turning the Curve" approach enabled PCSP members to prioritise strategic actions and set achievable goals, ensuring that the strategy was both ambitious and feasible. This collaborative process fostered a sense of shared ownership among PCSP members, strengthening their commitment to the strategy's objectives and to implementing impactful change in the community.

## Socio Economic Profile of AND

The population of the Ards & North Down Borough Council area on Census Day in 2021 was 163,659, residing across 70,445 households. The resident population was 51% female and 49% male, with an age demographic presented as follows:

Age Bracket	Ards & North Down	Northern Ireland
<b>0 – 14</b>	17%	19%
<b>15 – 39</b>	27%	31%
<b>40 – 64</b>	34%	32%
<b>65+</b>	22%	17%

Overall, the ANDBC area has a slightly more elderly population than the Northern Ireland national average.

Key Economic Stats (Source: ONS, 2022 unless otherwise stated)

- Economic Inactivity in the ANDBC area is 25.2%, lower than the Northern Ireland rate of 26.3%
- The local employment rate is 72.8%, lower than the Northern Ireland rate of 73.8%
- Median Gross Annual Pay in the ANDBC area was £23,377, lower than the Northern Ireland median of £28,825
- Gross Value Added per hour worked was £36.50
- The Council area has 4,645 active businesses, including 400 new businesses and 450 business deaths in 2022.
- As of July 2024, the claimant count in ANDBC area is 2.9% of the working age population. The Northern Ireland rate is 3.2% of the working age population.
- In 2023, ANCBC had an annual average claimant count of 2,662. This equates to 2.7% of the borough's working age population, which is lower than the Northern Ireland average of 3.1%.
- 81.1% of the ANDBC working age population enjoy 'Very good or good health', higher than the NI average of 80.7%.
- 20.2% of the ANDBC population stated their day-to-day activities were 'limited' by a long-term health problem or disability, slightly lower than the NI average of 20.7%.
- 33.6% of the ANDBC population stated they had at least one long-term health condition, higher than the NI average of 32.1%.

- The population of ANDBC boasts a higher skills profile than the NI average rates for each recognised level of attainment. In addition, ANDBC has a lower rate of the working age population with no qualifications (9.2%) than the NI average (13.6%). This rate has fluctuated in ANDBC over the past 15 years but is markedly lower than the high of 15.8% recorded in 2013.

## DEA Population Summaries

In order to provide additional context to the statistics presented, the population of each of the District Electoral Areas composing the ANDBC area is presented below:

DEA	Population	% of Total Population
Newtownards	29,395	18.0%
Bangor Central	26,637	16.3%
Ards Peninsula	24,964	15.3%
Bangor East and Donaghadee	22,850	14.0%
Holywood and Clondeboy	20,809	12.7%
Bangor West	19,517	11.9%
Comber	19,487	11.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,659</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Newtownards area records the largest population of all seven DEAs in the ANDBC area, with almost 30,000 residents. This is almost 10,000 residents greater than the two smallest DEAs – Bangor West and Comber, which have 19,517 and 19,487 populations respectively.

## Summary of Deprivation and Disadvantage

An assessment of deprivation and disadvantage was carried out by NISRA in 2017, which assessed the relative areas of deprivation within communities across multiple measures. This analysis brought to the fore several considerations pertaining to ANDBC communities, namely:

- The Scrabo 2 area of Newtownards, which falls within the 10% most deprived communities in Northern Ireland overall, but most notably in terms of income, employment, and skills.
- The Glen 1, Central, Conlig 3, Harbour 1, Donaghadee South 1, and Portaferry 2 Super Output Areas all fall within the 25% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland overall.

## Income Deprivation

Income deprivation takes account of a single indicator, which is the proportion of the population living in households with an equivalised income below 60% of the NI median. In total, 13 Super Output Areas in AND are ranked within the 25% most deprived areas in NI in



relation to this measure, with Central and Glen 2 both falling within the 10% most deprived, and Scrabo 1 within the 5% most deprived.

### **Employment Deprivation**

Employment deprivation is used to define the proportion of the population who are involuntarily excluded from the labour market. In total, ten Super Output Areas in AND fall within the 25% most deprived areas in NI in relation to this measure. These neighbourhoods are spread across the Borough, in major towns such as Newtownards, Bangor, and Donaghadee, but also in smaller towns and villages such as Ballywalter, Portaferry, Conlig, and Portavogie.

### **Health and Disability Deprivation**

Health and disability deprivation considers a range of measures for each Super Output Area, including preventable death ratios, ratios of people registered as having cancer, ratios of people with a long-term health problem or disability, and ratios of people with multiple prescriptions (as well as others). The Conlig 3 Super Output Area ranked 86<sup>th</sup> out of 890 in this measure, placing it amongst the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in NI. A further six Super Output Areas in Newtownards, Comber, and Portaferry also ranked amongst the 25% most deprived in relation to this measure.

### **Education and Skills Deprivation**

The education and skills deprivation measure takes into consideration a combination of indicators such as absentee rates, proportion of young people not in education, training, or employment (NEET), and the proportion of adults with no qualifications or a low level of educational attainment.

Education and skills deprivation is a concern in 12 of the Council area's 86 statistical districts, all of which fall within NI's 25% most deprived areas in relation to this measure. Of particular concern is the Glen 1 and Scrabo 2 Super Output Areas in Newtownards, and the Comber North 1 Super Output Area in Comber, which all fall amongst the region's 10% most deprived areas in relation to this measure.

### **Diversity and Inclusion (Ethnicity, country of birth, and religion)**

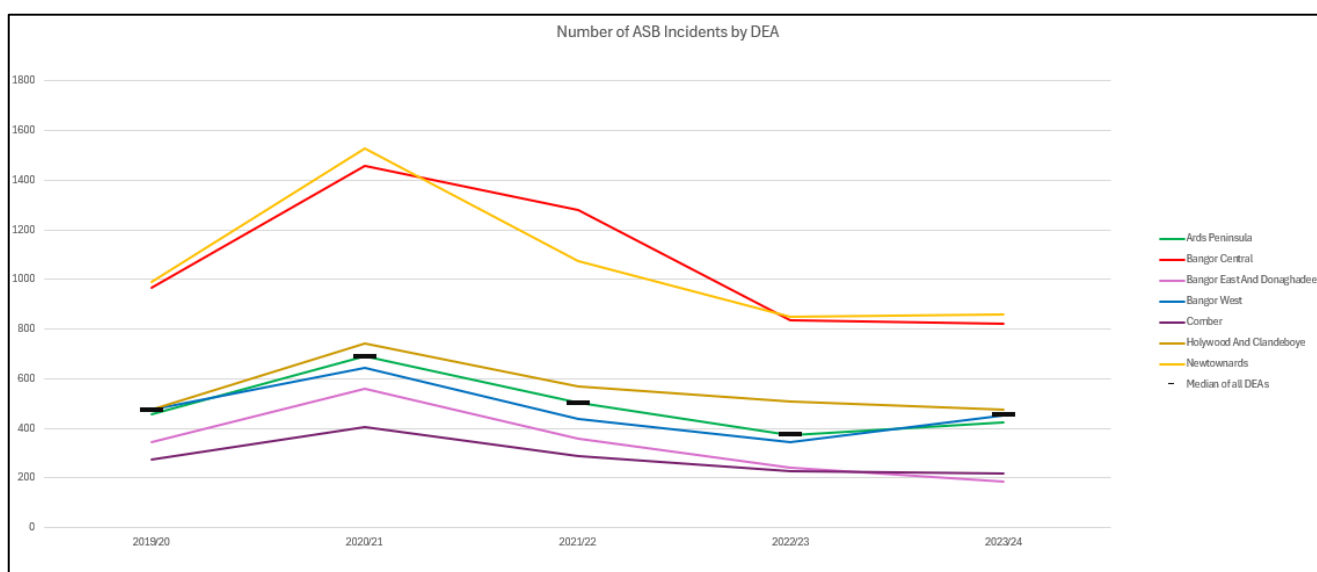
On Census Day in 2021, the resident population of the ANDBC area was composed 87% of people who were born in Northern Ireland, with a further 8% born elsewhere in the UK or Republic of Ireland. 5% were born in other countries.

The resident population of AND was 98% from a white ethnic group. In terms of religious background, 68% of citizens residing in AND identified as being from a Protestant background,

with 14% from a Catholic background. 17% did not identify with any particular religious background, with just 1% associating with another, non-Christian faith.

## Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

There were a total of 3,887 recorded instances of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Ards and North Down Council area in 2023, a slight increase on the 2022 figure of 3,757 but lower than the 2019, 2020 and 2021 rates. The 2023 AND figure accounted for 7.6% of all such incidents in Northern Ireland, and was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of the eleven Council areas.



The Newtownards and Bangor Central DEAs consistently recorded the highest instances of Anti-Social Behaviour of all 7 DEAs in the Council area.

## Hate Crimes

The following analysis presents statistics related to crime incidents with either a racist or sectarian motivation in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area between 2019/20 and 2023/24. A combined total of 253 incidents were recorded in the area during this period.

### All Crimes with a Racist Motivation

The table below depicts all crimes which have been recorded in the ANDBC area with a racist motivation

DEA	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ards Peninsula	2	1	1	7	1
Bangor Central	4	8	14	12	9
Bangor East And Donaghadee	3	0	1	4	1
Bangor West	6	1	1	4	2
Comber	1	1	1	0	3
Hollywood And Clondeboyne	4	0	0	7	6
Newtownards	6	6	12	7	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>

A total of 143 incidents of a racist nature were recorded in the ANDBC area between 2019/20 and 2023/24. The overall trend across the area is that crimes of a racist motivation have declined over one year, but are still higher than levels experienced at the turn of the decade. In each year (with the exception of 2019/20 – although the lower levels experienced in this year could be explained by the public restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic), the Bangor Central DEA emerges as the area with the highest incidents of race-related crime, with the Newtownards DEA recording the second-highest incidents across the 5-year period.

### All Crimes with a Sectarian Motivation:

DEA	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ards Peninsula	2	2	1	7	5
Bangor Central	3	4	7	5	2
Bangor East And Donaghadee	0	0	3	2	0
Bangor West	0	7	3	6	4
Comber	4	0	3	0	2
Hollywood And Clondeboyne	1	0	4	4	1
Newtownards	8	2	5	7	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>

With 110 recorded incidents between 2019/20 and 2023/24, crimes of a sectarian nature in the ANDBC area have been lower than incidents motivated by racism. Whilst overall, a similar

trend emerges in that levels of recorded crime are lower in 2023/24 when compared to 2022/23 but are higher than 2019/20 levels (although the lower levels experienced in this year could be explained by the public restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic).

The Newtownards DEA emerged as the area with the highest numbers of recorded incidents of a sectarian motivation over this 5-year period, with the Bangor Central DEA and Peninsula DEA also experiencing higher occurrences of crime of this nature compared to the Comber, Bangor West, Bangor East and Donaghadee and Holywood and Clandeboyne areas.

