

Down District Community Safety Partnership (DDCSP) was established in December 2003 following the Review of The Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland (2000). This is the first Community Safety Strategy to be published by Down District CSP.

This strategy has been produced following an audit of community safety issues across Down District and consultation with partner agencies and the community.

This strategy will focus the work of the partnership for the next three years. By setting ourselves demanding and challenging targets we will strive towards our vision of making Down a healthy, inclusive, prosperous and safe environment for all those who reside, work and visit the district.

OUR PURPOSE

To make Down District safe for all, through effective partnerships.

OUR MISSION

To improve quality of life by tackling community safety issues through partnership and community based action.

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

Down District Council
24 Strangford Road
Downpatrick BT30 6RS

T 028 4461 0840
E communitysafety@downdc.gov.uk
www.downdc.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:

Victim Support
T 028 9267 5642
Town Centre Manager
T 028 4461 1703

Down District NIHE
T 028 4461 3551
Down Lisburn Trust
T 028 9266 5181

Probation Board for Northern Ireland
T 028 9064 7156

Down District PSNI
T 028 4461 5011

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
T 028 4483 9308

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



Northern
Ireland
Office



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY
2005-2008



DOWN DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPING SAFER COMMUNITIES

OUR PRIORITIES

This local strategy has reflected local circumstances and issues whilst taking account of the nine key issues identified in the Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy:

- anti-social behaviour and low-level neighbourhood disorder;
- drug, substance and alcohol abuse (with particular emphasis on under age drinking);
- car crime;
- domestic burglary;
- offences against individuals, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault;
- youth offending and reducing criminality (with particular emphasis on vandalism and criminal damage); and
- fear of crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults and children.

It is the intention of Down District CSP to consider when possible:

- business and retail crime;
- offences motivated by prejudice and hatred.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT: MAIN FINDINGS

- vehicle related crime;
- criminal damage;
- youth related problems;
- malicious fires;
- nuisance in a public place;

- noise;
- rubbish dumping;
- damage to property;
- alcohol and substance abuse;
- violence against the person;
- theft.

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- develop an Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan;
- examine the feasibility of CCTV for Newcastle and Downpatrick town centres;
- continue to work with local communities in relation to bonfires and safer community festivals;
- raise awareness of the harmful effect of under age drinking with young people and their parents;
- support youth diversionary programmes to deter young people from criminal activity;
- target car owners in order to take crime prevention measures;
- investigate a programme to remove abandoned vehicles;
- distribute physical security measures to increase home security and reduce fear;
- promote Neighbourhood Watch schemes;
- investigate the impact of property marking schemes;
- support community led environmental improvement schemes;
- support inter-generational programmes to reduce fear and break down barriers;
- promote Down District as a safe place to live and work;
- raise awareness of domestic violence as a crime.

PROGRESS/ ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Development of four multi-agency sub-committees dealing with:

- CCTV subcommittee;
- funding subcommittee;
- consultation subcommittee;
- youth subcommittee.

Examples of progress to date:

- establishment of the first Down District Community Safety Network;
- introduction of a Capacity Building Programme which included auditing, action planning and £3,000 funding per group;
- establishment of the first Cross-Border Community Safety Network;
- roll out of Small Grants programme to fund local projects;
- development of local pilot projects dealing with security, illegal drinking, inter-generational issues and youth concerns.

Representation on a number of local working groups including:

- Bonfire Liaison Committee;
- Safer Mourne Partnership;
- Down Domestic Violence Forum.

Support for regional community safety initiatives including:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Count Day;
- Lock Out Crime scheme;
- Neighbourhood Watch.