

Belfast Community Safety Partnership, led by Belfast City Council, was formally established in January 2004 to "help Belfast be safer and feel safer". The partnership includes representatives from the statutory, private, community and voluntary sectors as well as councillors.

This strategy has been produced following an audit of community safety issues across Belfast; through a combination of key statistics and public consultation.

The strategy will focus the work of the partnership for the next three years. By setting ourselves clear and challenging targets we will contribute to the ongoing work to help Belfast be safer and feel safer for those who live, work and visit the city.

For a copy of the Community Safety Strategy for Belfast contact us at:

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Further information about NI-wide community safety issues may be obtained by contacting the NIO Community Safety Unit:

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Alternative formats including Braille, large print, disc, audio cassette or other languages are available on request.



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2005-2008



BELFAST COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPING SAFER COMMUNITIES

OUR PRIORITIES

Belfast experiences varying levels of all nine key issues identified in the NIO Community Safety Strategy. Through the audit process the following issues were identified as priorities:

- anti-social behaviour;
- car crime;
- drug, substance and alcohol abuse;
- domestic burglary;
- offences motivated by prejudice and hatred;
- offences against individuals;
- business and retail crime;
- fear of crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults, children and repeat victims;
- youth offending and reducing criminality.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT: MAIN FINDINGS

Belfast had the highest rate of overall crime in Northern Ireland - 167 crimes per 1000 people (NI average = 84 crimes per 1000 people):

- it is estimated that the cost of crime to each resident aged 18 to 65 is £6,748 per year;
- 29 of the 51 Belfast wards had crime rates higher than the NI average;
- anti-social behaviour was the issue of greatest concern to communities;
- the rate of theft of vehicles was over twice the NI average;
- Belfast experienced twice the number of drug offences than the NI average;
- Belfast had 1.5 times the NI average rate of domestic burglary.

Above figures are based upon PSNI-recorded crime figures, 2002-2003

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

The partnership will use these identified priorities to develop and implement a detailed Action Plan with specific objectives, timescales, performance indicators and targets.

Issue and/or geographically-based task groups will be organised to develop and take forward relevant actions from a Community Safety Action Plan which will be reviewed annually.



PROGRESS/ ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Although Belfast Community Safety Partnership was only established in January 2004 it has a number of projects already in operation. Some examples of these projects include:

- Translink Child Safety Bus;
- Inter-Action Interface Work;
- Pilot Alley-Gate Project;
- Operation Cleanup (removing untaxed runabout vehicles);
- Lagan Village Home Safety Scheme (contact service for vulnerable people);
- Safety of Seniors Roadshow;
- Day and Night Time Rough Sleepers Outreach;
- City Safe (retail crime initiative);
- City Centre Representatives;
- Women's Aid Refuge Rebuild;
- Get Home Safe;
- Essential Services Safety Group (children's safety education project)