## Recorded Crime

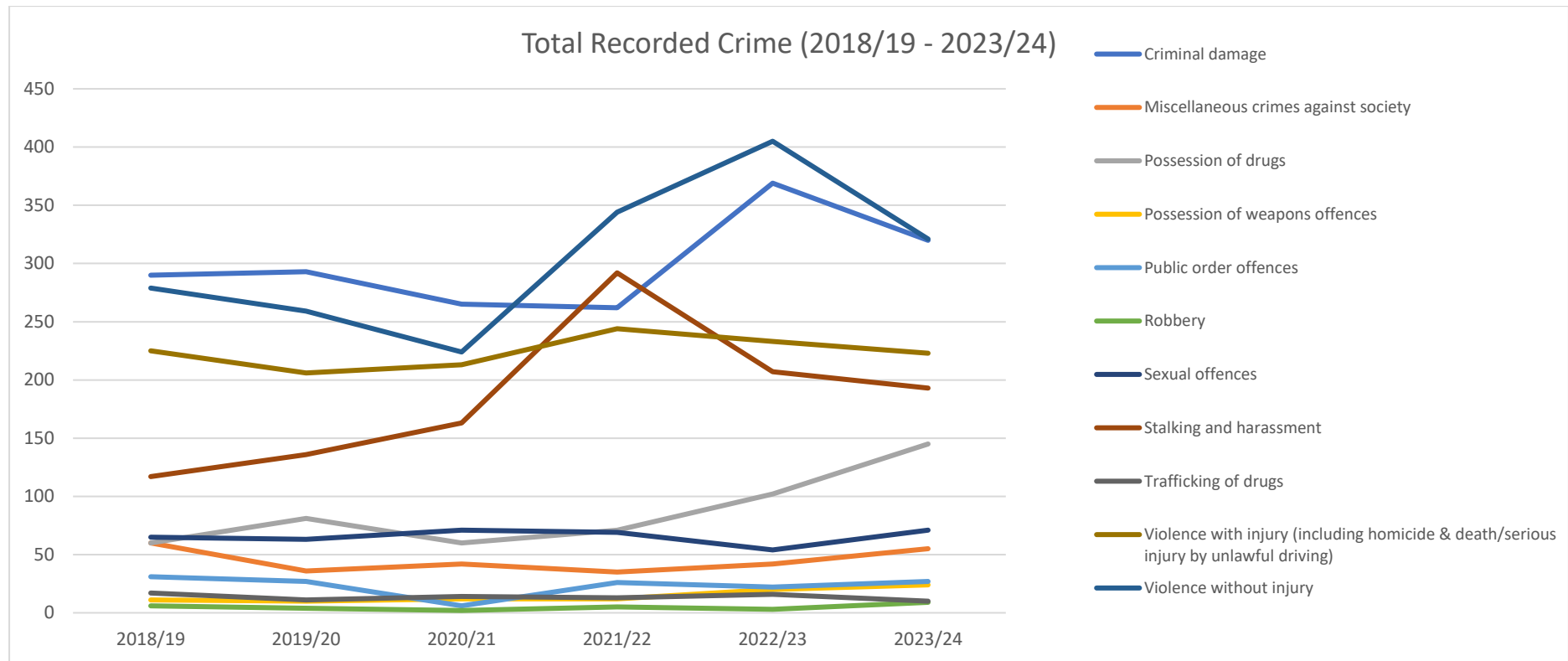
Year	Criminal damage	All Drugs Offences*	Weapons offences	Public order offences	Robbery	Sexual offences	Stalking / Harassing	Violence with injury**	Violence without injury	Other	Grand Total
2018/19	290	77	11	31	6	65	117	225	279	60	<b>1161</b>
2019/20	293	92	10	27	4	63	136	206	259	36	<b>1126</b>
2020/21	265	74	12	6	2	71	163	213	224	42	<b>1072</b>
2021/22	262	84	12	26	5	69	292	244	344	35	<b>1373</b>
2022/23	369	118	20	22	3	54	207	233	405	42	<b>1473</b>
2023/24	320	155	24	27	9	71	193	223	321	55	<b>1398</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1799</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>1832</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>7603</b>

\*Includes possession and trafficking

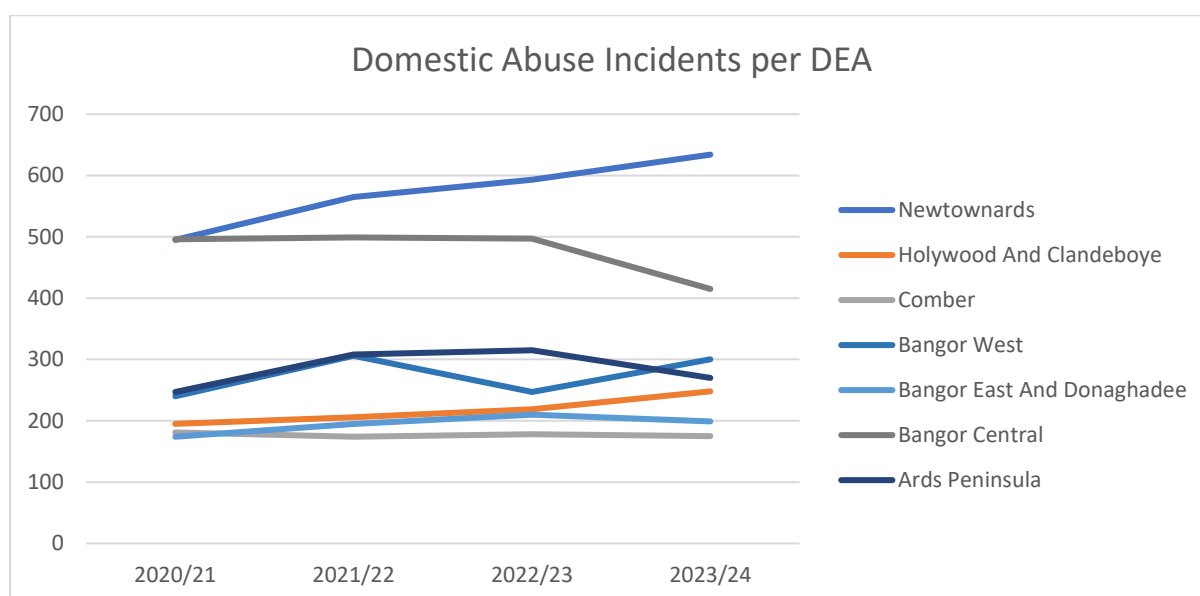
\*\* Includes homicide & death/serious injury by unlawful driving

Recorded Crime overall is lower in Ards and North Down in 2023/24 than both 2022/23 and 2021/22, but is higher than crime levels witnessed between 2018 and 2020. The largest increases realised since 2018 have included instances of Drugs, Weapons, Stalking and Harassment, and Violence without injury.

A point of note is that the Stalking Act (NI) came into operation in April 2022, which introduced two new offences under this category of recorded crime.



## Incidents of Domestic Abuse



	N'Ards	H'wood & C'boye	Comber	Bangor West	Bangor East And D'dee	Bangor Central	Ards P'sula	Total
2020/21	495	195	181	240	174	496	247	2028
2021/22	565	206	174	306	195	499	308	2253
2022/23	593	219	178	247	210	497	315	2259
2023/24	634	248	175	300	199	415	270	2241
<b>Total</b>	<b>2287</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>1140</b>	

Recorded instances of domestic abuse have also increased in the AND area over the past 4 years, rising 10.5% from 2028 annual incidents to 2241. Increasing prevalence of domestic abuse can be highlighted particularly in the Newtownards, Holywood and Clandeboye, Bangor West DEAs, all of which recorded rises of 25% or higher.

## Crimes of a Sexual Motivation

Recorded crime of a sexual motivation remains comparatively low across the Ards and North Down Council area, with 43 incidents recorded between the 2019/20 and 2023/24 statistical years. Despite recording the second lowest population of any ANDBC DEAs, the Bangor West area recorded the highest number of incidents of any DEA during this period of analysis, with 11 incidents recorded (25.6%) of the total.



## Economic Statistics

### Economically Inactive Rate



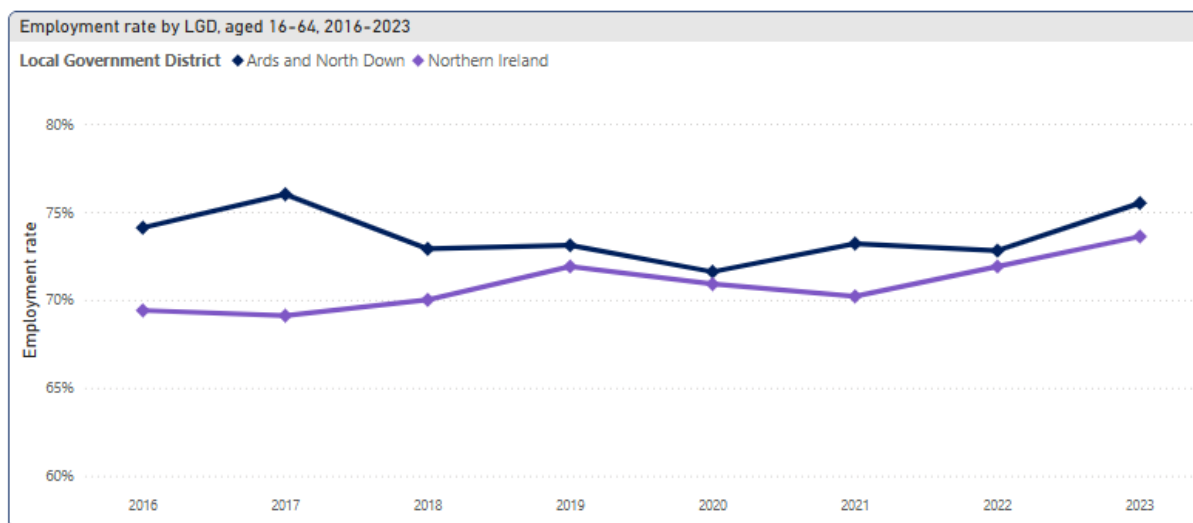
(Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA)

The most recently available Labour Force Survey data highlights that the economically inactive rate within the Ards and North Down population fell back to its 2021 level of 23.6% in 2023, continuing to be lower than the Northern Ireland rate of 24.7%.

These figures represent an improvement in the economically inactive rate compared to 2022 levels, when the rate for NI population aged between 16 and 64 was 26.3%, with AND recording a slightly lower rate of 25.2%.

### Unemployment

The employment rate for AND rose in 2023 to 75.5% from its 2022 level, and is 1.5 percentage points higher than the Northern Ireland rate of 73.6%. Unemployment in the ANDBC area fell from 2.7% in 2022 to 1.1% in 2023.



(Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA)

### Employment Rate per Age Category

	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Total
<b>AND Employment Rate</b>	60.5%	92.6%	88.0%	66.3%	11.4%	75.5%
<b>NI Employment Rate</b>	55.8%	83.4%	84.6%	66.0%	12.0%	73.6%
<b>Variance (+/-)</b>	+4.7%	+9.2%	+3.4%	+0.3%	-0.6%	+2.2%

The ANDBC employment rate outperforms the Northern Ireland average in nearly every age group. Most notably, the employment rate amongst 25-34 year olds is 9.2 percentage points higher than the national rate. The sole age category where the ANDBC area falls behind is in the '65+' category, where the local average is 0.6 percentage points below the NI rate.

### Traffic Incidents and Road Safety

Police District	2022/23				2023/24				Variance
	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total	
Belfast City	6	135	1,714	1,855	4	145	1,647	1,796	-3.2%
Derry City & Strabane	2	44	587	633	2	58	544	604	-4.6%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	5	62	535	602	7	70	529	606	0.7%
Ards & North Down	4	66	483	553	3	81	508	592	7.1%
Causeway Coast & Glens	5	67	462	534	10	72	481	563	5.4%
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2	77	519	598	1	77	501	579	-3.2%
Mid & East Antrim	4	55	345	404	9	68	398	475	17.6%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	3	103	750	856	9	96	757	862	0.7%
Fermanagh & Omagh	8	77	407	492	8	66	381	455	-7.5%
Mid Ulster	15	69	473	557	8	74	507	589	5.7%
Newry, Mourne and Down	7	119	629	755	12	115	635	762	0.9%
Northern Ireland Total	61	874	6,904	7,839	73	922	6,888	7,883	0.6%

Road safety continues to be a concern in the Ards and North Down area, with the region recording 7.5% of all Road Traffic Injuries or Fatalities in Northern Ireland in 2023/24, the 6<sup>th</sup> highest of all Northern Ireland Council areas. Injuries or deaths rose by 7.1% in the AND area between 2022/23 and 2023/24

### **Conclusions:**

There are a number of key conclusions which can be drawn from this statistical summary of the population of the ANDBC area:

**Economic Profile** – the economic performance of the ANDBC area is mixed when compared to economic indicators for Northern Ireland as a whole. Economic Inactivity, Employment Claimant Rates are more favourable than the national average, Median Earnings fall short of the NI rate.

**Health & Wellbeing** – the physical wellbeing of the population of the ANDBC area is higher than the Northern Ireland average in terms of the proportion of the population enjoying ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’ health, as well as the proportion of the population stating that their activities were limited by a long-term health problem or disability. The percentage of citizens with at least one long term health problem was however slightly higher than the national average.

**Skills & Qualifications** - The population of AND boasts a higher skills profile than the NI average rates for each recognised level of attainment. In addition, ANDBC has a lower rate of the working age population with no qualifications (9.2%) than the NI average (13.6%). This rate has fluctuated in AND over the past 15 years but is markedly lower than the high of 15.8% recorded in 2013.

**Deprivation** – The main neighbourhoods within the ANDBC area which experience the highest levels of socio-economic deprivation include the Scrabo 2 area of Newtownards, which falls within the 10% most deprived communities in Northern Ireland overall, as well as Glen 1, Central, Conlig 3, Harbour 1, Donaghadee South 1, and Portaferry 2 Super Output Areas, all of which fall within the 25% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour** - There were a total of 3,887 recorded instances of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Ards and North Down Council area in 2023, a slight increase on the 2022 figure of 3,757 but lower than the 2019, 2020 and 2021 rates. The 2023 AND figure accounted for 7.6% of all such incidents in Northern Ireland and was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of the eleven Council areas.

The general trend within crime overall is that levels are lower than those experienced between 2021 and 2023, but higher than rates recorded between 2018 and 2021. The notable exception is recorded incidents of Domestic Abuse, which has risen over 10% in the past 4 years.

**Road Safety** - Road safety continues to be a concern in the Ards and North Down area, with the region recording 7.5% of all Road Traffic Injuries or Fatalities in Northern Ireland in

2023/24, the 6th highest of all Northern Ireland Council areas. Injuries or deaths rose by 7.1% in the AND area between 2022/23 and 2023/24

## Strategic Context

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO PCSP
Corporate Plan 2024-28	<p>The Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan for 2024 – 2028 sets out the Council’s priorities in terms of providing civic leadership, promoting prosperity and delivering essential services to people who live, work and visit Ards and North Down. The 7 key outcomes which the Council have prioritised as being integral to creating a Sustainable Borough include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment.</li> <li>2. An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets.</li> <li>3. A thriving and sustainable economy.</li> <li>4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors.</li> <li>5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing.</li> <li>6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy.</li> <li>7. Ards and North Down Borough Council is a high-performing organisation.</li> </ol> <p>Under each of these outcomes are various key strategic actions which it is anticipated will see these outcomes realised.</p>	<p>There are several of the outcomes contained within the Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan which are explicitly relevant to the Council’s Policing and Community Safety Partnership priorities.</p> <p>Specifically, Outcome 5 relates to ensuring that the Borough is safe, welcoming and inclusive and that its resident communities have the opportunity to flourish. This Outcome aligns with PCSP priorities, which seek to address areas of identified concern amongst citizens in relation to community safety, and to foster increased trust in policing.</p> <p>The 2024-2028 Corporate Plan also aims to ensure that the Council is a high-performing organisation (Outcome 7). By ensuring that the PCSP Strategic Assessment and Action Plan are evidence-based, and incorporate the views</p>

		of citizens and communities across the Borough, the Council can be confident of delivering positive outcomes through tailored solutions.
<p><b>‘The Big Plan’ and ‘The Big Plan Part II: Our Big Priorities’</b></p> <p><b>Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council Community Plan</b></p>	<p>‘The Big Plan’ sets out Ards &amp; North Down Council’s community planning priorities and objectives for the 15-year period from 2017 to 2032.</p> <p>The Big Plan outlines how public service providers in Ards and North Down work together to maintain and improve the well-being of citizens in line with the five outcomes.</p> <p>In 2022, following a review of the Big Plan, the Big Plan   Part II: Our Big Priorities was published. In 2024, the Big Plan and the Big Plan   Part II were further reviewed, and additional amendments made.</p> <p>The key outcomes which ANDBC are seeking to deliver through the successful delivery of ‘The Big Plan’ following a further review in 2024 are set out as follows:</p> <p>Outcome 1 - Opportunities to fulfil their lifelong potential  Outcome 2 - Being equipped to enjoy good health and wellbeing  Outcome 3 - Live in Communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure  Outcome 4 - Benefit from A prosperous and inclusive economy  Outcome 5 - Feel pride from having access to an environment that is valued, well-managed and accessible. sustainable environment</p>	<p>The ANDBC ‘Big Plan’ contributes to enhancing Community Safety in a number of key ways.</p> <p>Outcome 1 of ‘The Big Plan’ is concerned with ensuring that all citizens of the Borough have access to all opportunities without hindrance. Moreover, Outcome 3 specifically relates to ensuring that all citizens of the Borough enjoy safety and security.</p> <p>The ANDBC PCSP Action Plan will promote increased access to information, services and initiatives which will stand to improve communities’ confidence and to enhance public safety. The Action Plan will also seek to give citizens the confidence to take action to improve their own lives and to</p>



	<p>The cross-cutting themes which underpin 'The Big Plan' include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have empowered, resilient individuals and communities;</li> <li>• To reduce inequalities;</li> <li>• To promote good relations and sustainability; and</li> <li>• To improve the accessibility of all public services.</li> </ul>	<p>address any issues regarding their own personal safety and/or wellbeing.</p>
<p><b>Ards and North Down Local Policing Plan 2022 -23</b></p>	<p>The Ards and North Down Local Policing Plan 2022 - 23 highlights the priorities for the PSNI in the District across three key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a safe community;</li> <li>• We have confidence in policing; and</li> <li>• We have engaged and supported communities.</li> </ul> <p>The Local Policing Plan also presents key actions to be undertaken across the six key priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility;</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Policing;</li> <li>• Vulnerability and Mental Health;</li> <li>• 101 Call Handling;</li> <li>• Collaboration and Multi-Agency Working; and</li> <li>• Competing Police Demand</li> </ul>	<p>There is a clear alignment between the priorities of the ANDBC PCSP and the Local Policing Plan in that one of the key functions of the PCSP is to engage with communities and also to foster increased trust and confidence in policing.</p> <p>The Ards and North Down Local Policing Plan 2022-2023 also specifically highlights the need for collaboration and multi-agency working, and a need to increase the awareness of the role of the PCSP within communities.</p> <p>A further priority of this action plan is to increase engagement with young people and at risk, disadvantaged and diverse communities – aligning with the</p>

		inclusive approach to be adopted in the delivery of the ANDBC PCSP Action Plan.
<b>EA Local Assessment of Need: ANDBC- 2023</b>	<p>Undertaken by the Education Authority, this Assessment of Need takes into consideration demand for Youth Services across the ANDBC area in order to inform the allocation of staff and resources in response to priority policy areas. The Local Assessment of Need specifically focuses, amongst other thematic areas, on matters directly relevant to the ANDBC PCSP, with a review carried out specifically in relation to Living in Safety and Stability.</p> <p>The key findings of this assessment highlight that whilst overall, high numbers of young people reported feeling safe in their own communities in Ards &amp; North Down, paramilitarism remains a high risk for young people. This is especially true of young people living in areas of high deprivation.</p>	<p>The EA's Local Assessment of Need for the Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council area highlight a need for continued engagement with young people to ensure that the positive sentiments in relation to community safety remain as such and do not deteriorate.</p> <p>The findings of this review also align with the findings of consultation carried out, whereby paramilitarism was noted as an ongoing risk within communities in the ANDBC area.</p>
<b>The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland report "PCSPs, A review of governance delivery and outcomes"</b>  <b>2019 – 2022</b>	<p>The primary purpose behind the development of this report was to assist Policing &amp; Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to set out the priority areas for action by the PCSP. Acknowledging that PCSPs are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and confirm priority policing and community safety issues based on a strategic assessment;</li> <li>• Describe what the PCSP aims to achieve;</li> <li>• Communicate the content of their action plans and how the</li> </ul>	<p>The Ards and North Down PCSP Action Plan aligns with this report in that it adheres to all recommendations and requirements of the operation, governance and reporting structures of PCSPs as set out in the delivery guidelines.</p>

