

Cookstown Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was set up by Cookstown District Council in December 2003 following a series of recommendations from the Review of The Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland (2000).

The partnership is made up of locally elected district council representatives and officers who, on a day to day basis, have a responsibility within their respective organisations for progressing community safety within Cookstown and District.

This leaflet provides an overview of the CSP's first Community Safety Strategy for Cookstown and District of which there were three distinct stages in its development:

- setting up of the CSP;
- an audit of the community safety issues impacting upon the district;
- community consultation to gauge local opinion and views, identifying local priorities for the next three years.

By setting ourselves challenging targets we will strive towards our vision of making Cookstown and District a healthy, inclusive, prosperous and safe environment for all those who reside, work and visit our area.

OUR PURPOSE

To deliver innovative approaches for improving the safety and well being of everyone by reducing crime, tackling the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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

Cookstown District Council
Development Department
Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT
T 028 8676 2205
E info@cookstown.gov.uk
www.cookstown.gov.uk

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

NIO Community Safety Unit
Millennium House
Great Victoria Street
Belfast BT2 7AQ
T 028 9082 8555
F 028 9082 8556
www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk

Other useful contact numbers:

Local Strategy Partnership
T 028 8676 4714
Cookstown PSNI
T 028 8676 6000
Housing Executive
T 028 8676 2004
Age Concern
T 028 8676 9005
Women's Aid
T 028 8676 9300
District Policing Partnership
T 028 8676 2205
Crimestoppers
T 0800 555111

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



Northern
Ireland
Office



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY
2005-2008



COOKSTOWN COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPING SAFER COMMUNITIES

OUR PRIORITIES

Analysis of the findings from the Community Safety Audit and information gained from the community consultation has enabled the partnership to produce a strategy that reflects local circumstances, whilst taking account of the nine priorities identified in the Northern Ireland-wide Community Safety Strategy.

To help the partnership focus its work on those issues of strategic importance, priorities have been ranked as being either a medium or high priority.

The following details the priorities the CSP identified as being of high priority and will receive immediate attention:

- offences against individuals, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault;
- youth offending and reducing criminality;
- drug, substance and alcohol abuse;
- anti-social behaviour and low-level neighbourhood disorder.



COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT: MAIN FINDINGS

The audit highlighted that:

- recorded crime is lower in Cookstown and District than in Northern Ireland as a whole;
- majority of crime in the district is committed in Cookstown;
- domestic violence, offences against the person, theft and criminal damage (including anti-social behaviour) are the most pressing crime concerns;
- up to one third of crime committed in Cookstown happens between midnight and 3am at the weekend.

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

Cookstown Community Safety Partnership plans to:

- develop an Action Plan to assist in the delivery of the strategy;
- bring forward innovative initiatives which will positively impact upon the issues identified as high priority areas to be tackled by the partnership;
- work in partnership with local agencies and communities to implement initiatives that will ensure safer communities;
- bring about an inclusive district, free from crime and the fear of crime.



PROGRESS/ ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Much effort has been put into developing a strategy which is truly reflective of the needs of local people living in the district.

The partnership will now use this strategy to develop an Action Plan that is focused on those issues of pressing concern.

This plan of action will build upon existing initiatives within the district and put forward a programme of work which the partnership will deliver throughout 2005-2008 to ensure safer neighbourhoods for all.

A snapshot of schemes undertaken by partner organisations to date include:

- facilitating a support forum to assist migrant workers;
- an information service for teenagers to discourage alcohol abuse;
- advice to the elderly and vulnerable on personal safety in the home;
- investigating the provision of lighting in poorly-lit areas.