	<p>PCSP will work to deliver its action plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how the PCSP will work in partnership to make the best use of resources; and</li> <li>• Explain how Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) will be used to measure and manage performance of PCSPs.</li> </ul> <p>The report highlights the requirement for 'Turning The Curve' methodology to aid forward planning for relevant projects and programs of work, and the use of OBA performance management principles to monitor and measure the impact of work and the implementation of action plans.</p>	<p>The approach taken to develop this action plan also included the adoption of 'Turning the Curve' methodologies and incorporates key learnings from the delivery of previous Action Plans and initiatives delivered in other Council areas.</p>
<p><b>Criminal Justice Inspection NI report: "Community Safety and Local Policing Arrangements in Northern Ireland"</b></p> <p><b>March 2024</b></p>	<p>The March 2024 CJINI Report sets out strategic and operational recommendations in relation to the vision for community safety in Northern Ireland, and alludes strongly to the importance of the role of local Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. Key areas of improvement were identified in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of best practice</li> <li>• Better highlighting of the linkages between PCSP and Local Policing Plan</li> </ul>	<p>The priorities of the Ards and North Down PCSP Action Plan align with several of the recommendations outlined in this review as the activities contained within it have been designed using best-practice benchmarks, and have also been informed by the ANDBC Local Policing Action Plan</p>
<p><b>'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'</b></p> <p><b>Northern Ireland Draft Programme for Government 2024 – 2027</b></p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2024-2027 was published in September 2024, with a public consultation on the priorities contained within it concluding in November 2024.</p> <p>'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' sets out a three-year agenda for the Northern Ireland Executive across the following cross-cutting priorities:</p>	<p>The priorities of the Ards and North Down Borough Council PCSP align with the priorities contained within the 'Safer Communities' strand of the Draft Programme for Government.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow a Globally Competitive and Sustainable Economy</li> <li>• Deliver More Affordable Childcare</li> <li>• Cut Health Waiting Times</li> <li>• Ending Violence Against Women and Girls</li> <li>• Better Support for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs</li> <li>• Provide More Social, Affordable and Sustainable Housing</li> <li>• Safer Communities</li> <li>• Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment</li> <li>• Reform and Transformation of Public Services</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft PfG highlights domestic abuse, tackling paramilitarism and protecting vulnerable people as key priority areas.</p> <p>The ANDBC PCSP Action Plan contains key activities and actions aimed at tackling the challenges faced across each of these identified thematic areas.</p>
<p><b>Northern Ireland Community Safety Framework</b></p> <p>Department of Justice, October 2020</p>	<p>The purpose of the Community Safety Framework is to ensure effective connectivity between the community safety work of the responsible agencies and provide an operational roadmap on how to collectively deliver the safer community objectives set out in the PfG and Community Plans, whilst providing the mechanism to respond proactively and reactively to operational need.</p> <p>The Framework recognises the ongoing relevance of many of the priorities, approaches and need for collaborative working among agencies, as set out in the previous “Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities, A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-17” which centred on reducing crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), fear of crime, building community confidence and ensuring local solutions to local concerns.</p>	<p>The Ards and North Down PCSP Action Plan is aligned with the priorities of the Northern Ireland Community Safety Framework in that it provides a platform through which local issues and safety challenges can be identified, as well as aiming to provide solutions to wider issues such as anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The work of the PCSP ensures a collaborative approach and ensures that a wide range of relevant stakeholders have oversight and input into activities and actions aimed at</p>

	<p>Overall, the Framework stands to prioritise community safety by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing local solutions to local problems</li> <li>• Placing prevention and early stage intervention as the primary aim</li> <li>• Focusing on wider social issues, including anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, quality of life issues, and related public health, social and economic factors</li> <li>• Delivering through a partnership approach, involving the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, as well as community groups and individual citizens; and</li> <li>• Offering holistic and problem-oriented solutions.</li> </ul>	<p>promoting public safety and increasing confidence in local policing.</p>
<p><b>NIPB - The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2020-2025</b></p>	<p>The Policing Plan 2020-2025 outlines the collective policing ambition for the next five years and the key priorities for the people of Northern Ireland in terms of policing. The three primary outcomes for policing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a safe community;</li> <li>• We have confidence in policing; and</li> <li>• We have engaged and supportive communities</li> </ul> <p>Contained within the Northern Ireland Policing Plan are key actions to ensure that policing activities are shaped by the issues identified in Local Policing and PSCP Action Plans, as well as highlighting the particularly important role that PCSPs play in working collaboratively with community partners.</p>	<p>The ANDBC aligns with the key aims of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 in that it has identified a range of key issues which are important to communities and citizens of the ANDBC area.</p> <p>The PCSP also ensures that key community partners have a meaningful involvement in shaping policing priorities at a local level.</p>

**The Executive Office:  
Draft Ending Violence  
Against Women and  
Girls Strategic  
Framework**

The development of a strategy and action plan to end violence against women's and girls. A call for views was held in 2022 and a period of co-design began in autumn of 2022. The aim is to develop a 7 year. strategic framework and action plan.

The action plan, published in summer 2023, outlines four actions:

1. Prevention

Changed Attitudes, Behaviours and Social Norms

Healthy, Respectful Relationships

Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

2. Protection and Provision

Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.

3. Justice System

A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls,

4. Working Better Together

All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls

One of the key findings of the statistical review which informed the development of the ANDBC PSCP Strategic Action Plan was the increasing incidents of Domestic Abuse.

The ANDBC PCSP will set in place programmes and measures aimed at preventing incidents of domestic abuse, as well as supporting individuals who have been impacted by such incidents.

**Department of Justice-  
Executive Programme  
for Tackling  
Paramilitary Activity  
and Organised Crime**

The Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme plays a crucial role in assisting vulnerable individuals and communities across Northern Ireland who may be under the influence of paramilitary groups. The Programme has been in operation since 2016 and receives funding from both the NI Executive and UK Government. During its initial Phase 1, which extended until

The continued presence and influence of paramilitarism within communities in the ANDBC area was something which was continually highlighted during the consultation process which informed the

March 2021, the Programme pursued 38 diverse commitments outlined in the original Executive Action Plan on paramilitarism, criminality, and organised crime. A thorough review of the Programme was conducted in 2020, resulting in the commencement of a new phase (Phase 2) in April 2021. The Programme has secured funding until 2024, ensuring its continued efforts in addressing the pressing issues of paramilitarism, criminality, and organised crime, and working towards a safer and more resilient society. Its primary focus is twofold: immediate harm prevention and early interventions to safeguard future generations from falling victim to paramilitary coercion, control, and violence.

The ultimate objective of the Programme is to create safer communities that are resilient against paramilitarism, criminality, and coercive control. With the implementation of over 80 projects and interventions, the Programme addresses deep-rooted and complex issues that have persisted for a long time. All activities within the Programme are aligned with two key long-term objectives:

1. Ensuring people and communities are protected from the harm caused by paramilitarism.
2. Strengthening people and communities, making them less susceptible to paramilitary influence and involvement in paramilitarism, criminality, and organized crime.

development of this ANDBC PCSP Action Plan.

The ANDBC PCSP Action Plan contains measures to monitor the activities associated with paramilitarism in the region, and ensure that all insights are disseminated.



**Department of  
Education - Children &  
Young People's  
Strategy 2020-2030**

This strategy, spanning from 2020 to 2030, supersedes the previous Cross-departmental Children and Young People's Strategy that covered the period from 2019 to 2029. The new strategy serves as a comprehensive framework to advance various children's issues effectively. Its main purpose is to establish an all-encompassing and cohesive structure that guides and monitors departments in their efforts to achieve eight specific outcomes, all aimed at enhancing the well-being of children and young people. By doing so, the strategy aims to drive positive progress and improvements in the lives of children and young individuals across the region. The eight specific outcomes are:

- Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted
- Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy
- Children and young people enjoy play and leisure
- Children and young people learn and achieve
- Children and young people live in safety and stability
- Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being
- Children and young people make a positive contribution to society
- Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights

The Ards and North Down PSCP Action Plan will prioritise actions to promote safety for young people in the Council area, and will deliver a series of programmes aimed at empowering young people and giving them the confidence to feel safe and secure within their own communities and when visiting others.

The Ards and North Down Council PCSP Action Plan is rooted in public sector policy alignment, and the activities directly complement the overarching aims of multiple local government departments and arm's length bodies.

By promoting public safety and confidence, the activities of the PCSP also indirectly support a wider range of local strategies such as the Council's Tourism and Economic Development Strategy, Arts and Heritage Strategy and Labour Market Partnership Action Plan.

## Consultation and Engagement

This section will present the key findings from the consultation and engagement phase of the strategy development process. Feedback gathered through surveys, consultations, and one-on-one meetings will be organised according to the three strategic priorities, along with any emerging themes that were identified. The findings will be presented as follows:

**Strategic Priority 1:** Ensuring effective delivery in response to local needs and enhancing the visibility and recognition of the PCSP's work through proactive consultation, communication, and engagement.

**Strategic Priority 2:** Improving community safety by addressing and prioritizing local safety issues, with a focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Strategic Priority 3:** Supporting public confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem-solving with local communities.

**Emerging Themes:** Capturing new or additional ideas and themes that surfaced throughout the consultation process, which were not directly aligned with the strategic priorities but are valuable for the overall strategy.

## Summary of Public Consultation – Survey

In order to determine the views of citizens of the Ards and North Down Borough Council area, a public consultation exercise was held from Oct-Nov 2024 whereby residents could provide their thoughts and opinions in relation to Good Relations and aspects of Community Safety and Policing in the Council area.

The themes which were consulted upon are listed as follows:

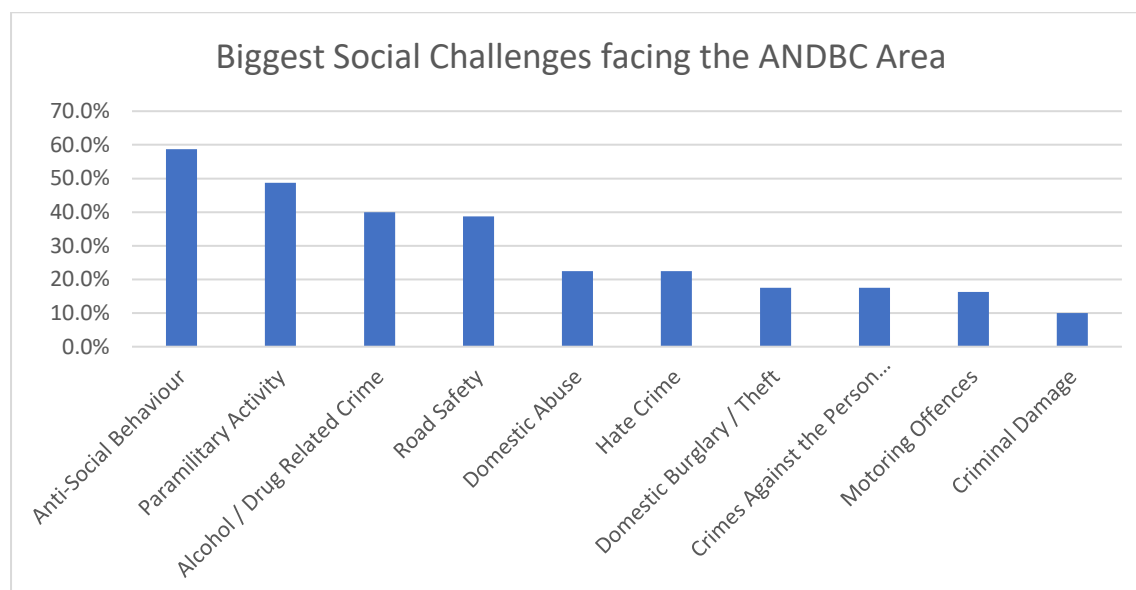
- Social challenges facing those living the ANDBC area;
- Priorities for the PSNI;
- Confidence in Policing;
- Suggestions for improving confidence in Policing;

The survey was open from 18<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November, during which time 104 responses were received.

## Challenges Facing the ANDBC Population

With a view of understanding the wider social issues currently facing the population of the ANDBC area, and with a view of helping to prioritising the efforts of the Council's PSCP Team,

the survey went on to ask respondents what they felt the biggest challenges facing their communities were.

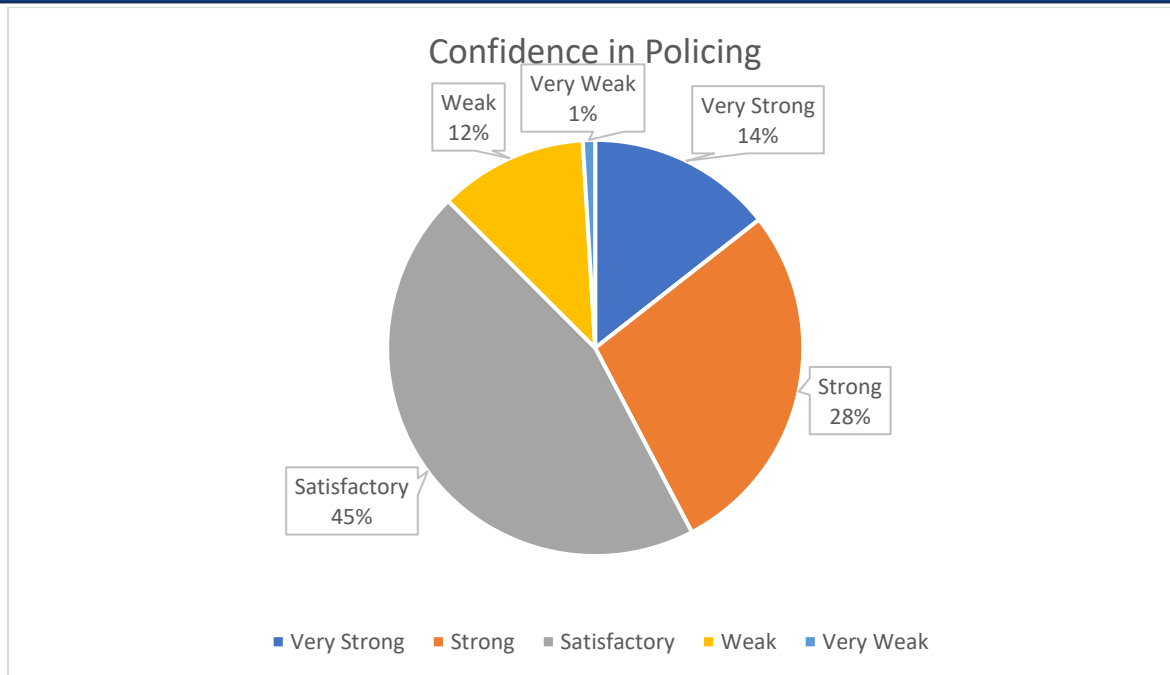


‘Anti-Social Behaviour’ emerged as the challenge which survey respondents identified as being the most pressing issue in terms of safety, with 58.8% of respondents selecting this option. ‘Paramilitary Activity’ (48.8% of responses) and ‘Alcohol / Drug Related Crime’ (40% of responses) were also considered to be of immediate concern.

‘Motoring Offences’ and ‘Criminal Damage’ were not viewed as being particularly prevalent or in urgent need of addressing, with 16.3% of respondents and 10% of respondents opting for these selections respectively.

### **Confidence in Policing, and Policing Priorities**

The theme of the survey then moved on to survey respondents’ confidence in policing, and insights as to what local policing priorities should be.

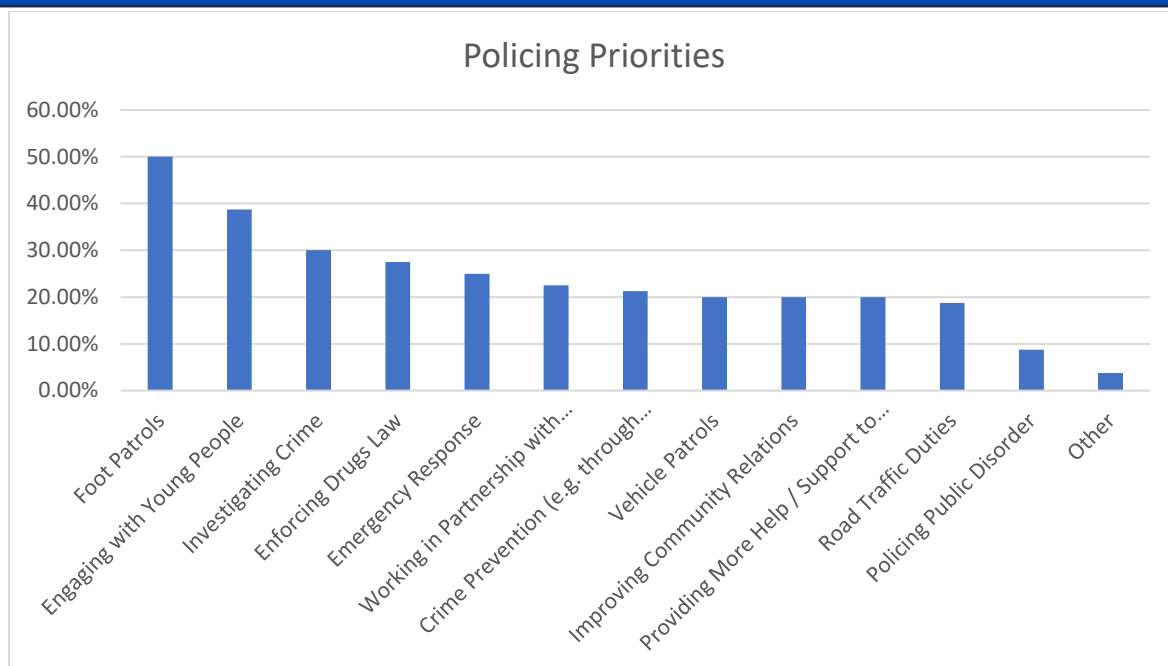


Confidence in policing can be said to be reasonably positive amongst survey respondents, with 42.3% noting that they had either 'Very Strong' or 'Strong' confidence in local policing, compared to just 12.5% of respondents whose confidence in local law enforcement was 'Weak' or 'Very Weak'. The prevailing opinion (45% of respondents) was that survey respondents viewed local policing to be 'Satisfactory'.

Qualitative feedback received in relation to confidence in policing included:

- Not enough funding and resources for agencies to tackle identified issues
- Reporting challenges and crimes are difficult in areas where there is a fear of reprisals
- Lack of police presence and/or ease of contact with police can exacerbate problems
- There is limited awareness of who the local policing team are
- Response times can sometimes be poor
- Lack of diversionary activities for young people results in increased participation in crime and anti-social behaviour

In relation to the priorities of the PSNI in the ANDBC area, there was a strong sentiment expressed that 'Foot Patrols' should be viewed as the most important aspect of policing efforts. 'Engaging with Young People' and 'Investigating Crime' also emerged as being particularly salient with survey respondents.



'Road Traffic Duties' and 'Policing Public Disorder' were viewed as the lowest priorities for the PSNI by survey respondents.

To conclude the survey, respondents were asked to provide their thoughts in relation to ways through which confidence in policing in the ANDBC area could be improved. A range of qualitative responses were provided by respondents, with the most pertinent themes are outlined below:

- A more visible police presence, including foot patrols, would go some lengths in increasing engagement levels and reassurance. This included greater visibility in rural areas.
- Greater community involvement and a multi-agency approach to tackling complex issues such as paramilitarism and drugs offences.
- Greater involvement and more meaningful engagement with young people, particularly within hard-to-reach groups.
- Enhanced policing resources, such as recruitment of more officers.

The survey concluded with an opportunity for respondents to give contact details, should they wish to be contacted further about any matters arising from the survey, or to find out more about ANDBC Good Relations and/or PCSP activities.

## Conclusion

Following analysis of the responses provided to this survey, a range of key conclusions can be drawn:

Social Challenges – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Paramilitarism and Drugs / Alcohol Related Issues were viewed as the most urgent social challenges facing communities in the ANDBC area in need of addressing.

Policing – Confidence in Policing by survey respondents was considered to be fairly strong, however a clear emphasis was placed on the PSNI becoming more visible across communities in the ANDBC area in the form of foot patrols and enhanced community engagement.

## Focus Group Findings

This section of the strategy will discuss the views, experiences, and concerns of PCSP members, residents, community organisations, statutory organisations and others, highlighting key barriers to community safety, policing, and effective engagement. The consultations highlighted recurring challenges, identified areas for improvement, and provided a foundation for strategic recommendations. By incorporating these insights, the PCSP can implement informed projects and programmes to develop trust, enhance safety, and strengthen relationships between the community, police, and other stakeholders.

### Main Barriers to Community Safety and Policing

The consultations highlighted several persistent barriers that undermine community safety and effective policing in the Ards and North Down area. Among the most frequently mentioned challenges were lack of awareness of the PCSP and its role, insufficient police visibility, delayed response times, and limited resources. Many participants commented on issues regarding paramilitary groups. Additionally, underreporting of crimes—particularly hate crimes, domestic abuse, and anti-social behaviour—was flagged as a significant issue. Community members also noted a lack of collaboration and clear communication between agencies, contributing to confusion about responsibilities and accountability. These barriers not only hinder the effectiveness of policing but also erode public confidence and community cohesion. Addressing these challenges will require strategic investments in resources, communication, and collaboration.



### Community Safety

The consultations highlighted community safety as a basis of public concern, with many participants emphasising the need for visible and proactive policing. The lack of PSNI presence in certain areas was a recurring theme, with people commenting on delayed response times and the limited engagement of officers with local communities. Additionally, concerns about



drugs, alcohol misuse, and domestic abuse were frequently raised, particularly regarding the impact on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and individuals with disabilities. Participants stressed that a holistic approach involving both the police and community organisations is necessary to tackle these challenges effectively.



## Recommendations

**Foster Collaboration-** Partner with charities, and community groups to co-design and deliver safety programmes.

**Expand Campaigns-** Launch borough-wide safety campaigns focusing on issues such as domestic violence, drug misuse, and hate crimes.

**Resource Allocation-** Allocate additional resources to hotspots identified through data analysis and community feedback, this could be through a small grants programme that allows organisations to react to local needs.

## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour was one of the most frequently discussed topics in the consultations. Many commented on the lack of a meaningful response to ASB, citing inadequate police intervention and insufficient engagement with young people. The community emphasised the importance of addressing the root causes of ASB, such as lack of recreational opportunities for youth and peer pressure.



## Recommendations

**Youth Engagement:** Develop and fund recreational activities, such as sports programmes, dance programmes, drama programmes and creative arts workshops, to provide positive outlets for young people.

**Community Education:** Conduct awareness workshops in schools and community settings on the consequences of ASB and the importance of civic responsibility.

**Anonymous Reporting:** Introduce accessible and confidential mechanisms for reporting ASB incidents to encourage community involvement.

**Hotspot Analysis:** Use data to identify and prioritise high-risk areas, enabling targeted interventions and resource allocation. This could be a grants programme for organisations to apply to.

## Communication and Engagement

The consultations underscored a critical need to improve communication and engagement between the PCSP, PSNI, and local communities. Many participants were unaware of the PCSP's role, with some expressing confusion over which agencies were responsible for specific issues. People commented on the need for more transparent and accessible communication channels, particularly for those without regular internet access.



#### Recommendations:

**Diversified Communication:** Combine digital methods, such as social media, with traditional approaches like leaflets, booklets and posters to reach all demographics.

**Local Outreach:** Partner with community hubs, such as schools, libraries, and places of worship, to disseminate information about PCSP initiatives.

**Public Events:** Host regular drop-in sessions where residents can voice concerns and learn about PCSP activities. Also, identify events where there is a large level of footfall to promote the PCSP at.

**Service Directory:** Create and distribute a comprehensive guide detailing available safety resources and key contact points.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** Implement structured feedback loops to evaluate and improve communication efforts based on community input.

#### Emerging Challenges

Emerging challenges such as cyber-crime, human trafficking, and the integration of newcomer communities were highlighted as growing concerns. Participants noted the increasing prevalence of online scams and abuse, as well as the difficulties faced by newcomer community in accessing support due to language barriers and cultural differences. People also commented on the need for proactive measures to address these evolving threats.

## Emerging Challenges



### Recommendations

**Cyber-Safety Campaigns:** Educate the community on recognising and protecting themselves against online threats.

**Support Networks for Newcomers:** Establish programmes that provide language assistance, cultural orientation, and access to services for immigrant populations.

**Scam Awareness Workshops:** Host sessions for older adults and other vulnerable groups to build resilience against sophisticated scams.

The consultations provided invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities for improving community safety and policing in the Ards and North Down area. The recommendations outlined in this report offer a clear roadmap for addressing these issues. By prioritising visibility, engagement, and collaboration, the PCSP can foster a safer and more connected community. The next steps will involve translating these insights into concrete actions, with continued input from residents and stakeholders to ensure success.

## Turning the Curve Exercise

On November 25, 2024, a "Turning the Curve" exercise was conducted with 24 PCSP members to refine the strategic direction moving forward. The members were provided with handouts containing the strategic priorities, detailed activities, crime and policing statistics, and feedback from prior consultations. This exercise allowed members to vote on whether activities should continue, continue with amendments, or cease entirely.



The purpose of the exercise was to ensure the strategic priorities were still relevant and aligned with community needs. By gathering feedback on various activities, the aim was to prioritise initiatives that effectively contribute to improving community safety, enhance public engagement, and ensure better resource allocation.

### Key Findings

**Broad Support for Continuing Many Activities:** Several activities, especially those addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and community safety, received strong support for continuation.

**Need for Innovation:** Some activities, such as those focused on drug awareness, required amendments to better align with emerging needs and trends.

**Resource Allocation:** Members highlighted the importance of reviewing resource allocation, ensuring that funding and efforts were directed toward high-impact areas. This included adapting the small grants programme.

**Engagement and Communication:** There was a clear consensus on the need to improve visibility and public engagement, particularly through social media, local events, and community-led initiatives.

The table below presents a statistical analysis of the votes cast by PCSP members during the "Turning the Curve" exercise, highlighting the distribution of their feedback on various strategic priorities.

## Turning the Curve Findings

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				
THEME	ACTIVITIES	GREEN	AMBER	RED
Raise awareness of the PCSP and community engagement	PCSP Awareness raising	73%	27%	0%
	Local Community Engagement initiatives	16%	84%	0%
	Youth Voice	16%	84%	0%
Implement the three year AND PCSP Strategy 2022-25 and Action Plan 2024- 25	PCSP Action Plan review for 2024/25	0%	100%	0%
Strategic Priority 2 - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour				
THEME	ACTIVITIES	GREEN	AMBER	RED
Drugs & Alcohol Initiatives	Develop an early intervention/training programme to be delivered in the Borough.	10%	90%	0%
	RAPID Bin initiative	0%	68%	32%
	Substance Abuse Awareness Project	16%	84%	0%
ASB	Addressing ASB amongst Youth - Sports Programme	67%	33%	0%
	Addressing ASB hotspots areas- Collaborative Community Safety Team & Multi-Agency approach	74%	26%	0%
	Small Grant Programme with a focus on diversion and prevention.	28%	72%	0%
	Voluntary Safety Wardens	81%	19%	0%
	Schools education Programme to include ASB	67%	33%	0%
	Enhanced Detached Youth Programme (EA)	84%	16%	0%
Domestic and Sexual Abuse	SED&SVP	5%	95%	0%
	Healthy Relationships Awareness	40%	60%	0%
	DV Female victim support programme	27%	73%	0%
	DV Male victim support programme	43%	57%	0%



<b>Hate Crime</b>	Hate Crime Initiative	33%	67%	0%
<b>Cybercrime</b>	Deliver initiatives to raise awareness of cyber crime	45%	55%	0%
<b>Burglary and Fear of Crime</b>	4-Tier Home Secure	67%	33%	0%
<b>Road Safety</b>	Road Safety	75%	25%	0%
	2.8.2 The P7 Be- Safe programme.	100%	0%	0%
<b>Supporting those most vulnerable</b>	Support Hub	93%	7%	0%
<b>Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities</b>				
<b>Engagement of the police with the local community</b>	<b>Policing Committee Public and Private meetings</b>	35%	65%	0%
<b>Building confidence in Policing</b>	Building confidence in Policing - direct delivery by the PSNI	39%	61%	0%
<b>Vulnerabilities from Organised crime (including Paramilitarism)</b>	Paramilitary Crime	27%	55%	18%

*Green- continue*

*Amber- continue and amend*

*Red- stop*

## Going Forward- Strategic Priorities

As we look toward the 2025-2028 period, the Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) is committed to refining its approach to community safety, building confidence in policing, and engaging with local communities. The strategic priorities outlined below are informed by extensive consultations, surveys, crime statistics, and the findings from the "Turning the Curve" exercise conducted in November 2024. These priorities will address the key issues identified by the community and provide clear, actionable goals for the coming years.

**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.**

### Key Findings from the Consultation

The need for increased visibility and engagement from the PCSP and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) emerged as a critical issue from the consultations. Feedback highlighted that many residents felt disconnected from the work of the PCSP and were unsure how to engage with it. In the consultations, quite a few participants indicated they had limited or no knowledge about the activities of the PCSP.

The "Turning the Curve" exercise further emphasised the need for communication as a key area for improvement. In this exercise, members of the PCSP identified that communication and visibility were essential for fostering stronger relationships between the police and the community, especially in areas with higher crime rates and lower engagement levels. Of the members, 73% (green) supported continuing activities that enhance visibility and communication, while 27% (amber) suggested amendments, with no votes for stopping these activities.

Key Theme	Details
<b>Increased Community Engagement</b>	Greater involvement of residents in PCSP activities. PCSP members to attend more events.
<b>Communication</b>	A need for improved communication channels between the community, PCSP, and the PSNI.
<b>Visible Policing</b>	Ensuring that police are regularly visible in local communities to build trust and security.
<b>Local Outreach</b>	Targeted outreach campaigns to areas with lower awareness or engagement. Linking in with large scale events.



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

### Key Findings from the Consultation

Community safety remains a top priority for residents of Ards and North Down. Crime statistics and feedback from community consultations highlight a significant concern around ASB and substance misuse. ASB accounted for 27% of all recorded crimes in the previous year, with areas such as Donaghadee and Newtownards showing higher rates of incidents. According to the survey, 59% of residents cited ASB as one of their top concerns, while 40% highlighted drug and alcohol misuse as contributing factors to community safety issues.

Feedback from the "Turning the Curve" exercise showed that PCSP members felt strongly that crime prevention should not only focus on policing but also on prevention through engagement and education. Youth programmes were seen as crucial in preventing future generations from becoming involved in crime.

Key Theme	Details
<b>Youth Engagement &amp; Diversionary Activities</b>	Positive outlets for youth are essential in reducing ASB and preventing crime. It was felt that these successful programmes should be expanded to include activities outside of sport.
<b>Substance Abuse Education</b>	Drug and alcohol misuse were highlighted as contributing factors to crime and ASB, requiring continued focus on prevention and education.
<b>Multi-Agency Collaboration</b>	A multi-agency approach, including partnerships with local schools, the PSNI, community groups, and health services, is critical to tackling crime and ASB effectively.
<b>Funding for Local Projects through Small Grants</b>	Adequate funding is crucial for delivering community safety programmes and initiatives, as highlighted by consultations which identified resource gaps.
<b>Education &amp; Awareness</b>	Campaigns focused on drug and alcohol misuse, mental health awareness, and safe driving must be continued.
<b>Cybercrime</b>	Cybercrime was identified as a significant concern, with various forms such as fraud, sexual exploitation, and other criminal activities being reported within the community.

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

#### Key Findings from the Consultation

Building trust in policing has emerged as one of the top priorities for the PCSP, as evidenced by the results of the surveys and consultations. Although the PSNI was generally regarded positively, concerns about the visibility of officers and the accessibility of services were frequently mentioned.

The "Turning the Curve" exercise underscored that stronger community-police relations are key to ensuring that public safety is effectively maintained. There was strong support for initiatives aimed at increasing police visibility and fostering closer ties between the police and residents.

Key Theme	Details
Police Visibility	Ensuring that police officers are regularly visible and accessible to the public in key locations to foster community trust.
Community Engagement	Building better relationships through increased communication between the PCSP, police and community members.
Youth Policing Initiatives	Engaging younger generations in understanding and collaborating with the police through educational programmes.
Paramilitarism	Engaging with the CIT team to brief the PCSP and provide an update on the work it is undertaking in the Borough to combat paramilitary activity and related criminality.

The strategic priorities for the 2025-2028 period have been carefully developed to address the key concerns of the Ards and North Down community, as identified through consultations, surveys, crime statistics, and the findings from the "Turning the Curve" exercise. By focusing on enhancing community engagement, reducing crime and ASB, and building trust in policing, the PCSP is committed to creating a safer and more cohesive community. These priorities will be continuously monitored, with actions adjusted as necessary based on ongoing community feedback and evolving crime data. With clear, actionable goals in place, we are confident that these strategies will lead to tangible improvements in public safety and community trust across Ards and North Down.

# Action Plan

## 2025-2026

**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 through:**

- carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans.
- ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses, and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate.
- using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and
- increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.

Indicators		% People who have heard of PCSPs % People who know how to contact their local PCSP about local policing and community safety					
Project	Aims & description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource or Cost	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter

<b>Raise awareness of the PCSP and community engagement</b>	To evidence impact through the delivery of a PCSP communications strategy.	<b>PCSP Awareness Raising including PR and Comms</b>  Implement and monitor the AND PCSP annual communications plan, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- website updates</li> <li>- social media engagement</li> <li>- video creation</li> <li>- branded PCSP merchandise and equipment</li> </ul>	4/25	3/26	£15,800	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of social media reach # Of PR campaigns/projects developed and launched <b>How well did we do it?</b> # Of social media reach or % increase in social media reach #/% increase in PCSP Facebook page likes <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % of people with awareness of the PCSP and its work	2,3,4
		<b>Delivery of PCSP Meetings</b>	4/25	3/26	£3,000	<b>How much did we do?</b>	2,3,4

		To include a minimum of 4 full PCSP meetings per annum, and additional sub-group meetings as required.				# Of meetings held <b>How well did we do it?</b> # Of members attending meetings <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # of members with a better understanding of the PCSP and its work	
		<b>Local Community Engagement initiatives</b>  Provision of community engagement meetings and events around the Borough with relevant PCSP partners. To include a minimum of 4 quarterly community-based public events to address themes around a variety of community safety issues, such as road safety, rural crime, and so on. Themes to reflect changing crime trends to ensure relevance.	4/25	3/26	£10,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of engagement sessions # Of participants involved <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with	2,3,4

						the support/ advice offered <b>Is anyone          better off?</b> % & # of participants who believe their area is safer as result of the engagement sessions % & # of increase of attendees at Community Engagement events	
		<b>Youth Voice</b> Continue to engage with the Youth Council and advocate for youth issues around safer communities, spaces and issues affecting young people, Youth Council to be invited to deliver a presentation to PCSP around a relevant issue, such as Ending Violence Against Women & Girls	4/25	3/26	£4,000	<b>How much did          we do?</b> # Of meetings held # Of youth attendees <b>How well did          we do it?</b> % Of participants	2,3,4

						<p>satisfied with the meetings <b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># % with an increased confidence in policing following the activities</p> <p># % participants more likely to engage with the PSNI</p>	
	<b>Action Plan Review 2025- 26</b>	<b>PCSP Action Plan review for 2025/26</b> Review of annual action plan in line with strategy and outcomes with a focus in maximising opportunities for collaborative planning and the development of preventative work programmes in areas of highest need over the three-year period and develop the year one action plan informed by the current strategy and further consultation.	4/25	3/26	£0	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of consultation opportunities # Of people engaged in consultation # 2025-2026 Development of Action plan <b>How well did we do it?</b>	2,3,4



						% People satisfied with consultation process # 2024-25 review of Action plan & developed. <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % members with improved awareness of the issues to be addressed in the strategy and Action plan	
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**Strategic Priority 2 : To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through:**

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected, and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally.
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured.
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours.
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable.
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues.
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

Indicators	% Who perceive high levels of ASB (NI) % Who perceived local crime to have increased % Perceived local crime to have decreased (NI) % Very worried about crime overall by age group 16-29: 30-59: 60+ (NI)
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Project	Aims & description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource or cost	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
<b>Drugs &amp; Alcohol Initiatives</b>	To deliver initiatives which will raise awareness of the impact of drug and alcohol misuse within our communities and provide safe facilities for disposing of legal and illegal drugs	Develop an early intervention/training programme to be delivered in the Borough. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tier 1 and Tier 2 intervention for young people aged 13-20 years, reaching 800-900 participants over a minimum of 60 sessions.</li> <li>Issues around drugs and alcohol, as well as emerging issues such as vaping.</li> </ul>	4/25	3/26	£9,500	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of training sessions delivered # Of participants attending <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with the training delivered <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % of participants reporting increased knowledge and understanding of the detrimental effects of drugs and alcohol	2, 3, 4
		<b>RAPID Bin initiative</b> Promote and monitor as required across the Borough to encourage use in getting drugs including prescription drugs off the streets.	4/25	3/26	£200	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of promotional campaigns undertaken # Rapid bins in use	2,3,4

		Promotion to ensure that members of the public are aware of Rapid bins, their uses and their locations.				<b>How well did we do it?</b> % Satisfaction by PSNI with number of drugs taken off streets <b>Is anyone better off?</b> % and # of types of drugs being deposited in the bin	
		<b>Substance Abuse Awareness Project</b> To deliver substance abuse awareness, support and Tier 2 counselling with 80-100 individuals who need support with substance addiction, with a minimum of 300 sessions delivered.	4/25	3/26	£10,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of sessions delivered # Of participants engaged from across the Borough <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with the support offered <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % of individuals with changed behaviours after	2,3,4

						completing the programme # & % of participants with an increased knowledge of the risks and harm caused by excessive drink and drugs	
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ASB	<p><b>Youth Education Programme: Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</b></p> <p>Engaging with young people in various settings such as schools, colleges, youth clubs, community groups, and looked-after homes. The programme will deliver themed sessions aimed at raising awareness of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in specific areas of need across the Borough.</p>	<p>The Youth Education Programme aims to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) by engaging young people across the Borough. The programme will deliver educational sessions in schools, youth clubs, and community groups, raising awareness of ASB and its consequences.</p> <p>Co-designed and delivered by the Community Safety Team, the sessions will focus on the specific needs of local areas.</p> <p>In addition to education, the programme will offer creative and physical activities such as sports, dance, drama, and music. These activities will be tailored to local needs and developed in collaboration with the community safety team, PSNI, EA, the Council, and other organisations. The programme aims to provide positive alternatives to ASB.</p>	4/25	3/26	£13,000	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p># Of schools/ community groups</p> <p># Of sessions</p> <p># Of participants engaged, educated, and supported</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>% Of participants satisfied with their experiences on the programmes</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># &amp; % who have a raised awareness of ASB</p> <p># % of participants with changed attitudes to ASB as a result of their engagement in the project activities</p>	2,3,4
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		<b>Enhanced Detached Youth Programme (EA)</b> Support for a range of programmes led by the Education Authority throughout the Borough to enhance detached youth work with 13-19 year olds in ASB hotspot areas. Programmes to link with community safety team, PSNI, street pastors, voluntary organisations, and Council's leisure services.	4/25	3/26	£14,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of sessions # Of participants engaged, educated, and supported <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with their experiences on the programmes <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % who have a raised awareness of ASB # & % reduction of ASB # & % of participants with changed attitudes to ASB as a result of their engagement in the project activities	2,3,4
		<b>Address ASB hotspots areas- Collaborative Community Safety (CST) Team &amp; Multi-Agency approach</b>	4/25	3/26	£6,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of targeted diversionary and	2,3,4

		<p>To co-design and co-deliver innovative initiatives to reduce ASB in hotspots across the Borough; for example, graffiti workshops, litter picks, day trips, and so on.</p> <p>Work will be done in partnership with other agencies including PSNI and EA and community groups involved in initiatives in local hotspots.</p>				<p>detached youth sessions</p> <p># Of participants on same</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>% Of participants with increased understanding of the consequences of risk-taking behaviour and ASB</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># &amp; % reduction in ASB at identified hot spots</p>	
	Reducing and addressing ASB problems in hotspot neighbourhoods and town centres within the Borough	<p><b>Voluntary Safety Wardens</b></p> <p>To support Voluntary Wardens and to create an on-street presence that promotes community safety and reduces ASB across the Borough. The volunteer wardens and their on-street presence will be rolled out at different times and locations across the Borough based on advice from the</p>	4/25	3/26	£38,000	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p># Of patrols</p> <p># Of participants engaged, educated, and supported</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p># &amp; % of users reporting attitudes were changed as a</p>	2,3,4



		community safety team, the PSNI and the community safety subgroup and will include an on-street presence at large scale events and pub/ club closing times.				<p>result of engagement</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>% reduction of ASB in the borough</p> <p># Of people reporting feeling safer in the Borough as a result of the scheme</p>	
<b>Domestic and Sexual Abuse</b>	Coordinate activities in relation to the reduction of and reporting of domestic abuse and sexual crimes	<p><b>SED&amp;SVP</b></p> <p>To work in partnership with the SED&amp;SVP to deliver domestic/ sexual violence awareness raising events and encouragement wider engagement.</p>	4/25	3/26	£4,000	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p># Of attendees at SED&amp;SVP</p> <p># Of awareness raising events</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>% Of attendees satisfied with the content of the collaboration meetings</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># % of attendees reporting increased</p>	2,3,4

						awareness of how to deal with DV and sexual violence	
	DV Male victim support programme	<b>DV Male victim support programme</b> A programme of support for male victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Borough, to include counselling support and awareness raising activities.  Provision of a minimum of 140 counselling / therapeutic sessions for minimum 20 male victims of domestic and/or sexual abuse in the borough.	4/25	3/26	£6000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of sessions held # Of clients supported <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with the support received <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % number of participants with improved awareness of how to gain help in relation to domestic and sexual violence. # & % of participants who feel safer after receiving support	2,3,4
	Raise awareness domestic and sexual violence.	<b>Healthy Relationships Awareness</b>	4/25	3/26	£0	<b>How much do we do?</b>	2,3,4

		<p>To deliver an early intervention on healthy relationships.</p> <p>The Healthy Relationships Programme and Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Programme will be funded through the TEO's Change Fund for Ending Violence Against Women &amp; Girls in 2025-2026. These programmes will remain part of the PCSP Action Plan but will have no allocated budget at this time. The PCSP will continue to support these activities alongside the funding stream.</p>				<p># Of schools, colleges, youth groups engaged # Of young people attending events</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>% Of participants satisfied with the information received</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># &amp; % of participant with increased awareness of DV/SV/CB</p> <p># &amp; % reporting increased awareness of where to access support services</p>	
	Raise awareness of DV by supporting drop-in services accessible to the public	<p><b>DV Female victim support programme</b></p> <p>To offer crises support for women and families who are the victims of sexual violence or domestic abuse.</p>	4/25	3/26	£0	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p># Of clients supported through project</p> <p># Of clients</p>	2,3,4

		<p>The Healthy Relationships Programme and Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Programme will be funded through the TEO's Change Fund for Ending Violence Against Women &amp; Girls in 2025-2026. These programmes will remain part of the PCSP Action Plan but will have no allocated budget at this time. The PCSP will continue to support these activities alongside the funding stream.</p>				<p>receiving equipment or emergency support</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>% Of participants satisfied with the support received</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># &amp; % number of participants who feel safer and more supported as a result of the programme</p> <p># &amp; % with improved awareness of how to gain help in relation to domestic and sexual violence.</p>	
<b>Hate Crime</b>	Raise awareness of all types of local hate crime and the reporting process.	<p><b>Hate Crime Initiative</b></p> <p>To work in partnership with ANDBC Good Relations Dept to encourage greater reporting of all types of hate crime; deliver cultural diversity and hate crime awareness raising events;</p>	4/25	3/26	£2,000	<p><b>How much did we do</b></p> <p># Of interagency meetings attended</p> <p># Of events delivered # Of attendees at events</p>	2,3,4

		and encourages a greater sense of integration, belonging and cohesion across the Borough.				<b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of attendees satisfied with the events <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % increase of participants who feel safer as a result of the service # & % increase in the confidence in reporting hate crime to the PSNI	
<b>Cybercrime</b>	Scheme to address cybercrime	<b>Deliver initiatives to raise awareness of cybercrime</b> To include a minimum of 2 workshops targeting relevant groups, to address current cybercrime issues. For example, parental concern around children and digital technology, romance scams, catfishing, older people and technology, and so on.	4/25	3/26	£2,000	<b>How much do we do?</b> # Of schools, colleges, groups engaged # Of people attending events <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with the information received	2,3,4

						<b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % of participant with increased awareness of cybercrime # & % reporting increased awareness of where to access support services	
<b>Burglary and Fear of Crime</b>	Scheme to address the fear of burglary and crime	<b>4-Tier Home Secure</b> Deliver a 4-tier home secure project providing equipment and installation – as a reactive and preventative service working in partnership with the PSNI crime prevention team.	4/25	3/26	£35,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of referrals to scheme # Home security measures fitted <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Beneficiaries satisfied with the equipment and service they received. <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # & % of recipients who feel safer as a	2,3,4

						result of the support offered to them	
<b>Road Safety</b>	Road Safety initiatives	<b>The P7 Be- Safe programme.</b> Deliver the P7 Be- Safe programme in partnership with other Council departments, to provide a collaborative approach to awareness raising and education about safety in order to provide added value and maximise outputs. Circa 1500 young people will be engaged. Community Safety Team to assist with delivery.	4/25	3/26	£8,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of sessions viewed # Of pupils attending # Schools participating <b>How well did we do it?</b> % Of attendees satisfied with the video sessions <b>Is anyone better off?</b> % & # of participants reporting increased road safety awareness	2,3,4
<b>Supporting those most vulnerable</b>	Supporting those most vulnerable in the Ards & North Down Area	<b>Support Hub</b> To participate in a multi-agency partnership approach – the Ards and North Down Support Hub which focuses on supporting those most vulnerable in the Ards and North Down area – led by	4/25	3/26	£0	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of Support Hub Meetings # Of attendees # Of vulnerable people supported <b>How well did we do</b>	2,3,4

		<p>Council –and including the Health Trust and Council, NIFRS, PSNI, Ambulance Service, EA, Probation Board &amp; Youth Justice Agency.</p> <p>Funding is provided directly from DoJ, and will be used for administration and facilitation of the Support Hub, as well as promotion and networking among relevant agencies.</p>				<p><b>it?</b> % Of participants satisfied with the support offered <b>Is anyone better off?</b> # % of agencies engaged reporting fewer repeat calls # % of agencies satisfied with the effectiveness of collaborative working</p>	
<b>Small Grants</b>	To support community-led projects that address local safety concerns, including hate crime, cybercrime, road safety, anti-social behaviour, drugs & alcohol issues.	<p>Publicise the small grants programme through community networks, social media, and council communications.</p> <p>Evaluate and award grants based on alignment with PCSP priorities.</p> <p>Small Grants of £2000-5000 will be available to locally-based community and voluntary groups, with staggered closing dates throughout the year as funding allows.</p>	4/25	3/26	£ 54,000	<p><b>How much did we do?</b> # of applications received #of small grants awarded / projects supported <b>How well did we do it?</b> # and % of applicants satisfied with the small grants programme process</p>	2,3,4



						<p># and % of grant applications received which meet the quality standard (assessment criteria)</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p># and % of groups reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members through their small grants (if relevant) # and % of participants with increased confidence in PSNI</p> <p># and % of participants more likely to engage with PSNI following project</p>	
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**Strategic Priority 3: To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities through:**

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance.
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan.
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems.
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing.
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing.
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities.
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

Indicators	<p>% Increase in community confidence in policing Level of reporting to the police (NI Crime Survey)</p> <p>% Increase in the level of police and community engagement Community confidence in ability of PCSP to monitor local police performance</p>
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Project	Aims & description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource or cost	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
<b>Community and police engagement</b>							
<b>Engagement of the police with the local community</b>	To increase engagement with the police and build more confidence in policing	<b>Policing Committee Public and Private meetings</b> Host Policing Committee Public and Private meetings including consultations for future plans and developments.	4/25	3/26	£1,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of private policing committee meetings <b>How well did we do it?</b> % of PCSP members attending <b>Is anyone better off?</b> % of participants who have an improved understanding of the role of the policing Committee	2,3,4
<b>Building confidence in Policing</b>	To evidence impact through the delivery of projects and activities that build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness	<b>Building confidence in Policing - direct delivery by the PSNI</b> A programme of activities undertaken & supported by the PSNI, and its neighbourhood policing teams and PCSP that builds community confidence in the	4/25	3/26	£19,000	<b>How much did we do?</b> # of engagement activities/meetings involving PSNI & local communities <b>How well did we do it?</b> # & % of public satisfied with engagement events/meetings <b>Is anyone better off?</b>	2,3,4

Project	Aims & description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource or cost	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
		rule of law and embeds a culture of lawfulness. Funding will be distributed through a Small Grants process directly targeted at Neighbourhood Policing Teams.				# & % more likely to engage with PSNI # & % of participants with increased confidence in policing	
<b>Vulnerabilities from Organised crime (including Paramilitarism)</b>	Addressing Paramilitary Crime	<b>Paramilitary Crime</b> To engage with the Tackling Paramilitarism team to brief the PCSP and provide an update on the work it is undertaking in the Borough.	4/25	3/26	£0	<b>How much did we do?</b> # Of meetings / events relating to tackling paramilitarism/organised crime <b>How well did we do it?</b> #% of participants reporting satisfaction with activities/ meetings Is anyone better off? # & % of participant's with a greater understanding of paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime	2,3,4



## Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective monitoring and evaluation will be essential to ensure that the Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Strategy for 2025-2028 is meeting its objectives, addressing community needs, and delivering tangible outcomes. Regular monitoring will provide insight into the progress of the strategic priorities, allowing for adjustments and improvements to be made as necessary. Evaluation will help assess the overall impact of the strategy on community safety and public confidence in policing. The monitoring and evaluation processes will be led by the PCSP Officer, with input and oversight from PCSP Members, ensuring that both operational and strategic perspectives guide the assessment.

### Monitoring the Strategy

Monitoring the implementation of the PCSP Strategy will involve a range of activities designed to track progress, identify challenges, and ensure accountability. This process will be driven by the PCSP Officer, who will work closely with the PCSP Members, ensuring that the strategy's goals are being met efficiently and effectively. Key activities for monitoring will include:

**Regular Progress Reports-** The PCSP Officer will oversee the creation of quarterly progress reports that evaluate the completion of planned activities, identify any delays or obstacles, and ensure that the objectives of each strategic priority are being pursued. These reports will be shared with PCSP Members, local partners, and other relevant stakeholders to maintain transparency.

**Community Feedback-** Ongoing community feedback is crucial for understanding how the strategy is being received and whether it is effectively addressing local needs. This will include regular consultations, surveys, and public engagement sessions that allow residents and local groups to provide input on their perceptions of community safety, the visibility of PCSP activities, and any emerging concerns. The feedback will be reviewed and used to refine and adapt the strategy.

### Evaluating the Strategy

Evaluation of the PCSP Strategy will be conducted annually to assess its overall impact and effectiveness. The evaluation process will be led by the PCSP Officer, with active involvement from PCSP Members. This collaborative approach will ensure that the evaluation is comprehensive, objective, and focused on real outcomes. The evaluation process will include:

**Review of Strategic Goals-** At the end of each year, the PCSP will assess whether the strategic priorities have been met, and a review of the one year Action Plan. This will involve reviewing the KPIs, progress reports, and feedback from community consultations to determine the extent of success in each area.

By combining continuous monitoring with annual evaluations, the PCSP will ensure that the strategy remains responsive to community needs, adaptable to change, and ultimately successful in achieving its objectives of improving community safety and building public confidence in policing. The PCSP Officer, supported by the ongoing involvement of PCSP Members, will be key to ensuring that this process is carried out effectively over the three-year period.

## Appendices

### Appendix I – Survey Questions

1. In your opinion, what are the biggest problems in the Ards and North Down Borough Area?
2. In the Ards and North Down area, what activities should the PSNI concentrate on?
3. How much confidence do you have in local policing? (Tick as appropriate) -  
Confidence in Policing)
4. What do you see as the key challenges or obstacles to improving community safety and fostering trust in policing across the wider Ards and North Down area?
5. Please rank the following themes in order of priority for making our community safer, with "1" being the highest priority and "4" being the lowest.
  - Community Engagement & Communication
  - Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - Confidence in Policing
  - Emerging challenges
6. Is there anything else that you would like to add for the development of the new PCSP Strategy?

### Appendix 2 - Consultation Questions

1. What do you see as the key challenges or obstacles to improving community safety and fostering trust in policing across the Ards and North Down area?
2. "What do you believe should be the top priorities for improving community safety and policing in the Ards and North Down area?"
3. Community Engagement & Communication
  - What are the biggest challenges the PCSP faces in effectively engaging with local communities?
  - Are there any specific groups that feel disconnected from PCSP efforts? Why do you think these gaps exist?



- How can the PCSP improve engagement with local communities and increase visibility of its work? What innovative communication methods could be used?
4. Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
    - What are the primary factors contributing to ASB and crime in the community?
    - What specific barriers make it challenging to address ASB effectively?
    - How can we collaborate more effectively to address ASB and crime? What role can early intervention play in improving safety?
  5. Confidence in Policing
    - Are there specific incidents or perceptions that contribute to mistrust? What factors worsen this issue?
    - What initiatives can build public confidence in policing, especially in harder-to-reach communities?
    - How can PCSP and PSNI collaborate better on problem-solving?
  6. Emerging Challenges
    - What potential future risks or challenges do you see for community safety and relations in this area?
    - What underlying issues may increase these risks (e.g., economic factors, social divides)?
    - Identify potential future risks and potential solutions to mitigate them.
  7. "What do you believe should be the top priorities for improving community safety and policing in the Ards and North Down area?"